DULUTH-SUPERIOR Metropolitan Interstate Council

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

August 6, 2026 Meeting

Meeting Summary

Note Taker(s)	Name, Title/Affiliation Eli Norlander Transportation Planner/MIC	
Members Present		
Chair	Andrea Crouse	Zeitgeist
Vice Chair	Judy Gibbs	Citizen representative
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth Sr Transportation Planner
	George Harnish	Citizen representative
	Jeremy Kroke	Duluth Transit Authority
	Tanja Mattonen	St. Louis County
	Denis Sauve	Twin Ports Cyclery
Virtual	Mae Sommerfeld	WisDOT
Virtual	Mimi Stender	Duluth Age Friendly
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1 Sr Transportation Planner
	Skip Williams	Vibrant Streets Duluth
Members Absent		
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior Public Works
	Dick Haney	Friends of Western Duluth Trails and Parks
	Andie Heil	ISD709 Duluth Public Schools
Non-voting	Ansel Schimpff	Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores
Others Present		
Virtual	Carol Andrews	
	Henry Campbell	City of Duluth
	Gavin Bukovich	ARDC Planning
Virtual	Vyen Hayag	Zeitgeist, Green Corps
	Deb Hendrickson	Bicyclists and pedestrians
Virtual	Val Langer	BikeMN
Virtual	Angela Olson	BikeMN
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Eli Norlander	MIC Planner, BPAC coordinator
	Ricky Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist

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a. Introductions / Agenda Review

Andrea welcomed everyone to the meeting and went around the room having attendees introduce themselves

b. Committee Business

a. Approval of meeting notes from 5/7/2026 regular meeting

Motion to approve meeting summary from 5/7/2026	**Skip Williams/Denis Sauve move to approve meeting summary** Discussion: None **Voice vote passed unanimously**

b. MIC Updates

Eli gave an update on recent bike/ped related MIC work including:

City of Duluth Flow Street Study Letter of Support The MIC created a letter of support for the City of Duluth Transportation Commission's initiative to study converting First Street to a Flow Street. This study aligns closely with the bike boulevard/neighborhood greenway recommendation in the bike plan.

BikeMN E-bike training At previous BPAC meetings, the idea of an ARDC-hosted BikeMN e-bike training has been brought up. For BPAC members interested, and possibly a handful of others, this training could be tailored to this region and cover enforcement, planning, infrastructure, policy, targeted to the topics the bike subcommittee has been focusing on.

League of American Bicyclists Another e-bike webinar, this one hosted by the League of American Bicyclists is scheduled for August 11, BPAC members will receive information about this and reports on federal bike policy news that the organization has developed.

c. Subcommittee updates

Judy provided a brief summary of the recent work and discussions for the bike & ped. subcommittees.

Bike Subcommittee The bike subcommittee has worked on identifying a list of the top key gaps in the bike network and elevating those to jurisdictions. E-bikes have also been a focus in discussions, including determining issues and solutions.

Ped Subcommittee The pedestrian subcommittee has met twice to discuss the topic of all season sidewalk and trail maintenance. The group has put together a collection of survey questions to get at pinpointing what problems are and impacts to residents. The subcommittee is looking at groups to engage with these questions, possibly the commission on disabilities. With the Active Transportation Plan upcoming, these questions can also be incorporated into the engagement completed with this plan.

Confirmation of future meeting dates

i. November 5, 2:00-4:30 at MnDOT
ii. February 4, 2:00-4:30 at ARDC

c. **Projects for Presentation**

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Andrea and Eli began with mentioning this is the first opportunity to use the BPAC project review process that started with Carol Andrews. This is a nearly finished procedures document. Following this meeting, final adjustments will be made based on the experience with using it for the first time.

See BPAC Project Presentation Summary document at the end of meeting summary for full item summary

d. **Topics for Discussion**

a. Level of Traffic Stress

Eli gave a presentation giving background and the basis for Level of Traffic Stress (LTS), a metric for assessing bicycle and pedestrian comfort on roads. Statewide GIS files for Minnesota and Wisconsin have been created, so after spot checking by MIC staff, the recommendation in the bike plan to develop LTS.

Following the presentation, Eli sought feedback on the area's current or possible future applications for LTS. For the City of Duluth, this would be a helpful tool for helping to track the progress that they are making with road projects and users that are served. MnDOT does apply this and other metrics during project development.

