



MIC Policy Board  
 October 17, 2018 Meeting Summary  
 WITC Conf Center, Superior, WI

Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Warren Bender	City of Superior Common Council
	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mike Casey	DTA Board Representative
	Pete Clark	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
MN Co-Chair	Frank Jewell	St Louis County Board
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Barb Russ	Duluth City Council
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Phil Larson	City of Proctor
	Jim Filby Williams	City of Duluth
	Dan Olson	Superior Common Council
	Renee VanNett	Duluth City Council
	Jenny VanSickle	City of Superior Common Council
Others Present		
	Bryan Anderson	MnDOT Dist 1
	Chris Belden	DTA
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Bruce Fehringer	FWDP&T
	Judy Gibbs	BPAC Citizen Member
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Keith Hamre	City of Duluth-Acting CAO
	Richard Haney	FWDP&T
	Clem Larson	NWRPC – Alternate for Sheldon Johnson
	Bill Majewski	FWDP&T
	Shawna Mullen	BPAC Member



	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Will Roche	City of Duluth Parks
	Ruurd Schoolderman	Duluth Bikes
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth
	Eric Viken	Duluth Citizen
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
	Mike Wenzholz	MIC

\*\*\* FWDP&T – Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails

## 1. Introductions

Chair Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

## 2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 9.19.18** Chair Baker asked for any changes or corrections to meeting summaries. Hearing no other objections, he asked for a motion to approve.

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Sam Pomush/Warren Bender moved to approve the 9.19.18 meeting summary as presented. There was no discussion; and the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Directors Report**

Ron mentioned that he had a few items concerning:

- A TPI (Twin Ports Interchange) Committee meeting; the latest to be presented at an open house on October 22 at Clyde Iron.
- MN Governor’s Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles – MPOs in the state are involved in several aspects of this special committee aimed at setting the future goals of the DOT on this subject.
- MnDOT District 1 Freight Plan kicked off last month with the consultant team of CPCS (out of Chicago) and SEH locally.

More details on these may be found in the meeting packet.

Ron also gave a brief description of the items handed out including:

- A Lincoln Park Event – Commercial District Revitalization Summit coming up on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The Transportation Alliance has a Transportation Forum in Duluth on Oct 25<sup>th</sup> to bring business and community leaders together with candidates running for office to talk about local transportation needs and possible solutions.
- US Senate approved \$922 million in funding for a Soo Locks upgrade including a new lock to back up the Poe.
- Sad news of the death of Davis Helberg a longtime advocate of the port and served 24 years as the Executive Director of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority.



**3. 2019-2022 Superior Area TIP**

In lieu of Sheldon Johnson, Clem Larson – NWRPC quickly reviewed the new projects and a few changes to the projects in the TIP and also some projects being eliminated. He also reported that there were no comments made during the 30-day public comment period.

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Warren Bender/Sam Pomush move to approve the 2019-2022 Superior Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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**4. Amend September 19, 2018 Motion to Approve the 2019 – 2022 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program *but to withhold approval of the 2019 project listed as “ID 118-090-019, \*\*MN 146\*\* Cross City Trail Phase III, from Duluth Zoo to Munger Trail, construct trail.”***

Ron Chicka began by describing what the TIP is and that it includes all transportation projects which receive Federal funds and the approval process. He also stated the total funds of this 4-year TIP amounts to almost \$350 million along with over \$80 million for transit. Ron then reviewed the events at the September Policy Board Meeting where comments that were received as to the Cross City Trail(CCT) were favorable concerning the River Route segment implementation but were unhappy that connection of the Munger Trail to the Zoo spur runs counter to the original intention of CCT plans where a more direct route was described. After some discussion the 2019-2022 Duluth Area TIP was approved but withheld approval of project #118-090-019 which continues the Cross City Trail from the Duluth Zoo to the Munger Trail.

Ron then stated that the Board Action Recommended by the MIC staff is to amend the text of the September motion by crossing out the withheld approval and approve the 2019-2022 Duluth Area TIP in its entirety. The rationale being that the MIC’s Transportation Advisory Committee recommended approval of the 2019 – 2022 Duluth Area TIP in its entirety at its meeting on 9/18/18 and have been advised by FHWA that this could have potential adverse impacts to the entire 2019-2022 program of projects.

Ron then turned the floor over to representatives from the City of Duluth to respond to the request for more information about the proposed Munger to the Zoo Spur trail project.

Will Roche - City of Duluth-Parks, and Keith Hamre – acting CAO for the City of Duluth each spoke to the steps still being worked on to attempt to complete the “Lower Trail (River Route)”. They have run into major issues with the acquisition of private lands from private citizens and businesses, and also the railroad who is not currently willing to give up that land. They also mentioned where the trail is planned to go has some environmental steps they need to take.

The opportunity for Public Comments was then opened up.

The following citizens and members of the Friends of Western Duluth Parks and Trails spoke: Bill Majewski, Richard Haney, Bruce Fehringer. Each spoke passionately that they are not against the spur trail connecting the Munger Trail to the Zoo, but they are afraid that the City of Duluth has lost their



commitment to make a direct connection of the Cross City Trail to the Lake Walk along the Lower River Route/Lower BN Route as described in the survey results which was included in the Mini-Master Plan. They are concerned that the investment is going to the upper route instead.

The group is also concerned that the City has not been very transparent in their plans and needs to improve the opportunity for Public Comment in the future. Some of these comments are attached at the end of this summary as well as one who did not speak but gave us her comments.

Eric Viken Trails Advocate and former Parks & Recreation Board member briefly commented that the Lower route is the one that has been long planned for but is becoming concerned about the City commitment now that the new Kwik Trip is in the area and is very close to where the trail is supposed to be.

Ruurd Schoolderman representing Duluth Bikes made the point that this connection is a recreational connection and does not provide the direct commuter connection envisioned for the Cross City Trail.

The opportunity for Public Comments was closed.

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Warren Bender/Earl Elde moved to approve the 2019-2022 Duluth Area TIP. There was limited discussion between the board members and then a vote was called, and the motion was approved unanimously.
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### 5. Release of the DRAFT Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeway Plan

James stated that this plan – please review and provide any comments or questions to him.

[DRAFT Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeways Plan](#)

### 6. Bayfront Area Traffic Circulation Modeling & Traffic Control Plan

Rondi reviewed the current time line and the funding being provided by MnDOT Dist 1, City of Duluth and the Duluth Seaway Port Authority while the MIC will provide in-kind staff assistance.

### 7. Truck Route Study Update

Mike stated that work was continuing. Two Open Houses were held earlier in October to give any who wished make comments, voice an opinion or had a question had a chance to do just that.

### 8. Sustainable 2045 – LRTP Update

Mike reported that MIC staff continue to sort through the results of the Phase 1 survey; reviewing the traffic demand model (some significant problems were discovered with the model output that need attention). Also, a Phase 2 survey is also being worked on.

### 9. Roundtable Discussions

### 10. Adjourn

With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.