



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
 Policy Board
 Wednesday, September 16th, 2020 1:30 pm
 Virtual MS Teams Meeting
Meeting Summary

Note Taker	Barb Peterson	
	Members Present	
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
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
	Zack Filipovich*	Duluth City Council
	Adam Fulton	City of Duluth (Replaced JFW)
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	Keith Musolf	St Louis County Commissioner
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Jenny VanSickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Members Absent	* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Bob Quade*	City of Rice Lake
	Tom Szukis	DTA
Others Present		Others Present
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Evan Gross	FTA
	Dick Haney	Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC
	Christena O'Brien	WisDOT
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Anna Pierce	MnDOT Central Office
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communication Coordinator/Planning Asst
	Skip Williams	We Walk Duluth
Call - In	715.392.8729	
	571.277.6027	



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 8.18.20 (for Approval)

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 8.18.20meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Director’s Report**

Ron Chicka gave the “floor” to Duane Hill, MnDOT Dist 1 to discuss the Blatnik Bridge Project. Duane began by stating that Parsons Transportation Group has been hired to assist with developing a scope for the project and the environmental assessment document. Duane also discussed that several factors need to be considered as to the needs of this project which includes the need for redundancy, bike & ped, final load capacity among many others.

MnDOT and WisDOT are partnering this project with MnDOT as the lead. Public Involvement meetings have begun and will continue monthly. Progress on this project can be found on both the MnDOT Dist 1 and the WisDOT NW Region’s websites.

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

No one commented

3. DRAFT - 2021-2022 Duluth-Superior MIC Work Program

Ron Chicka briefly reviewed the Work Program and discussed that he is working with the cities of Duluth and Superior on another short range project to be included. He stated he was hoping to have an updated draft to the reviewers at MnDOT and WisDOT by weeks end.

Zack Filipovich asked if there would be a focus on the pedestrian accommodations included in the Central Entrance project.

Ron responded stating that pedestrian concerns would be addressed.

Jenny VanSickle asked about the status of the signal project at the 105 intersection.

Ron responded that the signal installation is scheduled for next year.

4. Duluth Area TIP Project Selection Process

Mike Wenholz shared that this process was one of the first steps in the implementation of the LRTP. He explained that special meeting were held with jurisdictions to get feedback on the long overdue changes in the TIP process which has not been updated in many years. Hopefully these changes will show how the projects will meet the objectives and goals of the LRTP. The needs for this process have changed.



5. Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan

James Gittemeier provided an overview of the Pedestrian Plan survey which received an overwhelming 600+ survey responses. Key findings included filling sidewalk gaps and keeping sidewalk clear of obstructions and snow. After analysis of zip code responses, it showed that the highest number of responses came from Superior. James asked for some discussion on possible solutions and recommendations.

6. Harbor Planning

Ron Chicka gave a brief overview of the agenda items from the Sept HTAC meeting. Those topics included:

- Shipping Update in this COVID-19 Year
- Shipping Channel Dredge Material Placement in 2020 and 2021
- HTAC Dredging Subcommittee vs USACE Dredged Material Management Work Group
- Paddle Safe Twin Ports Update
- Erie Pier Management Plan Rewrite Update
- 2020 St Louis River AOC Updates

Ron also shared that there was some apprehension of a virtual meeting working for this committee, but it turned out better than expected.

Ed Anderson asked if there was a reason that there were seven grain ships in the Thunder Bay harbor and none in Duluth.

Ron stated he wasn't sure but would talk to the Port Authority.

Sam Pomush stated he thought this was the result of a strike many years ago which still carries hard feelings.

7. Round Table

Janet Kennedy asked if there was a connection between the NLX group and the MIC.

Ron Chicka stated that we do have a connection and that Nick Baker continues to be a member on the stakeholder committee. The project is on a shelf shovel ready waiting for funding.

Janet also asked if any counts have been done on the new portion of the CCT. James Gittemeier responded that he would be moving the counters to the new section connecting Irving Park to the Munger. James added that the trail would be closed for about 2 years starting next Spring due to a MPCA project.

Opportunity for public comment: there were no comments

8. Project Updates: See Meeting Item Descriptions

- Bike & Ped Planning Update
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

9. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.



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