

Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan
Advisory Committee Meeting #4

Friday July 17, 2020
10:30 – 11:30 AM

Online via [Microsoft Teams](#) or by conference call 218-302-4275
Conference ID: 694 100 933#

Meeting Summary

Meeting Participants

Gary Anderson	Duluth City Council
Carol Andrews	St. Louis County Public Works
Chris Belden	DTA
Ron Chicka	MIC
Amy Demmer	Zeitgeist
Judy Gibbs	Resident
James Gittemeier	MIC (Meeting facilitator)
Russell Habermann	ARDC, SRTS
Nancy Nelson	Resident
Doug Stevens	Resident, Skyline Preservation Alliance, EcoRotary Club
Alice Tibbets	We Walk in Duluth
Rondi Watson	MIC
Maren Webb	MnDOT District One

1. General Public Input Survey Outreach

James noted that today is the “soft” release of public survey (the link to the survey has initially been sent to advisory committee members). He asked them to forward the survey link to their own contacts.

He then discussed the ideas to help drive participation in the survey. It is open through August 7 and MIC staff will be posting a link to the survey on Facebook on Monday. He hopes to be able to include photos and short videos in “take the survey” follow-up posts, to illustrate the Plan’s basic message of making it easy, safe and comfortable to walk for transportation.

He asked for the committee’s assistance by taking their own photos and/or videos that show examples of worst and best pedestrian crossings in the Duluth-Superior area, as well as any issues they can document from a pedestrian perspective.

He added that it would also be helpful to interview people who utilize the system from a range of perspectives. Rondi added that she is preparing a press release promoting the survey and asked if a couple of committee members would volunteer to speak to reporters in support of this initiative.

2. Survey Promotion

He then discussed the additional public involvement strategy for the Plan of holding focused conversations to address specific topics with targeted stakeholders. He asked for the committee’s ideas of key issues. They suggested:

- Street buffers – street trees, snow storage space
- Sidewalk obstructions – keeping sidewalks clear of garbage cans, vegetation, utility poles, construction cones
- Midblock crosswalks, marking of crosswalks – what’s the right balance
- Motorists yield rates at marked and unmarked crosswalks
- Children, including SRTS
- People with disabilities, including those with low or no vision
- Traffic signals, including pedestrian push button crossing buttons
- Access – opens streets reduced car access
- Elders, senior citizens, dementia community
- USPS letter carriers – unique perspective
- Equity – geography and under-served populations, neighborhoods

Chris Belden noted that there would potentially be interest from transit users when the DTA embarks on its planned ‘bus stop balancing’ project (which will reduce the number of bus stops by about a third).

Maren Webb commented that MnDOT might have some comments from their recent Equity interviews that pertain to this plan.

Doug Stevens mentioned that the Eco Rotary Club would be undertaking an initiative to clean up the Incline Steps, scheduled to take place in the Fall.

3. Next steps:

Three weeks of promoting the survey. James will be reporting on and discussing the public survey results at the next PPAC meeting, scheduled for Friday, August 21st, at 10:30am.