



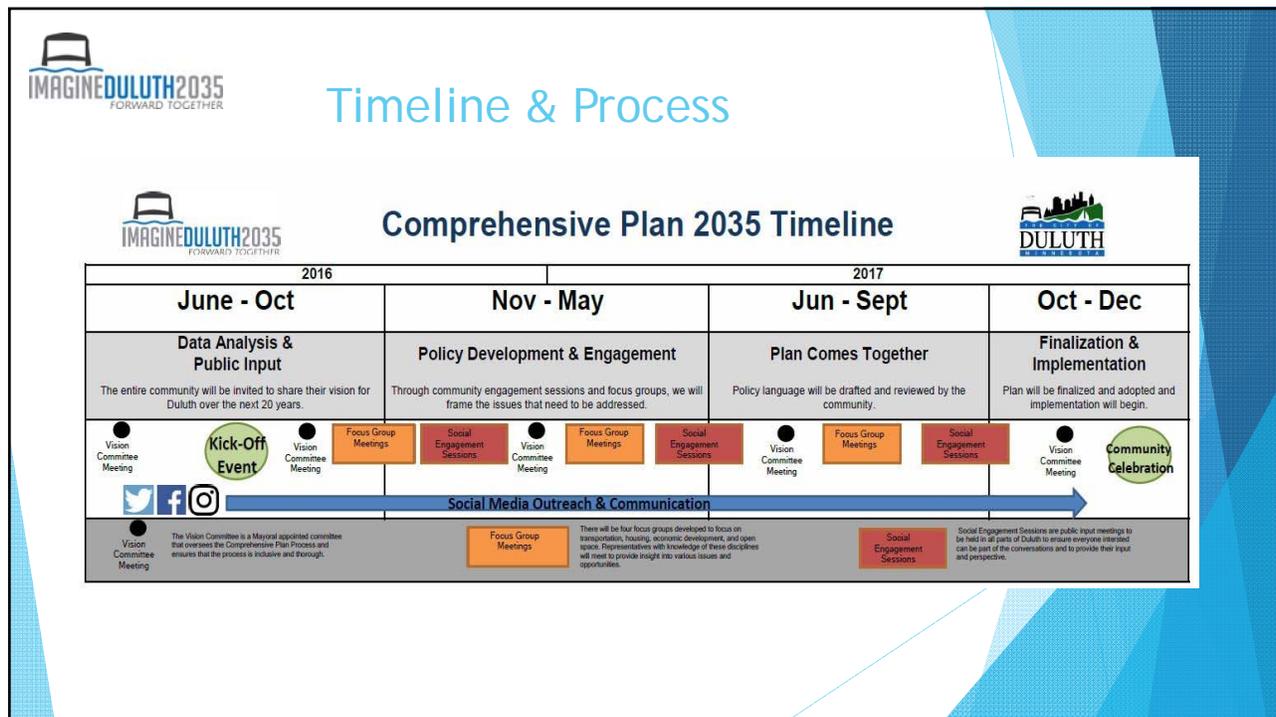
TRANSPORTATION FOCUS GROUP

Meeting 3: Draft Policies and Strategy Development



Agenda

- ▶ Welcome & Introductions (5 min)
- ▶ Brief Overview - Timeline & Process (5 min)
- ▶ Draft Policies (10 min)
- ▶ Walkability Institute & Action Plan - Elissa Hansen (10 min)
- ▶ ADA Transition Plan - Cindy Voigt (5 min)
- ▶ Group Exercise - Strategy & Implementation (30 min)
- ▶ Wrap-up & Next Steps (5 min)



