



MIC Policy Board  
 May 16, 2018 Meeting Summary  
 WITC Conference Center, Room 111  
 Superior, WI

Meeting Location	WITC	
Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Warren Bender	City of Superior Common Council
	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mike Casey	DTA Board Representative
	Pete Clark	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
MN Co-Chair	Frank Jewell	St Louis County Board
	Dave Montgomery	City of Duluth
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Ed Anderson*	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Phil Larson	City of Proctor
	Rosemary Lear*	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
alternate	Gary Nowak	City of Proctor
alternate	Beth Olson	St Louis County Board
	Dan Olson*	Superior Common Council
alternate	Wayne Nelson	Duluth Transit Authority
	Barb Russ	Duluth City Council
	Renee VanNett	Duluth City Council
	Jenny VanSickle*	City of Superior Common Council
alternate	John Werner	City of Rice Lake
Others Present		
	Chris Belden	MIC Planner
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Ricky Sarran	MIC GIS Specialist
	Mike Wenzholz	MIC Senior Planner



## 1. Introductions

Chair Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## 2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 4.18.18** Chair Baker asked for any changes or corrections to meeting summaries. Hearing no other objections, he asked for a motion to approve.

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Wayne Boucher/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 4.18.18 meeting summary as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Directors Report**

(Please refer to the meeting materials)

## 3. Sustainable 2045, MIC LRTP update, MIC Team

Mike Wenholz started the update out by giving a brief description of what the LRTP is and why the MIC is in the process of updating it.

Chris described the demographics which are being used noting that the growth in the area has been stagnant for most of the last decade. He shared that the over 25% of the people living in area is age 55 and older and is projected to increase to 37% by year 2040. Chris also shared the current conditions of the Twin Ports massive infrastructure that is also coming to the end of its effect life cycle. The cost for this construction has risen by 68% between 2003 and 2016. He stated that some creative ways to afford the needed infrastructure replacements and right-sizing them for the future is going to be challenging.

James Gittemeier began by showing 2 pictures of the intersection of Lake and Superior looking towards the lift bridge. One showing before the construction of I35 where there was a lively commercial district which provided a tax base; and one after the I35 construction where a lot of the buildings were torn down to make room for the freeway. A lot of economic vitality and tax base was lost for the convenience of the freeway.

This example was used to show what Planning Perspectives need to be kept in mind when planning for the future transportation needs. We are facing many challenges which include:

- Revenues for transportation shrinking
- Public hesitant on raising gas tax
- Increased fuel efficiency
- Vehicle miles traveled leveling off
- Replacement of Post WWII infrastructure is coming due
- Poverty is deepening



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- Population is getting older
- Physical inactivity is increasing
- Technology is changing our behaviors

To name a few.

Mike then wrapped things up discussing the fact that there are many needs and wants vs the limited resources currently available. We must make wise sustainable choices that keep the following in mind:

- Revenues for transportation shrinking
- Public hesitant on raising gas tax
- Increased fuel efficiency
- Vehicle miles traveled leveling off
- Replacement of Post WWII infrastructure is coming due
- Poverty is deepening
- Population is getting older
- Physical inactivity is increasing
- Technology is changing our behaviors

Mike also encouraged everyone to take and pass around the survey that is currently open which will provide us the data we need to make our sustainable decisions while putting this Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) together. Watch for us at many of the upcoming events around the area over the summer.

#### 4. Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeways Plan Update

James began by thanking the jurisdictions for the man hours they expended throughout the review process of the maps for this plan.

James gave a quick overview of the BPAC meeting on 5.7.18. He also updated the events happening for Bus Bike Walk and made sure to note the upcoming ones which run through the end of May. He also shared the popularity of the pop-up bike shops, where they assisted riders learn more about their bikes and showed them some easy repairs. James also showed where the commuter stations would be located for Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and made sure to invite everyone who can to participate.

He continued stating that at the Congdon Park Elementary School had 180 cyclists and 120 walkers for their Bike to School Day. Piedmont also had their first Bike & Walk to School Day and had 25 cyclists, 50 walkers and 5 scooters – a great start.



## 5. MIC Area Construction Map

Ricky Sarran presented the idea of a yearly construction map for visitors to use to assist in getting around the area and avoiding the road construction. He is starting with both the MN & WI TIP projects and is looking for assistance for the cities of Duluth and Superior as well as the counties to add their projects as well. Anyone willing to provide a GIS contact would be greatly appreciated.

*Nick Baker suggested that a phone call to Douglas County should get Ricky the info he needs.*

## 6. MIC Areawide Truck Route Study Update

Mike Wenholz gave a brief review of the recently closed survey to be used in preparing the update of this study. He showed some of the more interesting results from the early analysis of the responses. Mike then reviewed the next steps to be taken and shared some of the Truck Counts he has received.

## 7. Grand Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Chris shared an exciting new concept being considered by the DTA with assistance from the MIC. Grand Avenue is a possibility for a study to be done. Bus Rapid Transit is very similar to a light rail system but uses buses instead.

Chris continued showing some station designs which also includes platform level boarding making it easier to get on and off. He also showed that the busses even look like a light-rail train. Stay tuned for more details.

## 8. Roundtable Discussion

Reminder of upcoming events for Bus Bike Walk.

## 9. Project Updates (please see meeting materials for a brief summary)

- Canosia Township Trails Plan, Chris Belden  
Ron noted the "kudos" to Chris which have been received.
- Bike Walk Minnesota Conference, James Gittemeier & Chris Belden

## 10. Adjourn

With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.