

**BPAC – November 4, 2021**  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary**

<b>Meeting Location</b>	Virtual (online) Meeting via Microsoft Teams	
<b>Meeting Chair(s)</b>	Carol Andrews	
<b>Note Taker</b>	Carol Andrews & James Gittemeier	
<b>Members Present</b>		
<b>Chair</b>	Carol Andrews	St. Louis County
	Chris Belden	DTA
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior
	Andrea Crouse	Zeitgeist/SHIP
	Judy Gibbs	Citizen Representative
	Eleanor Bacso	City of Duluth
	Jason DiPiazza	Citizen Representative
	Dena Ryan	WISDOT
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Skip Williams	We Walk in Duluth
<b>Members Absent</b>		* Excused
	Dick Haney	Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails
	Andrew Slade	Duluth Bikes
<b>Others Present</b>		
	Prescott Morrill	Citizen Member
	James Gittemeier	MIC
	Mike Wenholz	MIC
	Ricky Sarran	MIC
	Ron Chicka	MIC
	Rondi Watson	MIC
	Mindy Granley	City of Duluth
	Vida Sanchez	WISDOT
	Shawna Mullen	Essentia

## **1. Introductions/Agenda Review**

- Chair Andrews began meeting at 2:00pm by welcoming attendees.
- Meeting participants introduced themselves.
- Following introductions Carol took a minute for recognitions including:
  - Approval of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan
  - Completion of a new section of the Munger Spur paved trail in Hermantown that runs between Anderson Road and Maple Grove Road including a connection to Stebner Fields. TA funding was applied for to extend the trail next to Morris Thomas Road.
  - Blatnik Bridge resolution wording was changed to say that adding ability for pedestrians and cyclists to cross is necessary, not just desired per BPAC recommendation adopted at August meeting.
- Input was also requested regarding meeting format (in person vs virtual). Carol suggested we try planning for in-person but then make a “go/no go” decision ~2 weeks before meeting. Dena requested hybrid, noting sometimes even if Covid is not a concern it allows attendance at a meeting when otherwise there’s not enough time for travel. There was no objection to continuing to meet quarterly 1st Thursdays 2:30 – 4:00.

## **2. Committee Business**

Approval of Meeting Summary from 7.21.2021 (Andrea moved, Chris B seconded, unanimously approved)

- BPAC – Chair & Vice-chair nomination and approval: James reported at the last BPAC meeting the group nominated that Carol Andrews and Chris Carlson continue for another 2 years as chair and vice-chair. Dena motioned the committee approve re-appointing Carol and Chris, seconded by Skip. Motion passed unanimously.

## **3. MIC Public Involvement Plan**

Rondi Watson, MIC staff lead, explained that this plan is updated every 3 years. Rondi reviewed the Plan and the recommended changes to the Plan and explained that the MIC is seeking input on the Plan including from BPAC members. It was noted this might be an appropriate possible mini workshop topic, i.e., how can local road authorities learn from and use the Public Involvement Plan.

## **4. Central Entrance Transportation (Vision) Plan**

MIC staff presented the latest on the Central Entrance Vision Plan that will go next to MnDOT to move to preliminary design phase which includes further public engagement. The Vision Plan recommends 3 options that will have to be fully vetted through a public engagement and technical process to determine a preferred alternative. The plan recommends against maintaining the status-quo and calls for an integrated multi-modal facility that includes pedestrian facilities on both sides of the corridor and a bikeway directly along the corridor and not a block off on Palm Street. The plan recommends a vision of a walkable, mixed use urban environment that serves as a neighborhood downtown. The walkable design of the roadway will be critical to realizing this vision and the potential redevelopment that the market will support. MIC Board approval to be requested by mid-January 2022. BPAC members Skip and

Chris B have been closely involved. Carol asked whether BPAC should do formal recommendation for Central Entrance project and if so when?

## **5. Bike and Ped Project Review**

Process: Carol explained that as BPAC work involves more review of specific projects she and James Gittemeier propose the following slightly revised process to streamline that work:

- MIC BPAC lead staff do initial project review and prepare a draft recommendation to bring to BPAC
- Carol (as Chair) and MIC Staff will ask MIC road authorities to inform us of specific projects that would benefit from BPAC input and the project timing; they could be large or small projects. Goal = create opportunity for early input when it is most useful. Carol noted that St. Louis County has found it useful to get an official recommendation from BPAC early that informs design and can be shared with the general public
- Jurisdictions (road authorities...) should take the lead on scheduling site visits for their projects. These can be in person at the location or virtual using Google Earth, preliminary plans etc.

## **6. Updates and Other Topics by Members**

- Dena Ryan left early but noted in chat anyone with questions/concerns re Blatnik Bridge project can contact her.
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – anyone applying? James Gittemeier said the MIC is interested in having Stowe, Homecroft and Ordean if they are interested apply for a Planning Grant. Cari said Duluth is putting in an infrastructure application for Lincoln Park Middle School and Duluth Elementary School Pedestrian Improvements, which is a top priority for ISD 709.
- Letters of Intent for TA funds for Campus Connector trail St. Marie segments; Hermantown Munger Trail spur to Morris Thomas Road.
- SLC – Carol requested a BPAC side meeting in place of on-site visit to introduce project and gather initial input on a project tentatively scheduled for 2026 construction along Rice Lake Road in City of Rice Lake to the south and north of Martin Road. Several members expressed interested, Carol to follow up with doodle poll to set date.
- SLC – 40th Ave West – Grand Ave to Railroad full reconstruct scheduled for 2025 full reconstruction. : Carol invited interested persons to attend a site visit. Prescott, Judy, Dick and James interested.
- DTA improvements “go lines” = blue and green lines meant to be rapid transit. Posters going up at bus stops proposed for elimination to inform public and solicit input.
- Winter Bike Week - Feb 4-13. Planning underway by Zeitgeist. All are invited to join in the fun and send Andrea activity suggestions.
- Brief discussion occurred about possibility of a round-about experiential site visit to the one constructed 2 years ago on Midway Road and Morris Thomas since that is very similar to design that will be used at new locations like Glenwood/Snively/Jean Duluth. Judy, Prescott and Skip expressed interested.

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm