



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

February 1, 2024 Meeting

Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

| 1Note Taker(s) | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Members Present | | |
| | Members Present | |
| | Andrea Crouse | Zeitgeist Arts/SHIP/Active Transportation |
| | Denis Sauve | Bike & Ped Industry Rep |
| | Dick Haney | Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails |
| | Jason DiPiazza | Citizen Representative |
| | Chris Carlson | City of Superior Public Works |
| | James Gittemeir | BPAC Vice Chair – City of Duluth |
| | Skip Williams | We Walk Duluth – Citizen Rep |
| | Judy Gibbs | Citizen Rep |
| | Dena Ryan | State of Wisconsin - WisDOT |
| | | |
| | Carol Andrews | St. Louis Country Public Works |
| | Chris Belden | DTA |
| | Cari Pederson | City of Duluth Public Works |
| Members Absent | | * Excused Absence |
| | Justin Dean | Bike & Ped Rep |
| Others Present | | |
| | Mimi Stender | Duluth Aging |
| | Victor Lund | |
| | Johan | Citizen |
| | Erika Shepard | MnDOT – MPO Program Coordinator |
| | Rhondi Watson | MIC |
| | Miles | Americore – City of Duluth |
| | Mike Wenholz | MIC |
| | Prescott Morrill | MIC |
| | Maren Webb | Sr. Transportation Planner, MnDot District One |
| | Carl Osterberg | |
| | Deborah Hendrickson | |
| | Tanja Mattonsen | SLC Asst Traffic Engineer |



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

- Meeting started at 2:30pm and Quick Round the Room introductions and online introductions.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Approval of meeting notes from November 2023
 - Passed unanimously
- Other business:
 - Reviewing of the BPAC goals
- Review of BPAC Goals:
 - All season design for bike/ped infrastructure
 - Addressing network gaps
 - Education and training ops
- Confirmation of future meeting date: Thursday May 2, 2024

3. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- All Season Design and Maintenance
 - Sidewalk snow removal task force has an awareness campaign. This campaign is called BeMinnSNOWta Nice. Encouraging neighbors to be aware of each other's needs for snow removal from the front door to the sidewalk and block by block.
 - Hopes that representatives here can and will spread the word. Anticipating this campaign to last 3 years. Website coming soon (need to have conversation with New Mayoral Admin to address their concerns prior to going live).
 - A pledge form available at different events throughout the city.
 - February 6th at Myers-Wilkins Elementary School and February 7th event at Harrison Community Center (3-6pm both days).
 - Food and incentives at the events.
 - Setbacks/hurdles?: 16 page booklet explaining why it matters (i.e. human rights, infrastructure)...unfortunately the city administration has asked that this not be distributed any more (seeking to address concerns of the city/figure this out and modify it so that it can still be disseminated)
 - Walk and Talk (Andrea): Walking audit at JS Print and walked toward Myers-Wilkins school and pointed out challenges with infrastructure, but also snow removal. Highlighting the impossibility, even with the least amount of snow in recorded history, for those with walking/mobility impairments to navigate this terrain. 20 or so participated and it was eye-opening.



Meeting Summary

* = *Approval Item*

- Education and Training
 - Tanja Mattonsen (SLC Assist Traffic Engineer) presenting on the Safe System Principles
 - Safe system principles and Proven Safety Countermeasures (Federal Highway Administration)
 - Printed out countermeasures that most likely to affect/relate to our landscape.
 - Pavement Friction Management
 - High friction surface treatment
 - Dedicated left- and right- lanes at intersections.
 - Offset turn lanes
 - Bike lanes.
 - Converting existing traditional bike lanes to separated bike lanes
 - Reduced left turn conflict intersections.
 - Crosswalk visibility enhancements.
 - High-visibility/improved lighting/enhanced signing
 - Corridor Access Management.
 - All of these topics are going to come up/be in consideration as we prepare for LRTP. City of Duluth's work right now is reactive, but the 'safe systems approach' of the MIC is proactive. (James Gittemeir)
 - Large grant received for safe systems approach.
- MIC Long Range Transportation Plan (Mike Wenholtz)
 - Sustainable Choices 2050
 - Stakeholder consultations throughout this process: this meeting functions as one.
 - BPAC advisory committee to the MIC.
 - MPO Purpose and the Federal Code: reminder that this is a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive process to move forward better multimodal transportation systems.
 - MTP: MIC is tasked to provide a vision for what our whole local (640 Sq miles) multimodal transportation network can be. We measure achievement of this vision too.
 - Overarching big picture: We are trying to define this overarching vision and make sure this vision reflects input from the community and stakeholders.
 - Performance-based planning.
 - Vision of the LRTP: We all want "the moon", but there are realist decisions we need to make while prioritizing sustainability.
 - 5 basic goals of the MTP: Unchanged from the last plan.



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

- Status of the LRTP 2050: Measurable goals are being finalized. MTP project scoring metrics being developed.
- Key Bike and Ped Comments that have been heard/Top Priorities:
 - Snow and ice clearing – year round reliability
 - Better connectivity/eliminate gaps
 - Safer bike options (protected lanes)
 - Safer crossings
 - Sidewalk repairs needed in Duluth
 - Policy options that more formally and directly integrate bike/ped infrastructure.
 - Establish a transportation commission in Duluth
 - Specific locations of concern
 - 6th ave Duluth
 - Miller hill mall area
- What are your ideas (this meeting) for how to measure/develop metrics for addressing key concerns and desired outcomes?
 - Bike/Ped Mode share goals.
 - VMT (vehicle miles traveled?): MN legislature trying to curb vehicle miles traveled by 20%, is that goal shared in Wisconsin? How is this metric measured?
 - (Denis Sauve) What can we do now...roads are dangerous now...what are simple things we can do now that will achieve some level of addressing safety concerns? -Mike clarifying that this is a vision and asking are things like Tanya's presentation on safe systems being included in projects coming down the way. Envision what an outcome will be.
 - Metric that looks at how direct are these bike route proposals (Skip Williams)
 - Metric that measures how enhances or either creates barriers to accessibility (Mimi)
 - Outside this conversation, how can people provide comments and concerns? (Andrea Crouse)
 - Send comments to Prescott or Mike pmorrill@ardc.org
 - mwenholz@ardc.org P: (218) 529-7573
 - 2-3 week comment frame.
 - Accessibility concerns everyone (Skip Williams)



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Bike & Ped subcommittee updates (Prescott Morrill)
 - More or less compiled list of priorities that are not too dissimilar to LRTP.
 - Snow removal (repetitive concern)
 - Discussion of reduction of speed (important part of pedestrian safety around environment) (Minneapolis municipal ordinance of “twenty is plenty”)
 - Bike Plan schedule: October/November, looking into the final approvals for the bikeway plan.

5. PROJECT UPDATES:

- Blatnik Bridge (Prescott Morrill)
 - Conversation with Pat Houston (lead engineer) and Wisconsin
 - Proposed shared use path on the lake side of the bridge.
 - May be movement on this, but near consent on final aspects.
 - Discussion of two-way shared use path on the east/north side of Garfield...maybe makes more sense to have on the other side of the street?
 - Going forward with shared use path and making that as good as it can be...maybe better to have it on the bay side given weather concerns?
 - Highest office in the land confirms there will be a bike/ped multiuse path (James Gittemeir) (Short video of President Biden speaking in confirmation of shared use path)
 - We are moving forward with it but we don't have the design set out yet (Dena Ryan)
 - Both sides MN and WI want the shared use path...by 2025 they want to have a selected 'design build contractor' (Dena Ryan)
 - Fear from James that “nothing is 100%” ...reassurance from Dena.
 - Stipulations in the Grant funding.
- 40th Ave West Corridor Project (Victor Lund)
 - I-35 interchange to RR crossing (I-35 toward 5th/6th st.), review of:
 - Driving lane configurations (4 lane undivided)
 - On street parking
 - Accommodations for bike/ped
 - Access management (intersections and driveways)
 - Stakeholder driven process (3 different stakeholder groups: general public, businesses, agencies like the BPAC committee) (pleased with the cross-section



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

of participation from public) (overview of what stakeholder questionnaires/surveys looked like and provided)

- Finalize plans with public meeting #3 spring 2024
- 2025 design finalized.
- 2026 construction
- Grand Ave intersection alternatives (4)
- Country Road segment alternative (7)
- City road segment alternatives (5)
- Railroad Crossing alternatives (4)

- London Rd (James Gittlemeir)
 - MnDOT's London Road project
 - City leg of the project
 - From 26th ave east to 40th ave east
 - Roundabout at 26th ave East (approved by city council of Duluth)
 - Cyclist connection to lakewalk shared use path
 - Colored pavement an option? (Johan)
 - Raised Crossing? Concerns about speed at the roundabout from incoming cars off I-35 (Skip Williams)
 - Slip lane for bicycles? Barrier or signs that prohibit people from going further into the roundabout via bicycle (Skip Williams)
 - Shared bike lane on London road from 40th to 60th

6. FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES – AGENDA MATERIALS PACKET

- (Victor Lund) Application for grant funding for Rice lake Road project stretching multiple municipalities.
 - Separated trail going toward the airport.
 - Analysis of trail system and how far someone could theoretically walk on a connected trail (400 miles)
 - Live in Rice Lake and travel to the lakewalk via a dedicated bike/ped facility is the goal here!
- (James Gittlemeir) City submitted active transportation proposal for filling sidewalk gaps for DTA along routes and a submission for improvements to connections for downtown spur to lake walk for better connections to bayfront and lighting along bridge and by railroad under I-35, etc.
- Question from Judy Gibbs about where the Central Entrance project is at. Maren Webb says public meetings coming within the next few months and will make sure people here get



Meeting Summary

* = *Approval Item*

notified.

- Zeitgeist has applied for and received some small grants related to 6th ave east

7. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- Transportation Events?
 - Free fairs Monday February 5th for transit equity day.
 - Winter bike to work day Feb 9th
 - Winter walk to school day Feb 7th

8. ADJOURN:

- Meeting adjourned at 4:45pm