1998 Annual Report Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF ARDC 1999

Transportation Division

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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Committee:

The Metropolitan Interstate Committee (MIC) is comprised of local elected officials and others from local units of government in the Duluth-Superior area. The MIC is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for conducting highway, transit and harbor studies in the metropolitan area. Membership on the MIC consists of nine representatives from Minnesota and nine from Wisconsin. The MIC was created in 1975 under a Joint Agreement between the Governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin designating the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and Northwest Regional Planning Commission as the MPO. The MIC is the policy board for the MPO.

During 1998-1999, the MIC completed the final phases of three projects: 1) The 1998-2020 Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan, 2) Miller Hill Corridor Status Report, and 3) 1999-2001 Transportation Improvement Program. In addition, three other projects were initiated and completed in 1998. They are the following: 1) Highway 53 / 194 Hermantown Access Management Plan, 2) 1998 Tetropolitan Pedestrian Plan, and 3) Metropolitan Bikeways Implementation Plan.

The 1998-2020 Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan documents transportation needs in the MIC planning boundaries for the next 20 years. The Long Range Plan serves as a guideline for making future transportation investments for all modes of travel. The purpose of the Miller Hill Corridor Status Report was to examine traffic improvement measures / recommendations targeted at many intersections along Highways 53/194 within Duluth. The 1999-2001 Transportation Improvement Program is an annual function of the MIC whereby federal transportation improvement funds are prioritized for projects within the MIC's urbanized planning area.

MIC staff has taken steps toward implementing aspects of the Metropolitan Bikeways Plan through soliciting federal funding for projects. The Highway 53/194 Hermantown Access Management Plan provides city officials with a guide in locating access points to the main roadway while also providing adequate entrance / exit points to development sites. Service roads along the main corridor play a key role in lessening congestion for the highway. The purpose of the Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan is to identify policies, programs and projects that will improve the pedestrian environment in the Duluth-Superior area. Lastly, the Metropolitan Bikeways Plan identifies the status of individual bike-related projects recommended in the 1994 MIC Bikeways Plan.

Other projects currently underway include: Metropolitan Tourism/ Transportation Plan, Landside Port Access Plan, Downtown Duluth Parking Study, City of Superior Thoroughfare Plan, City of Proctor – Capital Improvements Program, Harbor Planning, and Community Transportation Planning.

Transportation Division Continued

Regional Transportation Planning:

ARDC's Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) provides a forum for local officials to identify and solve transportation problems. The committee reviews plans and programs of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, develops regional plans and facilitates discussion of regional transportation issues.

The membership of the RTAC consists of representatives from each of the seven counties, and representatives from each of the following: Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, Regional Rail Authorities, Chambers of Commerce, environmental, bike and trail groups, ports, airports, rail, transit, townships, city and county engineers, tribal communities and the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Committee.

Accomplishments of the ARDC's Regional Transportation Planning Program include: 1) The Trunk Highway 38 Transportation and Tourism and Technology Project, a joint project of the Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway and the Bigfork School District, 2) MnDOT Long Range Trunk Highway Plan for Northeastern Minnesota, a 20 year set of priorities, 3) initiated work on the North Shore Touring Trail Project, a plan for a non-motorized recreation trail from Two Harbors to the Canadian border (later renamed the Gitchi Gummi Trail, 4) continued work on the Regional Freight Movement Study and Regional Bikeways Plan, 5) Edge of the Wilderness National Scenic Byway Kiosk / Interpretive Panels Plan, 6) Two Harbors Transportation Action Plan, 7) the Trunk Highway 53 Long Range Improvement Task Force Report, a citizen led plan for highway expansion and realignment and 8) continued working with and supporting local citizen group working on state scenic byways.

Community Development and Natural Resources Division

Economic Development Administration / Overall Economic Development Program:

ARDC completed a full update of the OEDP in 1998. The OEDP document reports on the economic problems, needs, and resources of the Arrowhead Region. Following an examination of the economic strengths and weaknesses of the region, the OEDP document identified goals and objectives for economic development in the region. Strategies to achieve those economic development goals were then identified.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS):

ARDC is implementing a regional GIS for the purpose of technical support for communities and planning projects as well as positioning for a regional clearinghouse for spatial data and metadata. This service will provide GIS applications for units of government that do not have this capacity themselves. ARDC's goal is to facilitate the exchange of data between various units of government and to ensure that the standardization of regional approaches in the collection and analysis of data.

