



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020 at 1:30 pm
VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

For the protection of the community, all MIC committee meetings will be held online and by telephone during the current Minnesota COVID-19 State of Emergency. Public access and public comment opportunities will be provided as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 for local government meetings, allowing the use of communications media technology such as telephone and video conferencing.

Login and call-in information and meeting materials can be viewed on the [meeting web page](#) as well as at the bottom of this page.

Special Project Update: First Street Conversion Project

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 5.19.20

Items for Approval with opportunity for public comment:

- 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #11 & 12
- 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP
- 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendment #5-8

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Harbor Planning Update
- Metro Area Pedestrian Plan Update
- Project Updates

Attendance / Meeting Quorum

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, **please contact Barb Peterson at bpeterson@ardc.org or 218-461-2666** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

Virtual Meeting Log-In/Call-In Information:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 218-302-4275](tel:+12183024275) United States, Duluth (Toll)

Conference ID: 691 072 892#

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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission

221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • www.dsmic.org

**TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(TAC)
MEMBERS**

Airport

Tom Werner

Active Transportation

Shawna Mullen

City of Duluth

Cari Pedersen

Cindy Voigt

Chris Lee

Kris Liljeblad

City of Hermantown

David Bolf

John Mulder

(alternate)

City of Proctor

vacant

City of Superior

Todd Janigo

Chris Carlson

Jason Serck

(alternate)

Douglas County

Jason Jackman

Duluth Transit Authority

Chris Belden

Phil Pumphrey

(alternate)

Economic Development

Karl Schuettler

MnDOT

Maren Webb

Todd Campbell

Bryan Anderson

(alternate)

Mobility Challenged

Vacant

Port/Harbor

Kate Ferguson, *Vice-Chair*

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi

Matt Hemmila

(alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Dena Ryan, *Chair*



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020, 1:30 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 5.19.20 (for Approval) Director's Report <p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	10 min
3. Duluth - First Street Conversion Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Project Update, Kris Liljeblad & James Gittemeier 	15 min
4. 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #11 & 12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval w/opportunity for Public comment, James Gittemeier 	5 min
5. FINAL 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for public comment, James Gittemeier 	10 min
6. 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendment #5-8	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, Sheldon Johnson 	5 min
7. Harbor Planning Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, Mike Wenzholz 	10 min
8. Metro Area Pedestrian Plan Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, James Gittemeier 	10 min
9. Round Table	
<p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	5 min
10. Project Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications #16-18 Hwy 53 Corridor Intersection Study Proctor Transportation Plan 	5 min

There is no meeting in July

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 15th, 2020

UWS/Sea Grant Estuarium (Maybe)

Superior, WI

1:30 pm



* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 5.19.20**
- **MIC Director's Report**
- U.S House Proposed Transportation Bill – The House side of Congress has unveiled their full text for the next reauthorization of the federal transportation legislation (brief Fact Sheet attached); current bill set to expire at the end of September. It is termed the Invest in America Act. Markup is set for this month on the House floor. This is a full 5-year reauthorization bill to follow the existing FAST Act. Many provisions covering all modes of transportation are detailed; including a possible increase in funds for MPOs nationwide. Key overall components include:
 - Addressing the backlog of roads, bridges and transit systems in need of repair and replacement.
 - Building resiliency into the network and resilient infrastructure that can better handle extreme weather.
 - Designing roads that are safer for all users, including peds and cyclists.
 - Increasing funding for public transit options in urban, suburban and rural areas to integrate technology and increase routes and reliability; increase use of bus-only lanes and signal prioritization.
 - Greater investments in passenger rail (Amtrak) to create a more robust and reliable rail system across the country; with a special focus in the Northeast US corridor.
- The INVEST Act also accounts for the current economic downturn due to the pandemic by looking to ensure increased federal funds in the first year of the bill so as not to defer greatly needed projects salted to get underway now or soon. Up to 100% federal funds – for some projects – may be considered. AMPO and other national agencies in DC representing states and regional development commissions are monitoring the status of the bill and continue to work with policy-makers to enhance different provisions of the proposed legislation.
- MNDOT Freight Program Solicitation – The committee that oversees this solicitation has recently met to discuss procedures, and the DOT is soon to be soliciting for projects for the years 2023-2025. The amounts vary per year, ranging from \$15M to \$22M. Applications are set to be released this month and are due back in September. All road jurisdictions along with ports, railroads, MPOs and RDCs will be notified. Projects can cover freight improvements including safety needs, mobility, first/last mile connections and intermodal. There is a rough target of funds being distributed 60% to the Metro area and 40% out-state. A key provision in the application is that projects must be run through the MPO to gain some type of approval in order to be fully considered.



