Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tuesday, June 16th, 2020 1:30 pm

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Meeting Summary

=Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior-Public Works
Committee Vice-Chair	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
alternate	Matt Hemmila	St. Louis County
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth Planning
	Kris Liljeblad	City of Duluth Planning
alternate	John Mulder	City of Hermantown
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
Committee Chair	Dena Ryan	WisDOT NW Region
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
alternate	Bryan Anderson	MnDOT District 1
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis Cnty
alternate	Jana Kayser	Duluth Airport Authority
alternate	Phil Pumphrey	Duluth Transit Authority
alternate	Jason Serck	City of Superior
	Cindy Voigt*	City of Duluth Engineering
	vacant	MnDOT Dist 1
	vacant	City of Proctor
	vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
	vacant	Active Transportation/Zeitgeist Arts
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Krysten Foster	MnDOT Dist 1
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Sheldon Johnson	NWRPC/MIC Deputy Director
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Bobbi Retzlaff`	FHWA
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Senior Planner

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1. Introductions/Agenda Review

Chair Dena Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 5.19.20 (for Approval)

Motion Discussion and Vote	Kate Ferguson/Maren Webb moved to approve the 5.19.20meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.

- **Director's Report**
  Ron reviewed the items listed in the meeting materials highlighting the work on a new Federal Transportation Bill; Freight Solicitations and the DTA proposals due.

- **Opportunity for Public Comment was provided:**

  There were none

3. Duluth - First Street Conversion Project

Kris Liljeblad and James Gittemeier provided an overall view of this project. First St was originally made 1-way during the construction of the current layout of I-35 but was never addressed again. There has been much discussion and consultant input to address a multitude of issues per businesses and residence.

The following are some of the are few of the reasons to convert:

- the One-Way street pattern dates to pre-I-35; the traffic capacity is no longer needed
- the Imagine Duluth 2035 Plan recommends studying a change to 2-Way flow
- the current 4 changes from 2-Way to 1-Way flow are confusing AND hazardous
- 2-Way circulation would connect the Downtown, Medical District, AND neighborhoods

A few solutions to some of the objections are:

- snow removal – one side only parking for plowing
- slow traffic to make crossing safer
- loading zones – there will be 6 "Loading Only" zones which will be sufficient for business and will only lose 3 parking spaces

For more information go to:

Duluthmn.gov/engineering/current-projects/1st-Street-Study/

4. 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #11 & 12

James Gittemeier provided a brief description of Amendments #11 & 12 (details on pages 5-7). After asking for any questions or public comment he asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Cari Pedersen/John Mulder moved to approve the Final 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Final 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP

James Gittemeier gave a brief overview of 3 project changes made after the draft was sent out. After asking for questions or public comments (none were voiced) he asked for a motion to approve the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Kris Liljeblad/Cari Pedersen moved to approve the Final 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.

6. 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendments #5-8

Sheldon Johnson reviewed each of the amendments. See full description on pages 5-7.

After asking for any questions or public comments, Sheldon asked for a motion to approve.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Todd Janigo/Jason Jackman moved to approve the 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendments #5-8. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Harbor Planning Update

Mike Wenholz gave a brief overview of the following:

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 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.

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

James Gittemeier summarized:

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. Round Table

Chris Belden stated that the DTA is at about 83% of pre-COVID 19 ridership levels and they were never fully closed. They are hoping to move to 100% very soon and adding new routes from West Duluth.

Duane Hill *gave an update on the TPI project. Duane said that 3 weeks ago they finished up the 80% project review. Should have the Bid process concluded by end of Sept. The plans for the projects that had to be removed are completed so they would be almost shovel ready.*

The condition of the bridge up Hwy 53 is in very bad shape; logging trucks over 80,000 lbs. must use Hwy 2 instead of Hwy 53.

The Blatnik Bridge project is in the works with at least discussions. Public involvement starting this fall.

Garfield could be included with the Blatnik Bridge project.

Opportunity for public comment: no comments

10. Project Updates:

- *2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications #16-18 (see attached pages 5-7)*
- *Hwy 53 Corridor Intersection Study – currently working on data collection efforts. John Mulder asked to be included in this study.*
- *Proctor Transportation Plan Update – early in June was the first steering committee mtg. There is going to be a pop-up project, date to be determined.*

11. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 2:54 pm.