ARDC Census Program:

ARDC is a regional census repository through the Minnesota State Data Center for the collection of federal and state economic and demographic data. As a member of the state data center system, ARDC provides census information to the public. Data requests are typically received from a variety of sources, including private businesses, government agencies, non-profit organizations, media, elected officials and students.

Community Development and Natural Resources Division Continued

orth Shore Management Board:

Lake Superior Shoreline Protecting Project:

The NSMB has continued to work to establish a loan fund to aid property owners on Lake Superior's North Shore. The Board was recently awarded \$940,000 in Phase II loan dollars through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program to address failing septic systems and erosion hazard areas. Applications for the low interest loan dollars are available through County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's). Construction on eligible projects is expected to begin in the Spring of 1999.

Review of the North Shore Management Plan:

The NSMB is conducting a review of the effectiveness of the **North Shore Management Plan**. This review consists of meeting with local units of government, and their staff, to evaluate the plan and identify any problems or deficiencies. The review is scheduled for completion in the fall.

St. Louis River Board:

A new Joint Powers Agreement that sets forth a new role for the Board was developed and approved by the SLRB's member units of government. The Board will begin to meet annually, in April, for the purpose of the review and approval of the DNR's annual work program for the St. Louis River System. A Cultural Resource Management Plan is also being developed to identify management strategies for historic sites located within the river corridor. The Cultural Resource Management Plan is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1998.

Human Services Division

Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging:

Designated by the Minnesota Board on Aging, ARDC's Area Agency on Aging serves to link people with information; assist community groups and service providers with planning, coordination and development; and improve the quality of life for older persons and their families through local and regional initiatives.

Older Americans Act Program Administration:

The Advisory Committee on Aging oversees the annual Older Americans Act funding process resulting in financial support for service providers to establish or maintain projects that provide vital services to older persons. In 1998 these services included: meal programs, legal services, adult day care, mental health outreach, chore service, home maintenance and repair, transportation and telephone reassurance. ARDC provided more than one million dollars in financial support to 13 non-profit organizations and 2 units of government.

Health Insurance Counseling And Assistance Program (HICAP):

The HICAP program recruits, trains and supports volunteer health insurance counselors who provide one-on-one information about Medicare, Medical Assistance, health insurance, and benefit plans to seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries. In 1998, the program served 600 individuals, provided outreach to 1,534 persons, trained 18 new volunteers, established 3 new walk-in sites, and completed 5 volunteers training sessions. Staff members are located in Duluth and International Falls and in Virginia, through a contract with the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency.

Human Services Division Continued

Senior Linkage Information and Assistance:

The Senior Linkage Line is a free statewide telephone information and assistance service that links older adults, their families and other caregivers with resources and services. In the Arrowhead, the Senior Linkage Line served 1,200 seniors or their caregivers in 1998.

Medicare F.Y.I.:

This three-year project is a collaboration of the Minnesota Board on Aging and the Southwest and Arrowhead Area Agencies on Aging. Medicare F.Y.I is funded by a federal demonstration grant through the Administration on Aging. Materials developed by the project include a personal health care journal, educational video, public service announcements and curriculum that are being disseminated nationally. Through the Public Broadcasting System's (PBS) satellite education service, the project's video, Medicare: Take Care Of It So It Can Take Care Of You!, is receiving widespread use. Medicare F.Y.I. educates Medicare beneficiaries and their family members about Medicare; defines fraud, waste and abuse; and outlines the referral process to report fraud and abuse. Trained volunteers serve as community educators and gave 42 presentations attended by 1,081 persons. More than 45,500 consumers received information through the media.

Northern MAGEC:

Funded by the University of Minnesota through a federal grant, Northern MAGEC is one of five regional geriatric education centers in Minnesota. Northern MAGEC is a collaborative effort of area health care professionals, educators and other service providers formed to address the educational needs of the region's geriatric service providers. Recent projects include age sensitivity training workshops, home health and nursing facility focus groups, and the compilation of a regional resource directory.

Building Community Friendships For Meals On Wheels:

This Area Agency project creates partnerships with employers, educational institutions, health care providers, service clubs, churches, units of government and others to recruit volunteers for the region's home delivered meals programs. The primary focus of the Friends program is to maintain and expand the availability of home delivered meals to meet increasing demand. Funding for this time-limited project is primarily with state dollars. In 1998 the project recruited 66 new volunteers who delivered approximately 1,650 meals.

Choices And Changes: A Resource For The Retirement Journey:

This unique, award-winning program provides retirement planning workshops to pre-retirees primarily through the sponsorship of their employers. Dynamic, knowledgeable facilitators share information and guide participants through hands-on planning to set goals and explore expectations for the second half of life. Choices and Changes is a fee-based program available to employers and other groups and organizations. In 1998 the program provided workshops for units of government, industry, retail and education.

