



## TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

Dec 8th, 2020 Meeting

### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

\* = *Approval Item*

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

#### 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 10.21.20**
- **2021 - 2023 Officer Approvals**
- **MIC Director's Report**
  - MNDOT- WisDOT Blatnik Bridge Planning – MIC staff has now been involved with three distinct small group discussions concerning the Blatnik Plan. The first is a group incorporating the Wisconsin governmental sector: DOTs, County and City of Superior. A second is the Transportation multimodal group: examining the needs for future bike and pedestrian possibilities. A third is an environmental screening group – with the DOTs and the consulting team – that is defining the breadth and purpose of the overall Blatnik planning efforts. It is this last one that is defining the purpose and need statement integral to the project moving forward and gaining approval via the Federal Highway Administration. I have also been talking to the consulting team out of Madison, WI as they are fine-tuning the traffic model network across the area near the bridge (i.e. turn movements) that aids in determining acceptable vehicular flow for the long term.
  - Duluth Transit Authority – Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) – This full-scale planning effort that examines the service routes provided by the DTA began with its first steering committee meeting in late October. Project is being titled, “Better Bus Blueprint – Improving Twin Ports Transit.” A series of eight guiding principles has been developed: a key one being Deploying Resources Efficiently. Strengths and weaknesses of the system were also discussed – a good first step in getting this important project underway.
  - Crash Rates on the Rise – Duluth News Tribune article (attached to mailing) – At the end of October a very informative piece appeared in the DNT concerning increased traffic fatalities and serious injury rates taking a swing upward over the past few months even though volumes were down during this pandemic. Three areas were on the increase including, speed related crashes, impaired driver crashes and those involving pedestrian and cyclists. It is this last one (involving pedestrians) that I thought timely as the MIC finishes up our own Pedestrian Plan. Why this is occurring is multifaceted as the article points out. There has been more people out walking, so there may be a correlation there. But also, as one person quoted states, it seems as if drivers are not looking at the pedestrian – they’re not making eye contact. “A scary situation”, she concludes.



**3. GUEST SPEAKER: DAVID PETERSON, BOLTON & MENK**

**PROCTOR TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The draft Proctor Transportation Plan will be presented for discussion. This year-long planning process is wrapping up and will provide clear guidance and direction for upcoming transportation projects planned to take place over the next 10 years.

**4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #1**

RE: St. Louis County CSAH 56 Project - combine projects & increase overall cost \$150,000

St. Louis County has asked to remove the US 2 and Morris Thomas Road intersection improvement project and combine it with a Morris Thomas Road resurfacing project. Both projects are currently in the TIP for FY 2021.

A TIP amendment is necessary as the existing Morris Thomas Road resurface project will be adding a phase of work and changing scope, with the addition of the intersection work.

Amdmt #	Project # Jurisdiction	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
1	069-656-018  St. Louis County	Morris Thomas Rd (CSAH 56) in Hermantown at JCT US 2 to Haines Rd Resurfacing and culvert repairs. <b>Intersection improvements and construct left turn lanes.</b>	2021	\$1,360,000	\$0  <b>\$530,000</b>	\$1,290,000  <b>\$1,440,000</b>	\$2,650,000  <b>\$3,330,000</b>
NA	6908-69  St. Louis County  MnDOT LPP	US 2 in Hermantown at Morris Thomas Rd (CSAH 56) intersection improvements and construct left turn lanes (associated with SLC 069-656-019)	2021	\$0	\$530,000	\$0	\$530,000

If you have any questions please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org)

**5. DULUTH-SUPERIOR METRO AREA PEDESTRIAN PLAN UPDATE**

The Draft Pedestrian Plan will be ready for review by the end of December. As the draft recommendations are being finalized, a series of one-on-ones will be taking place in December with groups who have been under-represented in this planning process and with priority populations. In January, the final review and comment process, including public engagement period, will begin.



6. ROUND TABLE

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. PROJECT UPDATES

- 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP – ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS #1 - 7

The project changes in the following table did not meet the thresholds required for a formal amendment process. These changes have been administratively made to the TIP. The changes are detailed in the following table.

If you have any questions please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org)

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
1	6910-111 MnDOT New Project	MN 23 in Duluth 0.02 MI. East JCT MN 210. Building demolition, adjacent to Mission Creek Cemetery. Parcel 6910-232-50.	2022	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
2	118-118-005 Duluth Swap Years	Railroad St (MSAS 118) from 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave W to Canal Park Dr resurfacing. Storm sewer, curb & gutter & sidewalk repairs.	2021 2024	\$1,360,000 \$1,480,000	\$0	\$357,150 \$370,000	\$1,717,150 \$1,850,000
3	118-147-019 Duluth Swap Years	E. Superior St (MSAS 147) from 45 <sup>th</sup> Ave E to 60 <sup>th</sup> Ave E reconditioning.	2024 2021	\$1,480,000 \$1,360,000	\$0	\$370,000 \$357,150	\$1,850,000 \$1,717,150
4	6982-343 MnDOT New Project	I-35 from 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave W to 0.12 MI N. Lake Ave repair drainage structures	2022	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000



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5	069-060-002 AC  St. Louis County  Year Change	French River Wayside rehabilitation and BR #3601 replacement project. (Assoc. SAP 069-661-019) (AC Project Payback 1 of 1)	<del>2022</del>  2021	\$480,000  (AC Payback)	\$0	\$0	\$0
6	6916-110  MnDOT  New Project	Hwy 53 from 0.2 MI N of Midway Rd to 0.03 MI N of County Rd 8. Unbonded concrete overlay.	2021	\$0	\$12,400,000  Bond Funding	\$0	\$12,400,000
7	3804-61 MnDOT  Scope change: no longer in MPO.  Remove Project	MN 61 Expressway NB & SB from 0.08 NE of Knife River to 0.2 MI SW Scenic Dr (CSAH 61) Resurface.	<del>2022</del>  2021	<del>\$4,720,000</del>  \$4,976,000	<del>\$1,180,000</del>  \$1,244,000	\$0	<del>\$5,900,000</del>  \$6,220,000

- FY 2025 Duluth Area TIP Project Selection Process**

The new Duluth Area TIP project selection process is underway. An initial meeting with the MIC area jurisdictions took place in November to discuss the new process. A follow up meeting is being scheduled in the middle of December to agree upon the potential FY 2025 projects that will receive the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding. New project forms will be due in January.

- Superior Active Transportation Plan**

The Superior City Council approved the Active Transportation Plan at the October 6, 2020 meeting. The plan is available online here [Active Transportation Planning](#). This plan was funded through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the city is moving forward with implementing this plan with one project being a TAP grant application for improving bus shelters in Superior.