

ARDC Newsletter

Spring 2025

A Quarterly Update from ARDC

2025 DULUTH-SUPERIOR AREA BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

As its name suggests, the 2025 update of the MIC's [Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) defines bicycling as a mode of transportation – a way for people to travel – and identifies bicycle routes as a fundamental element of our regional transportation system.

It's also an *action* plan that describes why, how, and where a safe, convenient and interconnected network of bicycling facilities can be implemented throughout Duluth and Superior.

Therefore, this plan is intended to be used by roadway jurisdictions and community members alike, as a tool to guide the development of transportation projects that will support people of all ages and abilities to bicycle to their destinations.



This plan is also a complement to the MIC's long-range plan, [Sustainable Choices 2050](#), and its vision for our region's transportation system. The *Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan* is about more than bike routes; when implemented, it will help to advance many of the goals—safety, mobility, equity, livable communities, health of people and the environment—that are important to the people who live and work here. ▼

GET YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW: ADVANCED PLANNING CAMPAIGN

At the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging, we're excited to launch our "Get Your Ducks in a Row" campaign this April across the Arrowhead Region. This initiative brings together Justice North, Essentia Health, Aspirus Health, Fairview, community hospitals, county health and human services departments, and various community organizations to promote advanced planning for residents of all ages throughout northeastern Minnesota's seven counties.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES

Spring has arrived and with it some changes! First, ARDC is excited to welcome Beth Ann Teskey, our new Planning Director, who has not wasted any time building regional relationships. Next, ARDC leadership is busy making contingency plans for various Federal funding impacts while educating decision makers on regional needs. These include funding for aging and veterans' services, housing, micromobility, energy, economic development, infrastructure, and transportation needs. MIC Director Chicka attended the AMPO (Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations) conference in D.C. and spent hours visiting legislative offices on transportation issues. ARDC Planning Director Teskey and I attended the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and spent time on Capitol Hill visiting the offices of Senators Smith and Klobuchar, and a meet up with Ron Chicka at Congressman Stauber's office. AAAA Director Rebecca Sash and I presented to the MN Housing Finance and Budget Committee on legislation introduced by Representative Zeleznikar around expanded housing options for older adults. Georgia Lane, Marjori Bottila, Michelle Pierson, Josh Bergstad, and Beverly Sidlo-Toliver have each been working on committees and educating legislators in St. Paul and nationally on regional needs. A big thank you to our team for keeping regional needs front and center, I feel confident about 2025 regardless of the changes! ▼

~Kristi Kane,
Executive Director

kkane@ardc.org





**Arrowhead Regional
Development Commission**



Management Team

- Kristi Kane, Executive Director
- Ron Chicka, Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
- Rebecca Sash, Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging
- Beth Ann Teskey, ARDC Planning Division
- Sister Mary Matthew Morrisroe, Finance and Operations



Our Mission

To provide local units of government and citizens groups a means to work cooperatively in identifying needs, solving problems, and fostering local leadership.

For career opportunities, visit ardc.org/careers.

Krista Mattila, Human Resources

EOE/AAM/F/Vet/Disability Employer

Diversity & Inclusion Statement

ARDC is committed to building an inclusive culture that encourages and supports the diverse voices of our employees and of the communities we serve. ▼

Staff Notes

Joined ARDC:

Beth Ann Teskey was hired as a Planning Director for the ARDC Planning Division. Beth Ann has a Master degree in Business Administration for Leadership and Change, a Graduate Certificate for Change Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. Prior to ARDC, Beth Ann worked for UnitedHealth Group, and specialized in electronic eligibility, business operations leadership in commercial billing, enrollment and call center operations, project management; business analysis, process documentation and change management. Beth Ann also managed business operations for convenience stores with the Lakehead Oil chain. ▼



To view current job openings at ARDC, please visit: <https://ardc.org/careers/>.

Upcoming ARDC Meetings

Mark these upcoming ARDC Commission and Board meeting dates on your calendar!

- Thursday, April 17 @ 10 am – Commission Meeting (Hermantown Training Center)
- Thursday, May 15 @ 10 am – Board Meeting
- Thursday, June 19 @ 10 am – Board Meeting

To learn about events hosted by ARDC’s Divisions, connect with us online at www.ardc.org/connect.