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FORWARD TOGETHER

Research Questions

- ▶ Does the City's road and bicycle infrastructure meet user needs? Describe. How does Duluth compare to other communities of a similar size?
- ▶ Do existing transportation modes equally serve all residential neighborhoods? Does infrastructure availability follow population density?
- ▶ What percentage of the population is within a quarter mile of the transit system and do the most frequent run times or routes match this population?
- ▶ Is there sufficient area for growth of water borne industry and transportation logistics within current footprint of harbor/port area?
- ▶ Do we have trail connections for pedestrian and bike access to job centers, neighborhoods, and recreation areas?
- ▶ Where are there gaps or deficiencies in the pedestrian and bicycle networks?
- ▶ What new transportation opportunities and practices should we consider given our steep hills and varied topography?
- ▶ Do we fully utilize the capacity of the air and rail modes of transportation that serve the community?
- ▶ Does our existing transportation network adequately connect to neighboring communities and our region?
- ▶ How can we create a transportation network that maximizes financial investment and minimizes future maintenance costs?
- ▶ Do our current land use patterns support multimodal transportation?
- ▶ How will development of passenger rail impact the need for improved pedestrian systems?
- ▶ How can we reduce parking and traffic thru-put in Canal Park to best allow for new tourism development?
- ▶ What level of frequency should a model transit system consider for growing ridership?
- ▶ Are the streets within the City at or near traffic capacity? Where might LOS (Levels of Service) be compromised with additional density in development?

- ▶ 2006 Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- ▶ MIC Transportation Studies
- ▶ Small Area Plans
- ▶ Imagine Duluth Survey
- ▶ Focus Group Input
- ▶ Vision Committee Direction
- ▶ 100+ Community Meetings and Events

Draft Transportation Policies

- ▶ **Lower infrastructure costs:** To minimize construction and long-term maintenance costs, prioritize areas for development and redevelopment that maximize use of Duluth's existing infrastructure. Existing streets should be rightsized to accommodate needs of users and, as they are reconstructed, should be evaluated for narrower lanes or road widths, or other strategies that will lower costs of both the road and stormwater infrastructure
- ▶ *Example strategy: Organized waste hauling program to reduce wear and tear on streets.*

Draft Transportation Policies

- ▶ **Improve street conditions for all users:** An asset management approach should be used to extend the life of existing infrastructure, and the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) should address long-term reconstruction of roads in the worst condition; both of these need to be tied to a sustainable street funding mechanism and should prioritize streets used as transit lines, bike routes, or concentrations of pedestrians (such as near schools and commercial centers). Street design should include safety considerations for all modes.
- ▶ *Example strategy: Dedicate sidewalk funding independent of road improvements to connect missing segments of sidewalks and repair sidewalks in poor condition*



Draft Transportation Policies

- ▶ **Increase multimodal options:** Transportation choices that enhance the health of the community and provide transportation access for all will be prioritized over single-mode travel. Duluth's transportation system shall include transit, biking, and walking as viable choices that are also safe and convenient.
- ▶ *Example strategy: Complete the Cross City Trail and Campus Connector to connect gaps in the existing paved bike infrastructure*
- ▶ *Example strategy: Increase transit use by providing faster, more frequent, and more user-friendly transit and by engaging in creative branding and marketing strategies.*

Draft Transportation Policies

- ▶ **Support city and neighborhood vitality:** Transportation decisions should contribute to citizens' and visitor's quality of life and enhance the image of Duluth as an urban, progressive, outdoor city. Public investments should support private reinvestment in housing stock, neighborhood commercial districts, employment centers, and new mixed use areas.
- ▶ *Example strategy: Incorporate public art and creative placemaking into street, transit, and trail projects.*

Draft Transportation Policies

- ▶ **Protect and enhance regional and freight transportation:** Transportation planning in Duluth needs to recognize the importance of air, rail, water, and highway transportation.
- ▶ *Example strategy: Support reconstruction of the Twin Ports Interchange, focusing on freight connections, safety, and neighborhood connectivity.*

Draft Transportation Policies

- ▶ **Improve connections in downtown and Canal Park:** Travel to and within these areas can be challenging in busy tourist seasons and during large events, and impacts quality of life as well as visitors' experience. Congestion, parking, and wayfinding need special emphasis in this area of the city.
- ▶ *Example strategy: Reconfigure the Lake Avenue bridge over the freeway to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians.*



Transportation 4 All History

- ▶ Knight Foundation & 880 Cities Intensive Study Tour Grant
 - ▶ David Montgomery - City of Duluth Chief Administrative Officer
 - ▶ Elissa Hansen - Duluth City Council At Large

