

3/29/24 **Bike Shop Meetup**

Description: MIC staff attended an informal meeting of employees from local bicycle shops to give a brief overview of the MTP and to invite comments about bicycling-related issues and opportunities in the MIC area.

What We Heard – Comments:

- It's always about riding defensively for bicyclists.
- We need a culture shift – in this area, it's 'bikes don't belong on the roads.'
- There's a much stronger culture in Twin Cities – one of the best bicycling networks in the country. What can we learn from them?
- Connections between the commuting cyclist and mountain biking communities here.
- The city prioritizes cars in its roadway projects and transportation expenditures.
- Must make a connected, safe, preferably separated network of bicycling facilities a priority for planning, implementation and funding.
- Roadway shoulders aren't bike lanes.
- Need to be able to safely ride bikes year-round – it's a key part of Duluth's 'Winter City' identity.
- Need public education about 'Idaho Stop'.
- Essentia Health has a Multimodal Transportation Reward program for its employees – a model for other employers?
- Essentia needs better bike lockers, however.
- Is the public bicycle safe storage area at the Duluth Transportation Center (main DTA passenger facility) still a thing?

Ideas and Opportunities:

- Create opportunities to learn from and interact with bicycling advocates, elected officials and city planners about creating a bike-friendly culture and implementing dedicated infrastructure.
- Advocate for city and state-level policies permitting the 'Idaho Stop' for bicyclists (with related education for cyclists)
- Prioritize function of Skyline Drive as a bicycling route, with separated bike lanes, improved traffic calming measures for vehicles.
- Implement 'slow days' for traffic speeds on Skyline and other identified routes.

Key Takeaway:

- It's not the weather, it's not the hills, it's safety and the anti-bike culture that are the primary issues for bicyclists in this community.