Division Updates

Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA)

This quarter, Aging announced five winners of the 2025 Aging Impact Awards recognizing organizations in the Arrowhead Region for their outstanding contributions to supporting older adults. The winners include:

- Kids Plus of McGregor, for their work in fostering intergenerational connections through offering chore services, community gardens and outdoor learning opportunities, reading programs, and more!
- Grand Itasca Hospital and Clinic in Grand Rapids for their partnership with AEOA's Senior Nutrition program
- Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, for providing outdoor recreation opportunities to people of all ages with the Ron Jean Memorial Senior Fish House, Rod Smith Kids Pond, and Annual Senior Fish Fry
- Miriam Kero Consulting of Virginia for incorporating an Age-Friendly lens into Hello Range! and city planning work.
- Judy's Café of Two Harbors for offering an Age-Friendly community space and fostering social connections ▼

ARDC Planning

For the first time in over 20 years, Congress authorized significantly increased funding for the Economic Development Administration in December 2024. Josh Bergstad has accepted an invitation from the National Association of Development Associations to serve on a 12-person committee to advocate to Congress to appropriate the approved funding increases in Planning Partnership Grants from \$70,000 per year to \$250,000. ARDC Planning is also increasing its comprehensive planning services. The Division recently contracted with the Northern Itasca Joint Powers Board to provide these services for the Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway. Planning further continues its Safe Routes to School services through two new Duluth and Floodwood School District grants through the Minnesota Department of Transportation. ▼

Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)



Ron Chicka calls attention to the Duluth-Superior area in recent meetings with congressional reps in Washington, DC

MIC Director Ron Chicka, along with his [AMPO](#) colleagues, recently traveled to Washington D.C. While there, he met with key staff from Senator Tina Smith's and Congressman Pete Stauber's offices to discuss the work the MIC is doing as the designated [Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior Area.

AMPO is actively helping the nation's MPOs by advocating for the following priorities for the next transportation bill: increasing federal planning funds, reducing the local match requirement, allowing funds to carry over from year to year, and streamlining the funding process by authorizing MPOs to be direct recipients of certain federal funds. ▼

DUCKS IN A ROW

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Advanced planning is crucial for everyone: young adults starting careers, parents protecting children's futures, mid-life adults juggling careers and caregiving, and older adults seeking peace of mind about future care preferences. Having clear plans reduces family stress during emergencies, prevents conflicts, and ensures your preferences are respected.

"We often hear people say they'll get around to planning 'someday,' but the best time to plan is now," says Rebecca Sash, AAAA Director.

Our campaign provides free resources, educational opportunities, and expert guidance through specialized webinars (April 14-17) and in-person workshops throughout northeastern Minnesota.

Visit our comprehensive website, ducksinarowmn.org, to access free planning resources, register for webinars, find workshop dates and locations, download necessary forms, and learn more about the importance of advanced planning at every life stage. ▼





Commission

County Board Representatives (8)

- Aitkin County: Michael Kearney*
- Carlton County: Susan Zmyslony*
- Cook County: Ginny Storlie*, Chair
- Itasca County: John Johnson*, Vice Chair
- Koochiching County: Destry Hell*
- Lake County: Richard Goutermont*
- St. Louis County: Annie Harala*
- St. Louis County: Ashley Grimm

Representative of Cities, Townships, Tribal Nations, and School Districts (23)

- Aitkin Cities <10K: Vacant
- Aitkin Townships: Vacant
- Carlton Cities >10K: Roger Maki (Cloquet)
- Carlton Cities <10K: David Lucas (Kettle River)
- Carlton Townships: Clayton Kauppila (Carlton)
- Cook Cities <10K: Michael Garry (Grand Marais)
- Cook Townships: Vacant
- Itasca Cities >10K: Molly MacGregor(Grand Rapids)
- Itasca Cities <10K: Vacant
- Itasca Townships: Mike Baltus (Hill City)
- Koochiching Cities <10K: Brian Briggs (International Falls)
- Koochiching Townships: Kevin Adee (Koochiching County)
- Lake Cities <10K: Richard DeRosier
- Lake Townships: Vacant
- St. Louis Cities >10K: Lynn Nephew (Duluth)
- St. Louis Cities >10K: Chris Whitney (Hibbing)
- St. Louis Cities <10K: Laurence Cuffee Jr (Virginia)
- St. Louis county Townships: Vacant
- Bois Forte Tribal Council: Perry Drift
- Fond du Lac Tribal Council: Jason Hollinday*, Secretary
- Grand Portage Tribal Council: Robert Deschampe
- School Districts: Kim McLaughlin (ISD #701, Hibbing)
- School Districts: Walter Hautala (ISD #2711, Mesabi East)

At-Large (Citizen) Members (8)

- Pat Medure* (Grand Rapids)
- Dirk Davis (Morcom Township)
- Pam Franklin (Duluth)
- Mike Hoops (Silver Creek)
- Joel Hoppe* (McGregor)
- Paul Nevanen* (International Falls)
- Stephen Sydow (Duluth)
- Allen Rasmussen (International Falls)

Advisory Members (2)

- AAAA Advisory Board: Steve Lyons*
- MIC Policy Board: Mike Mayou*

*denotes members of the ARDC Board

Officers

- Ginny Storlie*, Chair
- John Johnson* Vice Chair
- Allen Rasmussen, Treasurer
- Jason Hollinday*, Secretary



Pictured (Left to Right): Allen Rasmussen, John Johnson, Jason Hollinday, and Ginny Storlie



ARDC

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