

Directors Report – October 2019

- Twin Ports Freight Showcase – Our event for the Secretary and staff in the Madison office of the DOT along with local public and private sector entities went off quite successfully last month. Close to 90 attended this forum focused on the existing and future transportation industry across the Twin Ports. Besides local bodies – such as the MIC and the Port Authority – detailing how multimodal planning takes shape, a high point of the day was having two panels, one on private sector modal needs and one on workforce needs, present to the audience their plans (business models) that will ensure their continued success in the area. This event was put on by a combined effort from the UW-Superior Trans/Logistics program, City, State DOT, NWRPC as well as the MIC. From reactions during the event and follow-up surveys, I believe we tapped into an educational event somewhat overdue given how important transportation is integral to the economy of the Twin Ports. Compliments were many from the issues chosen to discuss, to the very informed speakers on the agenda to the format of the event that also built in networking time for the attendees. The planning group was asked to keep the momentum going for such an event and to look to hold these in the future.
- MNDOT District 1 Freight Plan – The District’s Freight Plan produced with a lead consultant along with a large mix of public and private side groups at the steering committee level (ARDC and MIC included) has completed its work and the plan is out for review. The document has been developed to provide a clear framework of the multimodal local industry as it exists today and its maintenance and larger infrastructure needs for the future. A section of the plan details the short term – next five to ten years – projects (primarily road based for trucking) that are key to proper goods movement for this section of the state, plus recognizing the nature of goods moving in or out of Wisconsin and the role those facilities play to the economic well-being of the Twin Ports as well.
- Traffic/Freight Modeling (USH 2/53 – I-535) Bridge Closure Scenarios – The MICs work with our consultant should be finished in the next month or two that will document various lane and directional closure scenarios and their resulting traffic and financial impacts for the network and the economy. This work item makes use of the MICs highly detailed freight statistics in our model and will be used as information for each DOT as they plan future projects for the Blatnik and Bong bridges.
- Duluth Downtown – First Street (One-way to Two-way) Modeling project – This effort, led by the City of Duluth, is concluding at this time. A number of public meetings have been held to gain input from businesses (including ARDC) along the corridor. The MICs travel demand model was used by the City’s consultant to analyze traffic operations. The plan documents how the two-way operation would function and what changes may have to be made to the street to make it operate properly. We are looking to have this project brought forward to the TAC and MIC in December for informational purposes.