



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
MEETING SUMMARY
Monday, May 2, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location	ARDC Conference Room, Duluth, MN	
Meeting Chair	Angel Hohenstein	
Note Taker(s)	Beth Krebsbach	
Members Present	Rod Fournier	Transit
	Angel Hohenstien	Health Organization
	Bryn Jacobson	Bicycle Commuter
	Mary Morgan	Other Government
	Cindy Petkac	Other Government
	Ian Schoenike	Youth
	Bill Stovern	Law Enforcement
Members Absent	Jeff Goetzman	Traffic Engineer
	Heidi Jaros	Low Income
	*Cari Pedersen	Traffic Engineer
	Galen White	Limited Mobility
		*Excused
Others Present	Lisa Austin (by phone)	Technical Advisor
	Ron Chicka (by phone)	ARDC/MIC Director
	James Gittemeier	ARDC/MIC Senior Planner
	Susan Koschak	Technical Advisor
	Beth Krebsbach	ARDC/MIC Administrative Assistant
	Jim Skoog	Technical Advisor

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

James Gittemeier called the meeting to order at 4:03. All meeting attendees introduced themselves. He asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. None were requested.

2. BPAC Chair Elections

Angel Hohenstein and Mary Morgan came forward as willing to serve as the chair and vice-chair of the BPAC.

Motion Discussion and Vote Bill Stovern/Ian Schoenike to elect Angel Hohenstein as chair of BPAC. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Motion Discussion and Vote Cindy Petcak/Angel Hohenstien moved to elect Mary Morgan as vice-chair as BPAC. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Committee Business

Meeting Summary of February 7, 2011

Angel Hohenstein asked for any changes or corrections to the previous month's meeting summary. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve.

Motion Mary Morgan/Cindy Petkac moved to approve the 2/7/11 meeting summary as
Discussion presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.
and Vote

4. Amendments to BPAC Bylaws

James Gittemeier briefly explained some minor changes to the BPAC bylaws, including narrowing the titles for two seats and clarifying the process for appointing a BPAC member to the MIC's Transportation Advisory Committee.

Motion Mary Morgan/Rod Fournier moved to approve the amendments to the BPAC
Discussion bylaws as presented. There was no discussion and the motion was approved
and Vote unanimously.

5. BPAC Facebook Group

James Gittemeier briefly reviewed the BPAC and MIC's social media effort. He asked the group how many members currently used Facebook. Ian Schoenike and Cindy Petcak noted that they did, the rest did not.

Gittemeier highlighted that this would be an ideal place to post links or comments for the group's ongoing discussion outside the quarterly meetings.

Mary Morgan commented that she was eager to check out Facebook and try to make this initial experiment a success.

Ian Schoenike noted that he would suggest making the group open for public input. Bryn Jacobson and Angel Hohenstein agreed. Gittemeier commented that the current, closed group would be the first step in that direction.

Susan Koschak noted that participation in social media is self-selecting, and that it wouldn't provide a wide, scientific sample of public opinion. Gittemeier noted that other, traditional efforts at receiving public input would continue.

6. 2011 Work Items

Bike to Work Day

Gittemeier noted that Bike to Work Day in the Twin Ports would take place on the same day as the national event, on Friday, May 20. He said stations would be in place with refreshments and information at one location each in Duluth and Superior downtown. He stressed that in upcoming years, the BPAC themselves could have more dramatic input in the planning and coordination.

Cindy Petcak commented that it might be worth contacting Almanac North or another TV news

program specifically to discuss the work of this committee along with Bike to Work Day. Lisa Austin commented that Share the Road materials were available online, if more were needed for distribution at this event.

Duluth Sidewalk Study

James Gittemeier reported on progress of the sidewalk study. He briefly reviewed the work planned for the study, and said the role of the BPAC would be specifically focused on the gathering of pedestrian count data. He said he would be seeking the BPAC's input on methods for gathering these pedestrian counts, and that they might be looking for a number of volunteers.

Bryn Jacobson commented that this could possibly be coordinated along with Bike to Work Day, specifically in terms of finding volunteers.

Jim Skoog commented that this might be another opportunity for collaboration with Fit City Duluth, as had been done successfully in the past.

Lisa Austin said MnDOT had been awarded grant funding to study the process of gathering counts for pedestrians and bike users. She said a professor/researcher had been added to the University of Minnesota staff with expertise in this area. She said this research project was just beginning its 18-month timeframe, and so unfortunately would not have results or methodology suggestions for the MIC's sidewalk study this summer. Austin also mentioned that they were seeking a representative from the Duluth area to be on a panel for this research. Gittemeier asked if the BPAC had suggestions for this person; they confirmed it should be him.

Duluth Trail and Bikeways Plan

James Gittemeier also noted that Duluth is in the process of making a new Trail and Bikeways Plan.

Cindy Petcak, who is also working on it, said there were a number of user groups involved in this process, but added that it would be wrapping up in the next month.

Gittemeier referenced the map for that plan, which he had available if any BPAC members would care to view it or make comment on it either this afternoon or at another time.

Bike Map

Gittemeier also encouraged the BPAC members to view and comment on the revised Metropolitan Bike Map. He stressed that this map will be re-worked each year, in order to make it more freely available.

Hohenstein asked if the new map would be available online. Gittemeier said there were still some technical challenges to that task, but that it would be a focus coming up for the MIC.

Rod Fournier commented that the DTA had been working on how-to outreach videos to teach the public how to put bikes and strollers on busses, and suggested that once our bike map is online, those videos should be linked up to it.

7. Upcoming Roadway Projects

The first project Gittemeier reviewed is a segment of London Road between 15th and 21st Ave East. The work would include a re-striping to reduce travel lanes from four to two.

Cindy Petkac said this project would include some elements of the Duluth Comprehensive Plan, which would specifically complement rezoning requirements for the form of buildings. She said another priority for the project should be re-striping the road to allow greater ease in pedestrians crossing the road, allowing them to cross fewer traffic lanes.

Because this project is only in the conceptual stage, Petkac suggested that the BPAC make a resolution or motion in support of this work. Bryn Jacobson seconded the motion, and the group approved it unanimously.

The second project Gittemeier described was the health impact assessment done on 6th Avenue East in Duluth. Jim Skoog said this was the first assessment of that kind to be done outside the seven-county metro area. Skoog said this assessment was specifically planned to examine the health impact of both the current 6th Ave. East and the potential redesign of that street. He said there had been a public meeting of about 25 participants who examined the health concerns of the street and rated the concerns in terms of importance.

He said these "ballots" were completed and collected, and each table reported out on their discussion as a group. He said one concern that had emerged in one small discussion group had been the lack of emergency access and the limited number of transit stops in the new design.

He added that recommendations would be ready by May 10, and there would be another meeting to address those recommendations on the 10th at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. He said the report would be ready by May 20, 10 days after the open house.

Skoog added that a plan to communicate these recommendations would be formed once the plan was finished, and that they would be out to the public sometime in June.

Gittemeier opened discussion to other upcoming roadway projects.

Bryn Jacobson asked whether funding for current projects would be affected by the budget tension in Washington. Rod Fournier noted that DTA was experiencing the danger of reduced funding in the next year and was waiting for the end of the session.

8. Roundtable Discussion

At the request of Bryn Jacobson, the group discussed the appointment of a new member or at least an alternate to the TAC. James Gittemeier commented that it would be on everyone's radar leading up to the next meeting.

9. Adjournment

With no further agenda items or announcements, Hohenstein adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.