



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
 Policy Board
 Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 1:30 pm
 Virtual MS Teams Meeting
Meeting Summary

Note Taker	Barb Peterson	
	Members Present	
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Warren Bender	Superior Common Council
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Pete Clark	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
	Adam Fulton	City of Duluth (Replaced JFW)
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Jenny VanSickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Members Absent	* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Zack Filipovich*	Duluth City Council
	Keith Musolf	St Louis County Commissioner
	Tom Szukis*	DTA
Others Present		Others Present
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Kris Liljebblad	City of Duluth
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Ricky Sarran	MIC GIS Specialist



1. Introductions/Agenda Review

Chair Wayne Boucher called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 5.20.20 (for Approval)

Motion Discussion and Vote	Warren Bender/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 5.20.20 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Director’s Report**

Ron Chicka reviewed the items listed in the meeting materials highlighting the work on a new Federal Transportation Bill; Freight Solicitations and the DTA proposals due. He also added that there is a new Transportation Bill in the House.

TPI Update:

Duane Hill, MnDOT gave a brief update of where they are on this project. He stated that plans are completed, and the contractor should have a 90% Bid completed by the end of the month. Duane also noted that the contaminated water and soil remediation is expected to come in under budget.

The plans for the Piedmont and Garfield projects that had to be excluded for budgetary reasons are also complete. The monies for these projects are earmarked for 2027 (Piedmont) and 2028 (Garfield).

One more note is that the Parsons Transportation Group is developing a steering committee for the Blatnik Bridge project.

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

none were voiced

3. Duluth - First Street Conversion Project

Kris Liljeblad and James Gittemeier provided an overall view of this project. Kris announced that the City Council has passed the project and work will begin very soon.

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. Revised HTAC Bylaws

Mike Wenzholz gave a brief overview of the need to revise the Bylaws and the process the committee had undertaken. With no questions or comments he asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker/Adam Fulton moved to approve the Revised HTAC Bylaws. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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5. 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	Nick Baker/Warren Bender moved to approve the Final 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. 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	Nick Baker/Chad Ward moved to approve the Final 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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7. 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendments #5-8

In place of Sheldon Johnson James Gittemeier gave a quick review of each of the amendments. See full description on pages 5-7. After asking for any questions or public comments, James asked for a motion to approve.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Warren Bender/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 2021-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendments #5-8. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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8. Harbor Planning Update

Mike Wenholz reviewed the notes in the meeting materials package. 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.

9. Metro Area Pedestrian Plan

James Gittemeier reviewed the update provided in the meeting materials. 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.

10. Round Table

Opportunity for public comment:

there were none

11. Project Updates – (see meeting materials for details)

- 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications #16-18 (see attached pages 5-8)
- Hwy 53 Corridor Intersection Study
- Proctor Transportation Plan Update



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12. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 5:28 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 #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 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

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. 113-20-012	2 - Medium Bus Replacement Vehicle Purchases	Vehicle Purchase	100,800		25,200	126,000
		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.



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2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

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

➤ **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	\$0	\$350,283	\$694,247
				\$375,000 (TAP)			\$769,247
				\$43,964 (STP)			
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



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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.