3. DULUTH - FIRST STREET CONVERSION PROJECT

The conversion of First Street Conversion in Duluth is the latest street reconfiguration project in the area. To meet the goals of Sustainable Choices 2045, the Duluth-Superior Long Range Transportation Plan a key emphasis has been placed on “re-thinking” the transportation system to meet present day conditions and future needs. The First Street in Duluth is reflective of this. A presentation on the latest updates on the project, the reasons behind this roadway re-configuration, the public input received, as well as the issue that arose of curbside management, largely the re-allocation of curb space.

4. 2020-2023 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #11 & 12

Amendment #11 – 6982-322 WP1

This formal amendment is needed to address scope, cost changes, and change fiscal year from 2020 to 2021 in the 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP.

6982-322 WPI cost increased from \$47.3 million (\$20 million Federal BUILD Grant) to \$96 million to \$96 million (\$76,792,000 federal). This increase was due to the updated cost estimate. During the design phase it was discovered there is substantially more contaminated soil and more staging costs for bypasses than originally thought. There was also a scope change, removing the I-535/Garfield Interchange work and the US 53 bridge work.

6982-322 WPI will be moved into FY 2021 and be tied to 6982-322WP2. 6982-322WP2 originally had a FY 2021 cost of \$252,277,790 in the 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP. 6982-322WP2 has a cost decrease to \$180 million. This freed up \$72,277,790. 6982-322WP1 will use \$48.7 million to be fully funded. With the assistance of MnDOT OTSM the proper funding splits between both projects are obtained.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description	Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
		Federal	State	Local	Total
Amendment #11 MnDOT 6982-322 WP1	I-35 I535 and US 53 In Duluth First Phase of Twin Ports Interchange Construction And Bridge Replacement.	76,800,000	19,200,000		96,000,000



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Amendment #12 – 6982-322 WP2

This formal amendment is needed to address scope, cost changes and add “AC Indirect Garvee funding in the 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP.

6982-322WP2 had a cost of \$252,277,790 (\$29,490,000 FEDERAL) In the 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP. The new project cost is \$18 million (\$89.2 million Federal). The decrease in cost is due to scope change of removing the I-535/Garfield Interchange and the US 53 bridge work and more refined estimate. This decreased freed up \$72,277,790, which moved to the 6982-322 WP1 and to be used to manage the project CMGC contract administration costs.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description	Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
		Federal	State	Local	Total
Amendment #12 MnDOT 6982-322 WP2	I-35 In Duluth Second Phase of Twin Ports Interchange Construction. Construct Bridges Retaining Walls Drainage Improvements.	34,400,000	89,200,000		180,000,000

5. FINAL - 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP APPROVAL

The 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP is presented for final approval. Staff will review the minor adjustments and changes to the TIP since the draft was released in May. In addition, staff will review all public comments received at the Thursday June 11, 2020 public info sessions.

6. 2020-2023 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #5-8

PROPOSED 2020-2023
SUPERIOR URBANIZED AREA
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT(S) AMENDMENT

TIP AMENDMENT #5

This project enables North Country Independent Living Center (NCIL) the ability to continue their transportation vouchers program to eligible clients throughout (eight county area including; Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer, and Washburn) northern Wisconsin. The project provides individuals with disabilities and residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing a transportation barrier a means of traveling to work, school, shopping, and other events. The vouchers



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are used to reimburse friends, neighbors and other volunteers who use their own vehicle for transporting disabled individuals. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020.

2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
North Country Independent Living 113-20-010	Funding of a Voucher Program for individuals with disabilities and others experiencing transportation barriers in 8 NW Counties.	Voucher Program	137,650		137,650	275,300
		TOTAL	137,650		137,650	275,300

TIP AMENDMENT #6

This project enables North Country Independent Living Center (NCIL) the ability to operate a mobility management program funding staff members who coordinate rides for the region’s population seniors and individuals with disabilities, and also work to expand their service, provide outreach and information of transportation options to residents, and work to coordinate rides with other providers. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020.

2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
North Country Independent Living 113-20-011	Funding a mobility manager within NCIL	Mobility Manager	30,139		7,535	37,674
		TOTAL	30,139		7,535	37,674



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TIP AMENDMENT #7

This project enables the Challenge Center to replace two existing vehicles with two new medium buses. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT.

