

Directors Report – September 2020

- MNDOT- WisDOT Blatnik Bridge Planning – A series of events/workshops/meetings has kicked off this month as this large bi-state planning project gets underway over the next four to five years. MIC staff is involved in a number of ways including service to the ongoing project advisory committee that will meet monthly, again, over the next years. Also, we attended the first bridge workshop meeting aimed at obtaining a better grasp of the project scope for the area's local units of government. Many items were reviewed at a large scale including, history of the bridge, purpose/need statements, upcoming process, outreach efforts and schedule. There are four separate consulting firms hired for the work; each with a distinctive study aspect, from traffic operations to environmental components to public input and design.

Additionally, the MIC has been asked to provide our computerized travel demand model to aid SRF (part of the consulting team studying traffic operations) in their analysis of bridge alternatives to be considered and impacts of the options on traffic flow in and around the vicinity of the Blatnik. We have also been asked to provide contacts to a multitude of interest groups and local level neighborhood organizations from our various lists of planning efforts over the past few years as this will aid the DOTs in their outreach efforts. The consulting team along with the DOTs has already been lined up to talk to the HTAC in December. Likely, we will get the project team to address the TAC and MIC Boards in the future as well.