



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

September 14th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

.Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
<i>alternate</i>	Bryan Anderson	MnDOT Dist 1
Committee Vice-Chair	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
Committee Chair	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis Cnty
	Krysten Saatela Foster	MnDOT Dist 1
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth
<i>alternate</i>	John Mulder	City of Hermantown
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT NW Region
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
On leave until Jan	Maren Webb*	MnDOT Dist 1
	vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
	vacant	Active Transportation/Zeitgeist Arts
Others Present		
	Lisa Austin	MnDOT
<i>alternate</i>	Brian Boder	St Louis County
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Andrea Crouse	Zietgiest
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Pat Huston	MnDOT Dist 1
	Mike Kalnbach	St Louis County
	Doug Kerfeld	DOT
	Cyrus Knutson	
	William Lohr	FHWA
	Vick Lund	City of Duluth
	Pat McGraw	
	Gabby Mirabito	Zeigeist
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Ricky Sarran	MIC-GIS Specialist
	Jordan van der Hagen	WSB/Guest Speaker
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Sr Planner



1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Kate Ferguson called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. A roll call of attendees was done with attendees confirming their presence and the entity they represent.

2. GUEST SPEAKER: HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED

JORDAN VAN DER HAGEN, DULUTH WATERFRONT COLLECTIVE

Jordan van der Hagen began by stating that the Duluth Waterfront Collective is a group of Duluth designers working towards a new vision and way of looking at reconnecting downtown Duluth and Canal Park. He began by describing/showing where Duluth started before I-35, after I-35 and what the corridor could be "fixing the freeway". Several groups and individuals have stated that I-35 was over built. Duluth's Downtown Waterfront area has a poverty rate which is the highest in the state. Jordan also shared that "people who live or work within .2 miles of a freeway experience higher rates of asthma, lung impairment, cardiovascular disease, cancer and premature death" to name a few.

Jordan then showed how 5 port cities around the country fixed their freeway issues and provided a much better parklike area much more conducive to tourists and those living in those cities. He then shared the vision that the collaborative have come up with which includes a traffic circle, street trees, walk ways and more. This vision hopes to spur economic growth, create green space, improve safety and mobility and also create a unified downtown.

Proposed traffic patterns out of Canal Park/Downtown were then reviewed. Potential Transit options were presented bringing back the Streetcar and the creation of a Bus Rapid Transit network. Jordan shared how this vision would address a spur of economic growth, how it would create green space, improve safety and mobility and create a unified downtown.

A pdf of his presentation can be found on our website at: [Highway 61 Revisited](#)

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 8.17.21

Motion Discussion and Vote	Chris Belden/Jim Foldesi moved to approve the 8.17.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- 2021 Public Involvement Plan Update

Rondi Watson shared that it is time again for a full review and update of this plan which identifies steps and strategies for public engagement at each phase of the planning process. This update process also requires public involvement and Rondi is asking a motion to approve the start of the mandatory 45-day comment period, effective October 1. More details will be presented at the October meetings.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Karl Schuettler/Todd Janigo moved to approve the start of the 45 day public comment period. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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4. ROUND TABLE

Chris Belden asked if there was any details concerning the Federal Bill yet?

Ron Chicka shared that according to what he was hearing is that they will be continuing the current levels but things could change on a dime. His guess would be they might put something forward in a few months.

Anna Pierce reminded everyone that **HSIP** grant applications need to be reviewed by the MPO prior to submittal. Anna suggested that coordinating with Ron sooner rather than later. For any questions you can reach to Anna or Eric DeVoe. You can also contact the Office of Traffic Engineering for more information as well.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning prioritizing projects and a few other nuances in the process.

Anna reminded everyone that this is a new process which will have it's growing pains. We just want to make sure that we're following the process correctly and it is up to each MPO on how to rank projects.

Andrea Crouse, Zetgeist reminded everyone that one of her roles is the Dept of Health SHIP – Transportation Coordinator and she wanted to share some initial information they received from neighborhood canvassing done in the Hillside lately. They were asking folks about the vision they see for the Community and ways to increase health outcomes including active transportation initiatives.

Andrea wanted to share some unsolicited comments from a number of people which included traffic speeds which deter walking, biking and even bussing. Many had seen the the images Jordan presented tonight and the community members liked the Blvd street trees and ptjer traffic ca;omg features. 100% of those surveyed preferred the the visioning designs.

As soon as they have a full report of our survey data we would glad to share them with the MIC.

5. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Vice-Chair Chris Belden adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.