2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Challenge Center, Inc.	2 - Medium Bus Replacement	Vehicle Purchase	100,800		25,200	126,000
113-20-012	Vehicle Purchases					
		TOTAL	100,800		25,200	126,000

TIP AMENDMENT #8

This project enables Senior Connections to replace a current vehicle with a new Minivan, Side-load equipped. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT.

2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Challenge Center, Inc.	Minivan Replacement	Vehicle Purchase	32,800		8,200	41,000
	Vehicle Purchase					
113-20-013	Side-load Accessible	TOTAL	32,800		8,200	41,000

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

7. HARBOR PLANNING UPDATE

Due to COVID-19 precautions and a desire to promote the safety of staff and partners the MIC has decided to cancel the upcoming Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) meeting scheduled for June 3, 2020. The MIC consulted with the Duluth Seaway Port Authority while considering this decision. Both agreed cancelling was the best option. Unlike other meetings that can be held and function well via virtual meeting software, we do not believe a quarterly HTAC meeting can, and that too much of the



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spirit and benefit of the meeting would be lost doing so. Our hope is that we will be able to meet for our scheduled meeting on September 2, 2020.

The HTAC Bylaws direct and guide the HTAC's function and list the eligible voting members. They were last updated March 2015. It was clear a number of language clean-ups and sensible, but minor revisions should be made primarily for clarity and better functional flexibility. It was also desired to change the eligible voting member list to provide better representation, better opportunity and flexibility to ensure active HTAC partners can participate as voting members, and an improved balance of harbor interests. A subcommittee was formed and revised the Bylaws. A proposed draft Bylaws document has been prepared. Staff will request approval of the Bylaws at the June MIC Board meeting.

Work continues to progress on the rewrite of the Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP). Initial review of the draft Background chapter has occurred and will go out to the EPMP Committee soon.

Paddle Safe Twin Ports graphics, narrative, messaging, and webpage are all being finalized by Minnesota Sea Grant through a grant they received. US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth, Minnesota Sea Grant, and the MIC are co-partners on this project.

There have been monthly meetings of Duluth-Superior harbor partners regarding dredge disposal options for 2020. The latest options are to beneficially use dredged material from the federal shipping channel for beach nourishment on the north end of Minnesota Point and for habitat restoration on Interstate Island.

8. METRO AREA PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE

A comprehensive review of the issues identified by the MIC Policy Board, TAC, BPAC and the Pedestrian Plan Advisory Committee (PPAC) has taken place. The PPAC is being asked to provide their vision for the plan in June, which will be discussed at the monthly advisory committee meeting. In addition, staff are developing the general public survey which will be released in June as well as setting up focused conversations with residents, groups, organizations and agencies including those populations of the MIC area who are under-represented.

9. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

***** OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT*****



10. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications (#1 -1)**

This project enables Senior Connections to replace a current vehicle with a new Minivan, Side-load equipped. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description	Year	Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Modification #16 TRF-0016-19C DTA	SECT 5307: Duluth bus support equipment (gas tank replacement, parking lot and sidewalk rehab at Operations Center)	2020	1,039,296		\$259,824	1,299,120
Modification #17 6910-107 MnDOT	MN 23 from JCT MN 210 to Mission Creek Cemetery. Landscaping. (Tied 6910-106)	2021		2,100,000		2,100,000
Modification #18 6982-340 MnDOT	TPI - Cross City Trail Detour	2021		250,000		250,000

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact James Gittemeier by email at jgittemeier@ardc.org or by phone at (218) 529-7556.

- **Hwy 53 Corridor Intersection Study**

The purpose of the Highway 53 Corridor Intersection Study is to conduct a high-level analysis of six signalized intersections along the Highway 53 Corridor with the goal of identifying one intersection for more detailed analysis (generally consistent with a reduced conflict intersection study). The study limits extend from West Arrowhead Road (CSAH 32) to Midway Road (CSAH 13). A scope of work was signed by the MIC and its consultant (AECOM). Initial virtual meetings to commence data collection have begun between MIC staff, AECOM, and local partners (St Louis County and MnDOT). The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020.

- ***Proctor Transportation Plan***

The first steering committee meeting was held on June 4th for the Proctor Transportation Plan. An overview of the project was presented, followed by a visioning session, and then concluding with an interactive mapping exercise where each steering committee member identified community gathering points and issue areas. Next steps are to finalize vision, goals and performance measures. Then identify emerging concerns and design interventions which will guide into planning-level schematics and pop-up events.