

**BPAC – February 3, 2022  
Meeting Summary**

<b>Meeting Location</b>	Virtual (online) Meeting via Microsoft Teams	
<b>Meeting Chair(s)</b>	Carol Andrews	
<b>Summary Preparer</b>	Kris Liljeblad	
<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
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1
	Dick Haney	Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails
<b>Members Absent</b>		
	Andrew Slade	Duluth Bikes
<b>Others Present</b>		
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Ricky Sarran	MIC
	Ron Chicka	MIC
	Rondi Watson	MIC
	Mindy Granley	City of Duluth
	Shawna Mullen	Essentia

## 1. Introductions/Agenda Review

- Chair Andrews began meeting at 2:30 PM by welcoming attendees. Meeting participants introduced themselves.
- Ron Chicka recognized James Gittlemeier for his work instituting the BPAC in 2005 and all the excellent bike and pedestrian planning that MIC has done in the 17 years since.
- Andrea Crouse summarized the events that are planned as part of Bike Week, February 4-13.
- Dena Ryan updated the committee on the Blatnik Bridge Replacement Project including an existing conditions memo on bike/ped conditions, with consultant help by Toole Design. A related report from Toole is expected in March. Two more destinations have been added to the existing conditions memo (Enger Park and Millennium Trail) along with a map of data regarding carless households. Feel free to send Dena examples of similar large bridges in other states that have added bike/ped facilities. Examples mentioned include Woodrow Wilson bridge in Alexandria/DC area, Hoan bridge (Milwaukee) and the Tappan Zee /Mario Cuomo bridge in NY. Dena provided links to the Blatnik bridge bike/ped survey results and asked that attendees review and email comments to her at [dena.ryan@dot.wi.gov](mailto:dena.ryan@dot.wi.gov). Skip Williams has become a project Steering Team member.

## 2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary from November 4, 2021: Dick Haney moved approval, seconded by Skip Williams, and unanimously approved
- 2022 Meeting Calendar – no changes discussed
- BPAC Membership – Chair Andrews indicated that there is a vacancy for an Industry Representative and Prescott Morrill has volunteered to fill it. Dick Haney moved approval of Prescott Morrill as a member, Chris Belden seconded the motion, and it was approved. Chair Andrews requested additional suggestions from members for a remaining vacancy.

## 3. Work Priorities for 2022

- Provide timely and useful input on specific projects; promote consistent application of best practices; implement 2019 MIC Bike Plan & 2021 MIC Ped Plan; offer plan implementation suggestions for local projects in 5- and 10-year plans. Skip emphasized need for road authorities and DTA to share project information in a timely fashion to ensure continuous and integrated improvement. Chris Carlson concurs with this plan and James Gittlemeier said he hopes to be a resource to facilitate for Duluth. Cari Pedersen noted Duluth Engineering is trying to fill out 5- and 10-year plans, which should help meet the “timely” goal.

## 4. Design Workshop 2022

- Volunteers for the Planning Subcommittee include Chair Andrews and Vic Lund, Cari Pedersen, Skip Williams, James Gittlemeier, and potentially Judy Gibbs and/or Chris Carlson. Another potential is the new MIC planner to be hired as replacement for James.
- The intended workshop timing is in the first half of 2022.
- Chair Andrews suggested a focus on pedestrian crossing options with a planning/engineering focus.
- Possible topics under consideration include safe pedestrian crossing design, making use of MIC Bike and Ped plans; making use of design guidance other than MUTCD; making use of MIC public involvement plan. Attendees suggested the committee also consider:
  - Integrating traffic calming and green infrastructure into projects including related work by Duluth Green corps member to identify potentially good green infrastructure locations
  - How to address maintenance concerns and get maintenance lead staff support for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements (e.g., plow operators dislike bump outs and median islands...)

