Background
Tofte adopted the Town of Tofte Comprehensive Community Plan in February 2005. Several projects were identified to help achieve the visions articulated in the Comprehensive Community Plan. The Tofte Town Center Design is the first project identified.

Several other factors came together to propel the Town Center Planning process forward; the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s proposal to rebuild Highway 61 through Tofte; the construction of the Gitchi Gami Bike Trail through Tofte; and the Tofte-Schroeder Sanitary District’s charge to look at sewage treatment issues in the district.

The Town of Tofte hired the Center for Rural Planning, Duluth and the Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota to lead the Tofte Town Center Community Design Project. The Town of Tofte, Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program, the Blandin Foundation, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation provided funding for the project.
Purpose

The purpose of the design project is to create a community-driven design that can be used to direct and shape Tofte’s future. The design closely examines, in a comprehensive manner, the requirements needed to balance the protection of the community’s resources, cultural and natural, while planning for economic development and growth.

The following principles were used to achieve this purpose:

- Concentrating development,
- Preserving and enhancing Tofte’s cultural and natural landscape,
- Creating connections to amenities and recreational systems,
- Providing for future sustainability,
- Addressing safety and congestion problems along Highway 61 which is both an economic corridor and a scenic byway, and
- Minimizing the design’s effect on property owners.
Project Structure: Scope of Work

The project work was organized into seven major tasks:

Task 1:
Community Meeting Kick-off
- CRP Facilitates the meeting, space arrangements, community communication and outreach.

Site Visits and information gathering
- Photo Analysis of community and surrounding area
- Any additional visits to government offices, interest groups, regional resources etc.

Task 2:
Data Compilation
- Synthesis of information gathered in community meeting and site visit.
- Additional information gathering with MN DOT
- Base Map data and information gathering.
- Base Map Production

Analysis
- Creation of Character Analysis
- Opportunities and Constraints

Design Requirements/Project Scoping
- Collaborate with CRP and Man DOT in developing a project scope.
- CRP is responsible for the needed community communication and outreach
- Reach agreement between parties, one meeting

Task 3:
Preliminary Design Phase
- CCL Conducts to produce a set of design concepts for presentation.

CCL Will Produce:
- 2 Design Plan Options, with special emphasis on solving Hwy. 61 alignment issues. (Plan Views)
- 2 Site investigations (Axons)
- Signage Options and other Details (Plans, Sections, Axons)
- Illustrative

Task 4:
Presentation of Preliminary Design
- CRP will facilitate meeting and outreach
- Design work will be presented for purposes of feedback.
- CRP will collaborate of the collection of community and MN Dot responses.

Task 5:
Analysis of Responses, Revisions, and Final Design
- All feedback will be collected and reviewed.
- Revisit preliminary design for changes.
- Collaborate with CRP for decision on what option to pursue.
- CRP will communicate with the Tofte Community.

CCL will produce final design that will consist of:
- 1 Final Plan Suggestion
- 2 Sites for design development
- Signage and detail suggestions
- Illustrative Drawings.

Task 6:
Document Production & Final Products
- Project will be assembled into an 11 x 11 format as a final product.
- The document will consist of all design work, process drawings, communication and necessary information.

Task 7:
Presentation of Final Design and Delivery of Product
- 1 Meeting with a Tofte Focus Group
- 1 Community Open House (CRP will facilitate both meetings)

Delivery of:
- 1 Set of Large format Final Design Boards
- 5 Sets of 8.5 x 11 Final Design Boards
- 5 Documents. Hard Copies
- 5 Digital CD’s with all of the above mentioned Products