



# 2019 Annual Report

*Celebrating 50 Years*

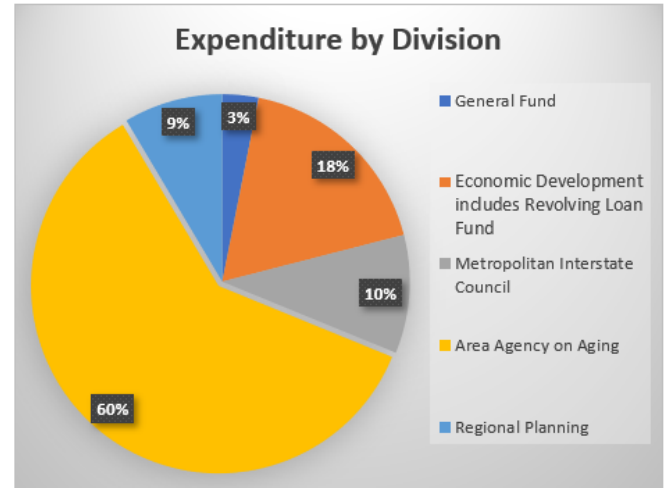
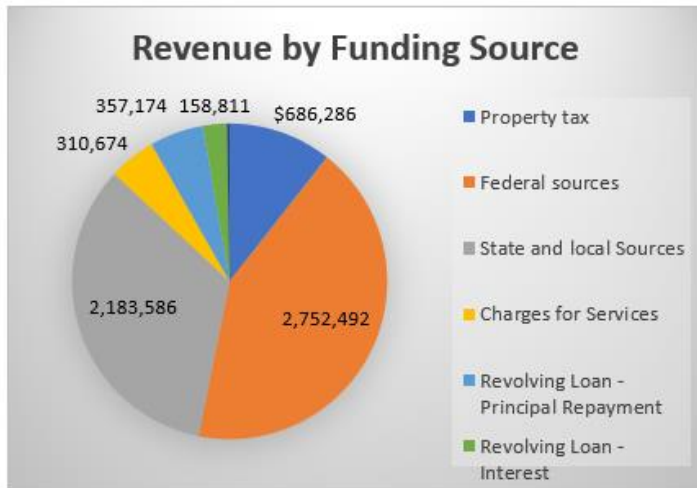
## 50 Years of ARDC

2019 was ARDC's 50<sup>th</sup> year in operation and it was an important one. The growth of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) has reflected northeast Minnesota's demographics. As a result, we had housed several staff members in leased space next door to our office. In 2019 we were able to renovate our space and bring those staff members back into our building. The renovation was implemented by DSGW Architects and Gardner Builders. As a result, ARDC now has HIPAA compliant secured space for the Senior Linkage Line, new desk areas for AAAA employees, two new small meeting rooms with modern technology, an improved large meeting room with a new ADA compliant bathroom, and a new security system.



On October 26, 2019, ARDC was able to celebrate our past and promote our vision for the future. Well over 100 of our friends and colleagues joined us in a celebratory luncheon that featured the unveiling of our new logo. The new logo is based on an illustration of community development. It presents community members as triangles, which point in the same direction and join information when they pursue a shared goal. The logo also honors ARDC's historic use of blue, gives nod to its legislatively-defined seven counties, and alludes to the geographic shape of the Region.





The above charts reflect unaudited figures regarding ARDC's FY 2019 expenditures and revenues. To view this information in greater detail, and other information pertaining to ARDC's financial summary, please visit: [ardc.org/finance](http://ardc.org/finance)

The ARDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) supports business activities for which credit is not otherwise available. The objective of the program is to stimulate private investment in order to create and maintain productive, permanent employment through the establishment of new businesses or the expansion of existing businesses.

Financing provided in conjunction with this program is intended to complement – not compete with – private lending institutions. As such, securing private sector involvement is a critical factor in qualifying for this program.

To learn more about ARDC's Revolving Loan Fund, visit: [ardc.org/rlf](http://ardc.org/rlf).

| Loan Distribution by County |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1987 to 2019                |              |
|                             |              |
| Aitkin                      | \$ 237,730   |
| Carlton                     | \$ 696,675   |
| Cook                        | \$ 1,171,173 |
| Itasca                      | \$ 2,161,080 |
| Koochiching                 | \$ 218,500   |
| Lake                        | \$ 1,382,300 |
| St. Louis                   | \$ 5,728,081 |





2019 was a busy and exciting year for the ARDC Planning Division. Of particular note was our staff led rebranding process, which resulted in the new Division name and logo that you see above.