## 5. Funding and Grant Opportunities

- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funding – Ron Chicka said five applications had been submitted for the available \$900 k in federal TA funding within the Arrowhead region including two from the MIC area. One is for the Hermantown segment of the Keene Creek Trail and the second is for the St. Marie Street segment of the Campus Connector Trail. Dick Haney endorsed the St. Marie project, which will be the most heavily used trail segment, allowing connections from St. Scholastica to the Lakewalk.
- Safe Routes to School Funding – Chair Andrews said that MnDOT is soliciting applications for Active Transportation Demonstration projects, with an end of February deadline.

## 6. The 3 (or 5) E's – Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Equity

- Chair Andrews inquired about who in the Twin Ports is working on Education? Cari Pedersen indicated that Allison Nicholson of Essentia conducts monthly meetings that include broad community representation, and plan educational events and trainings at schools in and around Duluth. Vic Lund has been a participant in these meetings from St. Louis County.

## 7. Member and Project Updates

- Central Entrance – Ron Chicka said the plan prepared through the MIC was approved by the MIC Policy Board and is moving into the design phase by MnDOT. A presentation to the Duluth Planning Commission was scheduled for the second week of February. Looking tentatively at 2026 for construction.
- City of Duluth – Cari Pedersen reported that SRTS applications had been submitted to seek implementation funding for portions of plans for Lincoln Park Middle School and five Elementary Schools. The design for the Cross City Trail segments between Irving Park and the Munger Trail is underway. Bonding funds are being sought for work on the Aerial Lift Bridge which will include replacement of the decking on walkways. Public meetings are being scheduled for the 2022-2023 street preservation projects funded through the ½ percent sales tax. The reconditioning of 21<sup>st</sup> Ave East from London Road to Woodland Ave is under design, including upgrades to the signal system and bus stop upgrades in coordination with DTA. The extension of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave E from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 1<sup>st</sup> Street may move forward. As part of a joint City-County project, pedestrian crossing upgrades including painted crosswalks and flashing beacons are under design for Snively Road at Lakeview Drive and Woodland Avenue and Hartley Park. For Arrowhead Road at the crossing of the Superior Hiking Trail and Duluth Traverse west of Carver Ave the City plans to add a warning sign indicating a trail crossing ahead but will not be adding a crosswalk and/or flashing beacons. This is consistent with other trail crossings. Cari also reported that Harbor Ave behind the DECC is being redesigned to create a new pedestrian realm. Discussion ensued regarding the Lift Bridge. The project does include sidewalk replacement. The plan is to retain the metal grating in the traffic lanes because concrete decking used in past corroded so quickly. Shawna Mullen noted that it is difficult or impossible to cross the bridge with a bike trailer or other wide device because the sidewalk is too narrow in some spots and the metal bridge deck is dangerous for bikes.
- City of Superior- Chris Carlson reported that the Hammond Ave Reconstruction Project is being prepared for 2023-2024. It will rebuild the existing roadway with pedestrian improvements, new crossings and pedestrian refuges in medians, and bikeway improvements. Chris provided a link to the project website and survey: [City of Superior/Hammond Ave Reconstruction \(superiorhammondave.com\)](http://superiorhammondave.com). Preliminary survey results reported respondents saw the need for a bike facility as low, though that may pertain to the assumed type of facility (lanes v trail) and/or concerns regarding loss of on-street parking.
- St Louis County – Carol said that BPAC input has been instrumental in improving the designs for Morris Thomas Road, Upper Woodland Ave, Boundary Ave sidewalks, Piedmont Ave, 40<sup>th</sup> Ave W, and the Rice Lake Road/Martin Road intersection. She was regretful that the limited right of way on Lester River Road will not permit ped-bike upgrades in the upcoming mill and overlay project. She looks forward to working

with DTA to review bus stop locations on Haines Road in Hermantown that create hazardous conditions for pedestrians.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge, Duluth – Dick Haney pointed out City of Duluth has voted to study the bridge crossing of I-35. MnDOT is launching a corridor study for I-35 in cooperation with the MIC that will consider changes in the freeway through Proctor and Duluth. A related MnDOT survey is open until February 10 = [5th Avenue West Bridge study - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us/5th-avenue-west-bridge-study)

## 8. **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.