Carlton County Faith In Action Project:

Begun in August, 1998 this is a cooperative project of the Area Agency on Aging, Carlton County Health and Human Services and Volunteer Services of Carlton County. Funding to support the Senior Access Coordinator is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Northland Foundation, and Carlton County. The project's coordinator is working with an interfaith coalition to develop and support informal, volunteer services provided by churches - both to their members and to the community-at-large. Services to be developed include transportation, grocery shopping assistance, chore, home repair and friendly visiting. Carlton County provi office space in Carlton for the project's coordinator.

Human Services Division Continued

Pptions North:

Options North '98 was a great success. The event was attended by more than 4,000 at the DECC on October 8 and 9, 1998. The major sponsor for Options North '97 was St. Mary's / Duluth Clinic, with many other local and regional sponsors giving generously to support the event. The highlight of the event was the keynote presentation by Art Linkletter. An enthusiastic audience of over 1,000 followers received him. He shared his philosophy that the quality of life is ageless. Prior to Mr. Linkletter's address, the Success Over Sixty Awards were presented by representatives from ARDC's Area Agency on Aging. Participants had many options to choose from throughout the two-day event such as Early Bird Bingo, educational and entertaining seminars, and a chance to visit over 80 booth exhibits. ARDC is pleased about the increased enthusiasm for the 1998 event and is looking forward to planning the next Options North in the spring of 2000.

Arrowhead Welfare Reform Partnership:

ARDC has been working with community members from throughout the region and the Arrowhead Welfare Reform Partnership to support additional model efforts by county and non-profit agencies to enhance efforts already underway. These services are being funded through a grant made by the McKnight Foundation for the Arrowhead. ARDC acts as fiscal agent and project evaluator.

Nor'easter:

The Nor'easter project was designed to give public and private citizens groups in the Arrowhead Region a new way to work together to solve complex, inter-related problems in the communities. ARDC received a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to carry out this project.

ne Nor'easter project's main goal is to strengthen the ability of groups to plan a shared future. Participating community groups meet regularly to define their shared vision through the diverse knowledge and skills represented by individuals in the group. ARDC regularly works with dozens of public and private community groups whose purposes are to address issues in their communities such as job creation, transportation, natural resources management, housing, health care, education and aging.

Issues which communities are experiencing are growing more complex and interrelated, requiring community leaders to develop comprehensive, "big picture" ways to deal with them. The Nor'easter project is one way communities have found new ways to create new visions for their future. Nor'easter staff are also available to provide other organizations working on improving their group's process.

National Scenic Byways Resource Center

In August 1998, ARDC contracted with the Federal Highway Administration to create a national program that provides assistance to nationally designated scenic byways. The mission of the National Scenic Byways Resource Center is to build successful national byways through positive, proactive, hands-on assistance in planning, promoting, preserving and managing scenic byways. Staff will be responsible for developing training manuals and workshops for byway groups, develop and maintaining a resource collection, maintaining the web site (www.byways.org), managing national research projects on models and best practices for building successful scenic byways, and establishing a network of experts on a national and state level. One major upcoming event is the *Sharing America's Stores*, a national conference for byway leaders. The conference will be held in August 1999 at the Holiday Inn in Louisville, Kentucky.

National Scenic Byways Resource Center Continued

The idea for a national center that would provide specific assistance to byway groups working on National Scenic Byways developed through ARDC's extensive involvement with scenic byways in the Arrowhead Region and statewide in Minnesota beginning in 1992. The proposal to establish the National Scenic Byways Resources Center was submitted to Congressman Oberstar and the Federal Highway Administration in early 1998 and was debated as part of the re-authorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The new bill, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, signed into law in June 1998, designated ARDC as the organization responsible for establishing the Center. ARDC has contracted with the Federal Highway Administration to staff the Center for the next six years.

1998 Accomplishments:

- ✓ Developed a mission statement, vision and goals for the Center working with the Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byway Program staff in Washington DC.
- ✓ Participated in several working sessions with the Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program staff in developing a strategic plan for the National Program.
- ✓ Worked with national organizations and federal agencies on defining the purpose of the Center (Scenic America, National Trust for Historic Preservation, American Recreation Coalition, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service).
- ✓ Promoted the Center at four regional Scenic Byway Conferences.
- ✓ Established office space (including computer network and phone system).
- ✓ Hired office administrator (Cheryl Newman).
- ✓ Hired Scenic Byway Resource Specialist (Barb Koth).
- ✓ Developed educational materials about the Center's purpose and services.
- ✓ Determined preliminary logistics, theme, and location of a national scenic byway conference to be held in 1999.
- ✓ Conducted a survey of potential conference attendees on interests and needs for 1999 conference
- ✓ Developed and implemented a personalized phone interview of all state byway contacts (53 state contacts) and national byway organizations and contacts (53 national byways) to learn more about existing byways and state programs and to determine specific needs in order to develop an annual work plan for the Center
- ✓ Developed a work plan for Center for 1999.