Transportation was the leading theme for the Division in 2019. Community transportation planning processes were held in Two Harbors, Grand Marais, Cook County, Cohasset and Grand Rapids. “Bridging” the divides between the public and agency officials, the needs and the wants, and safety and efficiency takes a strong facilitator and ARDC Planning often takes on that role. Additional transportation efforts included updating management plans for the Region’s Scenic Byways, helping to secure additional project funding for these attractive roadways and their affiliated waysides, parks, and trails.



Transit was not left out in 2019, as ARDC kicked off a new program – the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC). This endeavor is using regional program advocates to improve how people with limited means can get to more destinations efficiently. Of course, ARDC still is a strong advocate for pedestrians and bicyclists. Our work with the Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership, Transportation

Alternatives (TA), the State Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, and trail use counting continued in 2019.

Our land use planning efforts in 2019 were highlighted by a study of coastal erosion on Lake Superior. Working with a wide base of stakeholders, the study will advise the North Shore Management Board on the effectiveness of their minimum shoreland standards. We continued our work with the Hermantown planning department as well as the City of Two Harbor’s zoning efforts.



As the designated Economic Development District for the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), ARDC conducted several economic development processes in 2019. Multiple EDA infrastructure grants were applied for and subsequently awarded, including an over \$3 million dollar wharf project in Grand Portage.

Geographic Information Systems continue to be a significant role for ARDC. GIS supports the erosion study, Hermantown planning, Scenic Byway mapping, and nearly all of our projects in some manner.

Visit us online at [www.ardcplanning.org](http://www.ardcplanning.org) to learn more about our current projects.



The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) is designated by the Minnesota Board on Aging as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the Planning and Service Area of the Arrowhead Region under authority of Title III of the Older Americans Act. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) were established in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans age 60 and over in every local community. The Arrowhead AAA (AAAA) strives to make it possible for older adults to “age in place” in their homes and communities.



In 2019, AAAA focused planning efforts around leveraging the experience, expertise and energy of older Minnesotans, equipping them with the tools to take charge of their health and make informed decisions about services, supporting caregivers and supporting people to aging in community with access to a range of services and housing options. Within these broader goals, efforts focused on the top regional gaps, transportation, caregiver support, chore services and housing services.



As part of the MinnesotaHelp Network™, AAAA helped to expand and support the Senior LinkAge Line® (SLL) Long Term Care Options counseling service by providing a local call center, Return to Community and Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) services in the Arrowhead region. In 2019, staff took over 22,880 calls and served 9,159 unduplicated people. PAS staff conducted 4,760 screens to ensure people entering Long Term Care settings were in the best possible facility for their needs.

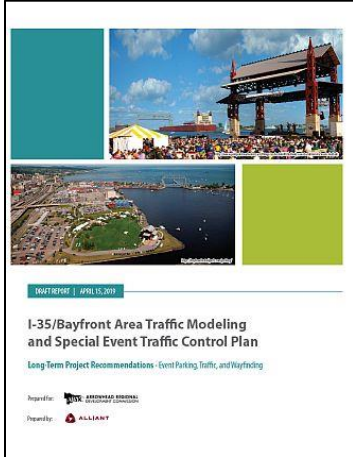
Finally, the AAAA provided 27 grants/contracts to 13 partners in the region totaling over \$1.8 million in Title III Federal Older Americans Act Funding. The ElderCare Development Partnership team assisted organizations in leveraging nearly an additional \$1.1 million in State funding to implement services to assist older adults living independently at home.



# Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

## 2019 Annual Report for the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)

### I-35/Bayfront Area Traffic Circulation Modeling & Special Event Traffic Control Plan *A challenging project with unique and innovative solutions*



Getting to this popular Duluth location - a confined area with a mix of entertainment, commercial and industrial destinations - can be a challenge when multiple events occur at the same time.

In response to local stakeholder concerns about periodic traffic congestion during high-volume events, the MIC sponsored a planning project to devise short-term traffic control solutions as well as long-term infrastructure needs.

