

Connections 2045 -- Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan 2045

SCOPE OF WORK

June 2017

Goal

Produce a long-range (25 year) strategy to guide the effective investment of public funds for multi-modal transportation infrastructure throughout the Duluth-Superior area that meets pertinent federal transportation requirements.

Introduction and Background

Under the authority of 23 CFR §450.310(a) the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior urbanized area. The MIC's role is to provide planning assistance to local jurisdictions on transportation and land use interactions and related transportation issues within the MIC area. One of its major products is a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) required under 23 CFR §450.300(a) which provides policy goals, objectives, and strategies for the development of the MIC area multimodal transportation system for the next 25 years. The LRTP is developed in consultation with local jurisdictions and updated every five years. The MIC's current LRTP, *Connections 2040* is scheduled for an update in 2019.

The updated LRTP (*Connections 2045*), will provide the foundation for the development of the Duluth-Superior Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and for the MIC's annual work programs. Further, as per 23 CFR §450.306(b) the LRTP process shall provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:

- (1) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation;
- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
- (9) Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- (10) Enhance travel and tourism.

Planned Work Activities

The following work activities are proposed to help complete *Connections 2045*, and ensure the ten required factors listed above are addressed and incorporated.

A. Initiate Study

- Prepare a detailed timeline to aid in completing *Connections 2045* by the deadline.
- Identify federal and state transportation requirements and guidance for MPO's.
- Identify specific issues that should be addressed in *Connections 2045*.
- Identify overall goals for *Connections 2045*.
- Determine roles of MIC staff.
- Meet with MIC-contracted consultants to establish data collection and analysis needs.

B. Data Collection

- Identify transportation priorities and proposed system improvements within the MIC area.
- Determine necessary adjustments to population, employment, and traffic predictions.
- Gather existing and historic traffic and truck count information.
- Gather transportation-related accident location information.
- Conduct asset management data collection of transportation infrastructure in the MIC area.
- Identify safety and other performance measures.
- Identify and gather necessary data to update the MIC travel-demand model.

C. Data Analysis

- Analyze collected data as needed and as appropriate.
- Connect all collected data to existing GIS and conduct geographic analysis.
- Update of the MIC travel-demand model to identify current and future deficiencies in the road network.
- Use data to conduct scenario planning activities.
- Analyze land use and transportation systems to identify conflicts or potential conflicts.
- Analyze impacts of current and proposed transportation issues on underserved and low income populations.
- Conduct financial analysis, and determine constraints and return on investment.
- Use data to establish eligibility criteria to prioritize future projects that meet *Connections 2045* objectives, including federal and state requirements.

D. Public Input and Partnerships

- At meaningful points before and during the development of *Connections 2045*, plan and conduct public input activities with a broad range of stakeholders, including consultation with representatives from all MIC-area jurisdictions, in accordance with the MIC's Public Involvement Plan.
- Develop partnership strategies in support of performance-based planning, including shared technology and other resources.

E. Complete *Connections 2045*

- Develop specific objectives for each of the overall goals for *Connections 2045*.
- Prepare the final document, including charts, figures, diagrams, and maps.
- Ensure the final document is reviewed and/or approved by all appropriate entities.

Deliverables

- Final Long Range Transportation Plan – *Connections 2045* (PDF and print versions)
- *Connections 2045* Executive Summary (PDF and print versions)

Timeline

July 2017 – September 2019

Budget

CY 2017:

\$95,600 (MIC work) + \$25,000 (consultant model component work) = **\$120,600**

CY 2018:

\$143,100 (MIC work) + \$10,000 (consultant model component work) = **\$153,100**

CY 2019:

\$\$\$ (MIC work) + **\$\$\$** (consultant model component work) = **\$\$\$**