Transportation 4 All History

- ▶ Knight Cities Challenge Application
 - ▶ Emily Larson - Duluth Mayor
 - ▶ David Montgomery - City of Duluth Chief Administrative Officer
 - ▶ Elissa Hansen - Duluth City Council At Large
 - ▶ Keith Hamre - City of Duluth Director, Planning & Construction Services

Transportation 4 All History

- ▶ Walkability Action Institute Grant
 - ▶ John Kelley - City of Duluth Planning Department
 - ▶ Elissa Hansen - Duluth City Council At Large
 - ▶ Shawna Mullen - Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community
 - ▶ James Gittemeier - Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
 - ▶ Russell Habermann - Arrowhead Regional Development Center
 - ▶ Joshua Gorham - St. Louis County Public Health

Transportation 4 All Vision

A Duluth transportation & infrastructure system that focuses on traditional values of people's health and fairness rather than the modern value of moving cars. We hope to be a catalyst for this change to occur within 2 years.

Modern Conventional Measures

- ▶ Move vehicles from point A to point B quickly and efficiently
- ▶ Design streets to operate efficiently at peak hour for vehicles
- ▶ Base street design on automobile traffic counts

Traditional Values and Measures

- ▶ Access to livability (healthcare, food, work, school, etc.)
- ▶ Slower and safer automobile speeds
- ▶ Base street design on multi-modal split - percentage of trips along a street corridor by all users (pedestrian, bicycle, public transit, automobile)
- ▶ Property value and vacancy rates
- ▶ Vehicle miles traveled
- ▶ Average trip lengths

Transportation 4 All Policy Portfolio

1. An ordinance for overall inclusive transportation construction and reconstruction.
2. An ordinance for the budget process change to include a public committee review requirement on transportation projects during the budgeting process.
3. An ordinance creating the public committee made up of existing commission & authority members. To meet for anticipatory policy review of transportation projects and/or as needed during the budgeting, design, and implementation processes of the transportation projects.

ADA Transition Plan

- ❖ Accessibility
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Equity
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Environment

Transition Plan Requirements

- ❖ Provide opportunity for comment
- ❖ Give priority to walkways serving government and public buildings and transportation facilities
- ❖ Identify physical obstacles in programs or activities
- ❖ Describe the methods and schedule to make facilities accessible
- ❖ Indicate the responsible official

Progress Towards Compliance

- ❖ Step 1: Complete self evaluation (Summer 2017)
- ❖ Step 2: Complete transition plan (Fall 2017)

Step 1: Self Evaluation

- ❖ **Step 1: Complete self evaluation (Summer 2017)**
 - ❖ Evaluate compliance of pedestrian facilities in relation to:
 - ❖ Sidewalks
 - ❖ Curb ramp/curb cuts
 - ❖ Traffic signals (push buttons, pedestrian indications, audible indications)
 - ❖ Transit stops

Step 2: Transition Plan

- ❖ **Step 2: Complete Transition Plan (Fall 2017)**
 - ❖ Draft document including:
 - ❖ Survey results and public comments
 - ❖ Priorities/areas identified for improvement
 - ❖ Cost to implement the improvements
 - ❖ Schedule for implementation

Transition Plan Schedule

- ❖ **PUBLIC MEETINGS**
 - ❖ June 6: City Center West (5830 Grand Ave) at 4:00 PM
 - ❖ June 7: Portman Community Center (4032 McCulloch St) at 11:00 AM
 - ❖ June 7: Duluth City Hall Room 303 at 5:00 PM – **Transportation Planning Focus Group meeting**
 - ❖ June 8: Central Hillside Community Center (12 East 4th St) at 6:00 PM
- ❖ **SUMMER 2017**
 - ❖ Collect self evaluation and survey data (comments due August 15, 2017)
 - ❖ Draft the transition plan document

Transition Plan Schedule

- ❖ PUBLIC MEETINGS
 - ❖ August 29: City Center West 10:00 AM
 - ❖ August 30: Central Hillside Community Center 6:00 PM
 - ❖ August 31: Portman Community Center 2:00 PM
- ❖ FALL 2017
 - ❖ City Council Committee of the Whole (TBD)
 - ❖ Public Hearing and Council Adoption (TBD)

Group Exercise



Timeline & Process



Comprehensive Plan 2035 Timeline