BPAC members provided some input and insight on using LTS. There is research showing bike lanes are associated with wider, unsafe roads. This may need to be communicated or considered when applying this or should be considered in the criteria. Crossings are also vitally important, a great bicycle facility may not automatically make a low-stress route if it requires crossing high-stress intersections.

b. Active Transportation Plan

At the last meeting, there was consensus to merge our two plans into one Active Transportation Plan. The discussion continued on topics focusing on the merge and update of the pedestrian content, because the pedestrian plan was due for its 5-year update. Andrea is looking for people interested in diving into what the scope and level of update or refresh is needed for this plan to bring the pedestrian content from the pedestrian plan to a current state. Maren, George, and Skip would be interested. The MIC will follow-up with someone from Wisconsin to provide that perspective

Andrea continued by asking how people are using the pedestrian plan and other things to consider as this scoping group gets to discussion. The maps are the most used components of the plan, more than any other sections. The data needs to be updated along with gaps that have been filled, and priority locations that have changed. Communicating snow removal as a *regional* priority and setting a bar to strive toward. The group should also remember that the plan should be regional and aspirational.

e. Updates

a. ISD709 Safe Routes to School & MnDOT School Zone Research Study

Gavin provided an update on the recent accomplishments and upcoming work for the ISD709 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan. All major data collection for the 13 schools has been completed. This included hazard zone assessments through pickup & drop off observations, walk audits, and travel tallies. This data is being used to inform pre-draft recommendations. Gavin and Eli went around to each school with a prior SRTS plan to document infrastructure recommendations from those plans that have been implemented. James offered to help with reviewing recent policy and process changes from the previous SRTS plans.

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The team will be updating the safe walking and biking routes at each school and will be aiming to have these available for viewing at open houses in fall. Now, the team is waiting for school staff to return from break to hold the next steering committee.

a. Jurisdiction round robin

St. Louis County's ongoing and upcoming projects include 40th Ave W, work in 2026 for this project will be on 40th Ave W between 7th St and the railroad tracks. There is a vehicle detour on Highland/Getchell/Stebner. The work will be on the trail and sidewalk. In 2027, work will be on the mini-roundabout at Grand Ave and will include temporary signals. On Arrowhead Rd between Hwy 53 & Haines Rd in 2027, a project will add a 10 ft sidewalk on the north side of the road. The Rice Lake Road trail work is beginning in 2027 starting at the existing trail to Norton Rd. The Arrowhead Rd Corridor study is in preliminary talks, scope, consultant, and public engagement is TBD.

City of Duluth's ongoing work includes reopening the Cross City Trail as concrete pouring in the W Superior St area wraps up. The City's Reconnecting Communities Pilot RFP is nearly finished.

MnDOT and the selected project team are holding a Blatnik Bridge update meeting on August 12th to share design and project impact information. The project website will have the information after the meeting. The London Rd project continues, the project website has the best up-to-date construction information. Currently, work is transitioning to the 60th Ave E intersection. There has been visible progress on the ped. bridge, as you can see from the footings starting to rise.

The DTA is finishing scoping for the BRT Study

b. Community organization round robin

The bicycle and pedestrian community organization representatives shared a variety of updates on their work. BeMNice is taking a step back for a year to develop a Shovel It Forward program. Zeitgeist's annual week without driving will be held October 1-8 this year. Vibrant Streets Duluth has been involved in a study that MnDOT is completing on improving and better integrating its pedestrian bridges. Zeitgeist will be doing bike/ped counts in September and would be welcoming to any possible helpers. There is also new bus shelter art. The Twin Ports Transportation Academy is open for registration for its 2026 course; apply by August 21st.

c. Carbon Reduction Program

Eli gave a update on the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) projects in the MIC area since 2025. These included a list of bike/ped improvements, funding amounts, and total carbon emissions reduction. This presentation also included details about the potential future of the CRP program.

d. Superior Safe Routes to School

Eli shared that the Superior Safe Routes to School planning process is still in early stages. The MIC has a meeting with Superior school district staff later in August to talk initial timeline and steps.

e. Safety Action Plan

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Eli shared an update about the Duluth-Superior Safety Action Plan. This plan commits to the goal of reducing and eventually eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on roadways throughout the Duluth-Superior area. This plan's completion enables jurisdictions to apply for implementation grants to fund high-priority safety improvements. This current phase of the plan updated the region's safety and crash data and brought in extensive public engagement to partner locally-based perspective with the technical analysis. This plan will be presented for approval in September and will be followed by reporting of progress and implementation efforts.

f. **Roundtable/Upcoming Events**
g. **Adjourn**

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