The resulting [I-35/Bayfront Area Traffic Circulation Modeling and Special Event Traffic Control Plan](#), conducted by consulting firm Alliant Engineering, received the *2019 Transportation Achievement Award* from the North Central section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Many features of the plan and the planning process factored into this competitive award, including how it:

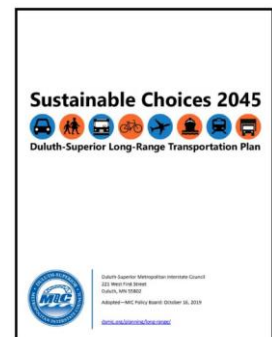
- Engaged stakeholders for input on background information and existing conditions and key recommendations;
- Developed a short-term traffic control plan for medium and large-scale events as a pilot study for the effectiveness of several preliminary strategies;
- Developed a wide-ranging list of recommendations for potential improvements for event parking, traffic flow and wayfinding that was ranked and prioritized by overall improvement to traffic, financial feasibility, and implementation viability.
- Used CUBE and Synchro modeling tools for modeling travel demands to analyze the operational benefit of the 30 strategies;
- Evaluated traffic/parking bottlenecks for future traffic model calibration;
- Conducted a parking and wayfinding analysis of Bayfront area event, including information on potential parking management vendors and technologies as well as two relevant case studies

## Sustainable Choices 2045

### *Long Range Transportation Plan for the Duluth-Superior Area*

This update of the MIC's LRTP is the culmination of a 3-year planning and public involvement process. A key theme is that financial resources for transportation infrastructure is increasingly limited and that wise, strategic choices must be made in the years to come to benefit all users of the Duluth-Superior transportation network.

It offers planning initiatives and policy directives for all modes of transportation including air, bicycle, pedestrian, rail, roads, transit and waterways for the next twenty years. Focus areas for the update include an expanded performance measures component, and FAST Act compliance.



Both documents and further information can be found on our website at [www.dsmic.org](http://www.dsmic.org)





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[www.ardc.org](http://www.ardc.org)

## Commission

### County Board Representatives (8)

Aitkin: Don Niemi\*  
Carlton: Dick Brenner\*  
Cook: Ginny Storlie\*  
Itasca: Terry Snyder\*  
Koochiching: Wade Pavleck\*  
Lake: Jeremy Hurd\*  
St. Louis: Frank Jewell\*  
St. Louis: Beth Olson

### Representative of Cities, Townships, Tribal Nations, and School Districts (21)

Aitkin Cities <10K: Vacant  
Aitkin Townships: Vacant  
Carlton Cities >10K: Roger Maki (Cloquet)  
Carlton Cities <10K: David Lucas (Kettle River)  
Carlton Townships: Jason Paulson (Thomson)  
Cook Cities <10K: Anton Moody (Grand Marais)  
Cook Townships: Vacant  
Itasca Cities >10K: Dale Adams (Grand Rapids)  
Itasca Cities <10K: Calvin Saari (Nashwauk)  
Itasca Townships: Larry Salmela (Effie)  
Koochiching Cities <10K: Brian Briggs  
(International Falls)  
Koochiching Townships: Kevin Adee  
(Koochiching County)  
Lake Cities <10K: Carlene Perfetto (Silver Bay)  
Lake Townships: Vacant  
St. Louis Cities >10K: Gary Anderson (Duluth)  
St. Louis Cities >10K: Tim Harkonen (Hibbing)  
St. Louis Cities <10K: Steven Johnson (Virginia)  
St. Louis County Townships: Warren Tinker  
(Lavell)

## Our Mission

The mission of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) is to provide local units of government and citizens groups a means to work cooperatively in identifying needs, solving problems, and fostering local leadership.

*ARDC is an EOE/AA/M/F/Vet/Disability Employer. ARDC is committed to building an inclusive culture that encourages and supports the diverse voices of our employees and of the communities we serve.*

Bois Forte Tribal Council: Sidra Starkovich  
Fond du Lac Tribal Council: Jason Hollinday\*  
Grand Portage Tribal Council: Robert Deschampe  
School Districts: Pat Medure (ISD #318, Grand Rapids)  
School Districts: Walter Hautala (ISD #2711, Mesabi East)

### At-Large (Citizen) Members (8)

Jim Berg (McGregor)  
Dirk Davis (Morcom Township)  
Mike Hoops (Silver Creek)  
Joel Hoppe (McGregor)  
Paul Nevanen\* (International Falls)  
Allen Rasmussen\* (International Falls)  
Gordon Salisbury (Hovland)  
Mary Somnis\* (Grand Marais)

### Advisory Members (3)

AAAA Advisory Board: Pam Franklin\*  
NEMNATP: Jason Hollinday\*  
DSMIC Policy Board: Earl Elde\*

\* denotes members of the ARDC Board

## Officers

Dick Brenner, Chair  
Don Niemi, Vice Chair  
Allen Rasmussen, Treasurer  
Jason Hollinday, Secretary

***ARDC thanks its Commission and Board members for their service to our Region!***