Attachments:

- **2021-2024 Draft Duluth Area TIP** can be found here: 2021-2024 DRAFT Duluth Area TIP

- **Proposed 2020-2023 Superior Urbanized Area Transportation Improvement Program Project(S) Amendment**

  TIP Amendment #4
  A TIP amendment has been requested for preliminary design work for future rehabilitation of Hammond Avenue from N 21st Street to N 28th Street. Anticipated future roadway rehabilitation will include removal of all pavement surfaces, placement of base and subbase materials, installation of subbase drainage, and installation of hot mix asphalt surface. Preliminary design is scheduled to begin in 2023. Construction is scheduled outside the current TIP program for 2024.

2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
City of Superior 113-20-009 Amended to TIP in May 2020	Hammond Avenue N 21st St. to N 28th St. Preliminary Design	PE ROW CONST TOTAL			$313 $313	$313 $313

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

- **2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications (#12-15)**

  Administrative Modification #12 – 13

  The MIC has approved the $75,000 increase in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) federal funding for two (2) programmed 2020 projects in the Duluth Area TIP. The federal funding increase is due to the dropping of a 2020 Carlton County TAP project.

  - 118-090-024 – increasing the federal funding by an amount by $75,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.
  - 069-060-002 – increasing the federal funding by an amount of $75,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.

  See table below for additional project details. Project changes and/or additions are in **RED**.

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Project Description	Year	Federal	State	Local	Total
12	118-090-024 Duluth	Multi-use trail constructed from Brighton Beach Blvd/end of the Lakewalk to Congdon Blvd (North Shore Scenic Drive).	2020	~~$300,000~~ $375,000 (TAP) $43,964 (STP)	$0	$350,283	~~$694,247~~ $769,247
13	069-060-002 St. Louis County	French River Wayside Rehabilitation	2020	~~$480,000~~ $555,000	$0	$2,985,433	~~$3,465,433~~ $3,540,433

Administrative Modification #14 – 15

The MIC has approved an increase in HSIP funding for two (2) programmed 2020 projects in the Duluth Area TIP. The HSIP funding increase is due to the dropping of a St. Louis County HSIP centerline rumbling striping project due to concerns with water pooling on the centerlines and causing pavement deterioration prematurely. The funding for this project will be redistributed towards two High Friction Surface Treatment projects already programmed and will allow for one additional high-risk curve to be treated.

- 069-070-035 – increasing the HSIP funding by an amount by $67,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.
- 069-070-036 – increasing the HSIP funding by an amount of $185,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Description	Year	Federal $	Local $	Total $
14	069-070-035 St. Louis County	St Louis Countywide, various locations, install high friction surface treatment for high risk, low volume curves	2020	~~333,000~~ 400,000	~~139,479~~ 72,479	~~472,479~~ 479,479
15	069-070-036 St. Louis County	St Louis Countywide, various locations, install high friction surface treatment for high risk, low volume curves	2020	~~288,000~~ 473,000	~~142,519~~ 70,671	~~430,519~~ 543,671

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.

- **2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Administrative Modification #2 & 3**

Administrative Modification #2

WisDOT has requested an Administrative Modification to project 113-19-013 found in the 2020-2023 Superior Urbanized Area TIP. The proposed modification provides for WisDOT staff review and administration associated with project preliminary design of the St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik). Funds associated with this project are state dollars. Based on the adopted MIC Public Involvement Plan, the proposed modification conforms to administrative modification guidelines.

WisDOT 113-19-013: Add funding to provide for WisDOT staff review and administration associated with project preliminary design of the St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik Bridge). WisDOT to provide an additional $200,000 in state funds as identified in 1199-00-08. As a result, the project was originally programed at $4,500,000 and with this modification will be programed at $4,700,000.

2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-19-013 Administrative Modification #2	Superior-Duluth Blatnik Bridge (B16-001-005) PE 1199-00-07 (WisDOT share to MnDOT $4,500,000) 1199-00-08 (WisDOT $200,000)	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		4,700 4,700		4,700 4,700

Administrative Modification #3

WisDOT has requested an Administrative Modification to project 113-17-018 found in the 2020-2023 Superior Urbanized Area TIP. The proposed modification provides mitigation payments to the Duluth Transit Authority for additional transit services during reconstruction work along East Second Street between 29th Avenue East to 53rd Avenue East. Funds associated with this project are state dollars. Based on the adopted MIC Public Involvement Plan, the proposed modification conforms to administrative modification guidelines.

WisDOT 113-17-018: Add funding to supplement the Duluth Transit Authority for additional transit services resulting from the reconstruction project. WisDOT to provide an additional $255,000 in state funds. As a result, the project was originally programed at $6,100,000 and with this modification will be programed at $6,355,000.

2021 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-17-018	USH 2/USH 53 29th Ave E – 53rd Ave E 1198-03-78 (Const)	PE ROW CONST TOTAL	4,880 4,880	1,475 1,475		6,355 6,355