ARDC PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS FOR 1998

MIC Publications:

- 1998-2020 Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan Update

 Documentation of the transportation needs in the MIC planning boundaries over the next 20 years.
- Miller Hill Corridor Status Report
 Progress report on traffic control measures for the corridor as defined in a prior (1995) study.
- 1999-2001 Transportation Improvement Program

 Annual task outlining federal funds used in the urbanized planning area for transportation projects.
- Highway 53 / 194 Hermantown Access Management Plan
 Outline of traffic measures to ensure viability of main highway while providing development site access.
- Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan
 Identification of policies and programs to aid pedestrian movement.
- Metropolitan Bikeways Implementation Plan
 Identification of on-street and off-street bicycle amenities for the Twin Ports area.

Regional Transportation Publications:

- Two Harbors Transportation Action Plan
 Plan that was conducted to help citizens of Two Harbors identify and resolve their transportation issues.
- Trunk Highway 53 Long Range Improvement Task Force Plan
 Report that examined four-lane improvements on TH 53 between Virginia and International Falls.
- Long Range Trunk Highway Plan for Northeast Minnesota
 A plan designed to guide investments on Trunk Highways in the Arrowhead Region for the next 20 years.

Human Services Publications and Videos:

- 1997-1999 Area Plan on Aging
 ARDC's plan for community-based services promoting independent living to enhance the quality of life.
- 1998 Report on Gaps in Services for Seniors Age 60+
 A brief report outlining service needs of older persons including many types of services.
- Medicare: Take Care of It So It Can Take Care of You!

 National award-winning consumer education video that includes information about benefits, health care fraud, waste and abuse issues, and resources for referral.
- Health Care Journal
 A health care tracking journal for Medicare beneficiaries developed by the Medicare F.Y.I. project to assist seniors in becoming pro-active consumers of health care services.
- Options North Program Book
 Booklet produced for the Options North Expo held October 1998.

Community Development/Natural Resources Division Publications:

- State of the Plan: A Review of the North Shore Management Plan
 An analysis of the effectiveness of the North Shore Management Plan and its goals and strategies.
- Alternative Wastewater Treatment System Fact Sheets
 Series of fact sheets describing various types of alternative wastewater treatment systems.
- Grand Marais Waterfront: A Vision for the Future
 This is a report that highlights the results of a visioning process for the Grand Marais waterfront.
- St. Louis County Recreation Plan for the Cloquet, St. Louis & Whiteface Rivers
 A plan that addresses recreational use and facility development on the St. Louis River System within St. Louis County.
- EDA Final Progress Report: January 1- May 31, 1998
 A report prepared for the Economic Development Administration.
- EDA Mid-point Progress Report: June 1- December 31, 1998
 A report prepared for the Economic Development Administration.
- Overall Economic Development Program: 1998 Update
 A full update of the Arrowhead Region's Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP).
- Rice Lake Township Comprehensive Plan
 A comprehensive plan developed for the Town of Rice Lake.
- City of Tower Limited Housing Market Study
 A housing market study developed for the City of Tower.
- City of Duluth Housing Assessment Fall 1998
 Assessment of housing needs in Duluth.



Arrowhead Regional Development Commission Revolving Loan Fund Loans Approved and Disbursed in 1998

Lind-Furey Custom Cabinets	Barnum	\$25,000
Floe International, Inc.	McGregor	\$75,000
PRJ Facilities, Inc. (Kids Peace)	Buhl	\$75,000



