



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
 Policy Board
 Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 4:00 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
	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
	Tom Szukis	DTA
	Jenny VanSickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Members Absent	* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Keith Musolf	St Louis County Commissioner
Others Present		Others Present
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Dick Haney	Citizen/BPAC
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	David Peterson	Bolton-Menk Speaker
	Ricky Sarran	MIC/GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communication Coordinator
	Mike Wenzholz	MIC Sr Planner



1. Introductions/Agenda Review

Chair Wayne Boucher called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. All meeting attendees introduced themselves during a roll call for attendance.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 10.21.20 (for Approval)

Motion Discussion and Vote	Sam Pomush/Nick Baker moved to approve the 10.21.20 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **MIC Officer Approvals**

Motion Discussion and Vote	Warren Bender/Sam Pomush moved to approve the following officers for the 2021-2023 term: Wayne Boucher & Nick Baker as Co-chairs; Earl Elde as Secretary and Tom Szukis as the MIC representative to the ARDC Board. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Director’s Report**

Ron Chicka briefly reviewed the participation in the Blatnik Bridge stakeholder preliminary meetings working towards a purpose and needs statement. Ron also shared that the DTA has formed a steering committee to begin the full scale planning effort being titled “Better Bus Blueprint-Improving Twin Ports Transit”. This effort will culminate in a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA).

Lastly, Ron discussed the DNT’s article “Crash Rates on the Rise” which reported a concerning increase of traffic deaths and serious injury rates during the pandemic. One of the areas of increase were those involving pedestrians and cyclists.

- Barb Peterson announced that the documentation for **Ron Chicka’s Annual Performance Review** will be sent out by email by the end of the week. If you would prefer to receive it by mail, please let me know as soon as possible. I am hoping that they can **be returned to me by Dec 23rd**.
- **Opportunity for Public Comment was provided:**

For details on any of the following items see: [December Presentations](#)



3. Guest Speaker: David Peterson, Bolton & Menk, Proctor Transportation Plan

David Peterson began his presentation discussing what the plan was to accomplish; sharing the planning process and with the help of a steering committee who developed a vision statement.

A list of priorities was developed and a prioritizing scoring system from 0 to 2 applied to the list. With this list now prioritized decisions were made on whether they were long term, medium, short or ongoing goals. A list of proposed future improvements was also noted.

David then shared some conceptual designs including a short video. Some traffic calming and pedestrian improvements were provided as well as some suggested next steps as funds became available. The project documents can be found: [Project Documents](#)

The presentation can be found on the MIC website: dsmic.org

4. Blatnik Bridge, Purpose & Need, Duane Hill, MnDOT Dist 1

Duane Hill began his presentation by reviewing the agenda of this presentation which covered:

- Provide an overview
- Project process
- Project Purpose and Need
- Questions

Duane then shared that this project as well as the Bong Bridge is a partnership between MnDOT and WisDOT and they frequently collaborate on maintenance as well. He described why this project is being addressed, gave a timeline which covers the first 4 years of planning.

Currently, there are several partner/stakeholder groups meeting to discuss a variety of topics which will lead to a Purpose and Need statement and an environmental review. Everyone continues to ask, "What will it cost?". Duane discussed that project scoping and preliminary engineering need to be completed before the consultant can try to put any kind of dollar amount to the range of alternatives to be developed by the project team.

Duane then showed the current timeline leading to construction currently scheduled from 2028 to 2031. He continued by describing the outreach and communication opportunities and a Public Advisory Committee has been formed. Progress and input opportunities can be found:

[MnDOT](#)
[WisDOT](#)

Questions & Comments:

Sam Pomush asked if the approaches were in reasonable condition

Duane: they are not in as bad shape as the main span. They don't get the abuse the main span does.



Rosemary Lear – we have 60+ years of information, doesn't that help with the fact gathering?

Duane-it does and the dollars are earmarked for 2028

Dick Haney – Bike riding as transportation is growing rapidly-much money has been spent on both sides of the bridge to accommodate bikes. This needs to be seriously considered during the preliminary planning.

Mike Wenholz asked where in the selection process is cost considered?

Duane responded that it is considered last

Duane finished by stating the as the Purpose and Needs statement is developed the work of the MIC is very important in this process.

5. 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1

James Gittemeier explained that 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. See the details at the end of this summary.

James asked if there were any questions or comments; hearing none he asked for approval.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker/Chad Ward moved to approve the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1. There was no discussion; there was a roll call vote; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan

James Gittemeier reviewed the timeline of this plan and the connection to meeting the LRTP goals. He continued describing the framework of the plan and the role of the MIC as the MPO. He also stated that this plan is a 20 year vision to be considered when new road projects are being planned. James' stated he is hoping to have the Draft ready for review by the end of December.

7. Round Table

Nick Baker-should this Board be considering a concept that we can support? i.e. should the entire bridge be replaced.

Janet Kennedy-could pedestrian accommodations be considered under the bridge?

Bob Quade-the average auto use will be much different in 20-30 years



Opportunity for public comment: there were no comments

there were no comments

8. Project Updates: See Meeting Item Descriptions for details

- 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications
 Railroad St project is pushed to 2024- replaced by Superior St reconstruction in Lester Park/Lakeside area in 2021
- 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP – FY 2025 Project Selection Process
- Superior Approved the “Active Transportation Plan”
 • [Superior Active Transportation Plan Summary](#)

9. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Attachments:

12.9.20 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1 Vote

	First Name	Last Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Members					
	Ed	Anderson	X		
	Nick	Baker	X		
	Warren	Bender	X		
	Wayne	Boucher	X		
	Pete	Clark	X		
	Earl	Elde	X		
	Zack	Filipovich	X		
	Adam	Fulton	X		
	Janet	Kennedy	X		
	Rosemary	Lear	X		
	Sam	Pomush	X		
	Bob	Quade	X		
	Chad	Ward	X		



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. Intersection improvements and construct left turn lanes.	2021	\$1,360,000	\$0 \$530,000	\$1,290,000 \$1,440,000	\$2,650,000 \$3,330,000
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

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.

See details below.



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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 th 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 th Ave E to 60 th 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 th Ave W to 0.12 MI N. Lake Ave repair drainage structures	2022	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
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)	2022 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.	2022 2021	\$4,720,000 \$4,976,000	\$1,180,000 \$1,244,000	\$0	\$5,900,000 \$6,220,000