



MIC Policy Board
 October 18, 2017
 Meeting Summary

Meeting Location	Hermantown Training Center	
Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Frank Jewell	St Louis County Board
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mike Casey	DTA Board Representative
	Pete Clark	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Dave Montgomery	City of Duluth
	Dan Olson	Superior Common Council
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Barb Russ	Duluth City Council
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Warren Bender*	City of Superior Common Council
	Noah Hobbs	Duluth City Council
	Phil Larson	City of Proctor
alternate	Gary Nowak	City of Proctor
alternate	Beth Olson	St Louis County Board
alternate	Wayne Nelson	Duluth Transit Authority
alternate	John Werner	City of Rice Lake
	Jenny VanSickle*	City of Superior Common Council
Others Present		
	Chris Belden	MIC Planner
	Barb Peterson	MIC Administrative Assistant
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
	Mike Wenholtz	MIC Senior Planner



1. Introductions

Chair Frank Jewell called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summaries – 8.16.17 & 9.20.17 (for approval)**

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 8.16.17 and 9.20.17 meeting summaries with the revisions as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **MIC Director Report:** (Please see meeting agenda descriptions)

3. Guest Speaker: Roberta Dwyer, Project Manager/MnDOT Central Office

Twin Ports Interchange Project

Roberta opened his presentation describing the area being addressed is from Highway 53/535 from Lincoln Park to the Garfield Interchange. Noting the roadway deficiencies, aging and dangerous infrastructure, load restrictions, and issues with OWOS (over weight/oversized) loads on the system.

MnDOT has been working on public outreach with affected stakeholders including an open house in Lincoln Park both in 2016 and 2017. (A November 1st date has been tentatively set).

Roberta then discussed some of the comments that have been received such as:

- Blind merges
- Unexpected location of the stop light
- Improve aesthetics of Cross City Trail, bike trails
- Access to St Louis Bay/waterfront access

to name a few. Mesaba Ave was also discussed and the dangerous lane shifting trying to get over to I-35 entrance/Superior St. Roberta discussed the planned improvements for the Mesaba/Superior area in 2018. *Dave Montgomery asked if it was still going to be possible to get on I-35 when heading west on Superior St. Roberta stated that this would no longer be possible and that you would need to use 5th Ave to get onto the freeway heading west or other alternatives.*

She then reviewed 4 of the concepts that are being considered to untangle the “can of worms” all of which incorporate the connection of Courtland Ave and Garfield starting at 27th Ave W.

The project timeline:

- Selection of Alternative (Spring 2018)
- Environmental Documentation (2018)
- Design (2018 – 2020)
- Construction (2019 – 2022)

All of which depend on funding which is currently being sought from many different sources.



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They will be continuing to work on Public Outreach looking for comments on the 4 “Concept” plans that will be presented.

The following questions were asked:

Chris Belden asked about an estimated cost analysis for each of the concepts

Mike Casey commented that he cannot picture what these concepts would look like down on the ground instead of all the bridges and flyovers.

Roberta’s response was that she has some that information and mock ups but not with her for this presentation.

4. 2018-2021 Superior Area TIP - FINAL, Sheldon Johnson

Sheldon reviewed the 8 new project locations for 1 roadway project and 7 Rail projects which mainly include flashing lights and gates at the various intersections. Also, being included is the Blatnik Bridge investigation being done with WI State funds to determine the longevity of the bridge. This was also amended to the 2017-2020 WI TIP at the September meeting.

Motion Discussion and Vote

Nick Baker/Dan Olson moved to approve the 2018-2021 Superior Area TIP. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. City of Superior/Proposed Grant APP for STP Urban Funds, Sheldon Johnson

Sheldon described the project being considered. The roadway and the bridge would be replaced and widened while also moving to sidewalk to the other side of the road. Since the bridge is only 19’8” it cannot qualify for the usual bridge funding; a bridge needs to be at least 20’ wide.

Motion Discussion and Vote

Nick Baker/Sam Pomush moved to approve and rank Marina Drive as the #1 project for consideration of STP Urban funding. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. 2018 Work Program and Budget Draft, Sheldon Johnson

In Ron’s absence Sheldon explained that due to budget changes and funding issues this will only be a 2018 Work Program and Budget. There are some changes in the Freight modeling project funding. *Ed Anderson stated that maybe the Harbor Assistant grant might be a possible solution since the freight modeling was for the Twin Ports.*

With no further discussion Sheldon asked for a motion to approve.

Motion Discussion and Vote

Nick Baker/Ed Anderson moved to approve the 2018 Work Program and Budget. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.



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7. 2017 Public Involvement Plan Update/45-day Public Comment Period, Rondi Watson

Rondi began by discussing that a review of the current Public Involvement Plan stating that references to MAP-21 rules and regs needed to change to the current FASTact requirements. She also reviewed that the plan needed to be made useful and describe the needs to happen, when, how and who needs to be involved.

Also important is to actively seek input where the affected residents/businesses are early in the planning process before key decisions are made and have ample opportunity to influence decisions.

Rondi also discussed that all comments and input are summarized and the Public Involvement Plan describes how it is considered and/or incorporated into the final recommendations. Also shared was the various groups, agencies and businesses in the community that we try to reach out to and go to where these groups are.

Rondi then concluded by asking for approval to initiate the required 45-day public comment period.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker/Rosemary Lear moved to approve the initiation of the 45-day Public Comment Period for the Public Involvement Plan Update. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.
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8. Roundtable Discussion

9. Project Updates – (please see agenda item descriptions included in the meeting materials)

- Amendment #1 to the 2018-2021 Duluth Area TIP (Nov. Special Meeting for MIC)
Chris explained that some changes were coming down from MnDOT that will require a special phone in meeting sometime early in November. More details to follow.
- LRTP Update
- Duluth-Superior Transportation Association

10. Adjournment

With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Jewell adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.