1998 Annual Report Page 9

Seniors Served by Over \$1 Million in Older Americans Act Funds

Applicant and Project	Amount of Funding	Applicant and Project	Amount of Funding
Elder Services Network ESN Telecare Project	\$14,270	Advocates Against Domestic Abuse Advocacy for Older Battered Women	
Volunteer Services of Carlton County Telecare	4,085	Churches United in Ministry CHUM Telecare/Friends	2,939
Human Development Center Outreach Mental Health Nursing	22,423	Cook County Council on Aging Out of County Medical Transportation	3,234 n
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency AEOA Senior Dining	371,242	Koochiching Hospice Koochiching Respite	4,365
Arrowhead Economic	163,038	Riverwood Health Care Center Aitkin County Chore Project	5,774
Opportunity Agency	102,020	Thum County Choro Troject	
EOA Meals on Wheels		Riverwood Health Care Center Aitkin County Transportation Project	3,472
The City of Duluth	182,754		
Duluth Senior Dining		Riverwood Health Care Center 4,757 Aitkin County Telephone Reassurance Project	
St. Louis Co. Soc. Serv. Dept.	98,306		
St. Louis Co. Home Delivered M.	leals	Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging Senior Linkage Line	41,739
Floodwood Adult Day Services	14,960		
Floodwood Adult Day Care		Range Center, Inc. Range Chore Service	10,640
East Range DAC	18,199		
East Range DAC Chore Service		Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging Health Insurance Counseling and	29,500
Legal Aid of NE MN Senior Citizens Law Project	73,530	Assistance Program	
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency Arrowhead Handyworks Program	11,015		
1 110 Wilcad Haildy Works I Togran	essendi.	Total Grants and Contracts \$	1,089,065

Summary of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Year Ended December 31, 1998

	General Fund	Revolving Loan Fund	Options North	Grants & Contracts	<u>Total</u>
Revenues					
Tax Levy	\$ 356,313	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356,313
Grants & Contracts				3,981,033	3,981,033
Program Income	-	266,050	76,942	-	342,992
Interest Earned	26,071	<u>.</u>	5 7 1	7,141	33,212
Miscellaneous	6,058	1, -	-	9,842	15,900
Total Revenue	388,442	266,050	76,942	3,998,016	4,729,450
Expenditures	256,758	146,397	73,725	4,146,073	4,622,953
Revenues Over/Under					
Expenditures	131,684	119,653	3,217	(148,057)	106,497
Other Financing Sources					
(Uses)-Local Match	(152,404)	3,001		149,403	
Revenue and Other Sources		*	,	-	
Over/(Under) Expenditures					
and Other Uses	(20,720)	122,654	3,217	1,346	106,497
Fund Balance 1/1/98	267,196	38,725	19,646	2,070	327,637
Fund Balance 12/31/98	\$ 246,476	\$ 161,379	\$ 22,863	\$ 3,416	\$ 434,134

1998 Commission and Board Members

County Commissioners:

Margaret Sherman, Aitkin Patty Murto, Carlton Wes Hedstrom, Cook Tom Saxhaug, Itasca Larry Chezick, Koochiching Sharon Hahn, Lake Rick Goutermont, Lake Steve Raukar, St. Louis Liz Prebich, St. Louis

Township Officials:

Irene Bright, Aitkin John Pelto, Carlton Adolph Benes, Itasca Gary Bowman, Koochiching Sheryl Homan, St. Louis

School Boards:

H. Phillip Powers, Carlton

Communities Under 10,000 Population:

Penny Olson, Aitkin Merton Sanders, Carlton Evelyn Larson, Cook Robert Vekich, Itasca Jack Murray, Koochiching Chester Bianco, Lake Dennis Orn, St. Louis

Communities Over 10,000 Population:

Herbert Johnson, Carlton Isobel Rapaich, St. Louis Dick Nordvold, St. Louis

At Large - Minorities:

Les Northrup, Indian Reservations Harlan Tardy, Low Income Norman DeSchampe, At Large

At Large

Patricia Ives, At Large Allen Rasmussen, At Large Barb Karger, At Large Alan Netland, At Large Steve Krmpotich, At Large William Miller, At Large Jim Bovis, At Large

Board / Comm. At Large

Lloyd Houle, At Large Harvey Harvala, At Large Ralph Johnson, At Large Bill Corcoran, At Large Chet Lindskog, At Large

Advisory Committees:

Earl Elde, MIC Keith Yetter, MIC Pat Stoddard, Aging Rick Wolff, Aging Dennis Johnson, RTAC

Board of Directors:

Margaret Sherman, Aitkin Patty Murto, Carlton Chester Lindskog, At Large Larry Chezick, Koochiching Bill Corcoran, At Large Harlan Tardy, At Large Tom Saxhaug, Itasca Wes Hedstrom, Cook Les Northrup, At Large Sharon Hahn, Lake Steve Raukar, St. Louis Liz Prebich, St. Louis Ralph T. Johnson, At Large Harvey Harvala, At Large Allen Rasmussen, At Large Rick Wolff, Adv. Comm. Keith Yetter, Adv. Comm.