



MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

April 21st, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Note Taker	Barb Peterson	
	Members Present	
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
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
	Ashley Grimm	St Louis County
	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
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Warren Bender*	Superior Common Council
Others Present		Others Present
	Mike Casey	FWDPT
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	A. Clark	FWDPT
	Bruce Fehringer	FWDPT
	Krysten Foster	MnDOT Dist 1
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Jim Miller	Congressman T. Tiffany's Representative
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Ricky Sarran	MIC/GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Sr Planner
Phone In Attendees:	218.391.6338	715.899.0084
	218.628.1323	715.392.8729



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1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

Co-Chair Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. A roll call of attendees was done with attendees confirming their presence and the entity they represent.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

• Meeting Summary of 3.17.21 (for Approval)

Motion Discussion and Vote	Earl Elde/Adam Fulton moved to approve the 3.17.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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• MIC Director’s Report (For more details see the meeting materials.)

* Ron Chicka reported that approximately 500 responses were received for the Superior Comprehensive Plan survey. He reported the top 3 needs that came out of the survey are:

- Street Maintenance
- Parks & Rec
- Broadband Internet

One of the other needs that surfaced was to improve transit.

* Ron shared that the signal at S Tower and 105 is going in.

* Ron reviewed the Federal items in the report in the meeting materials.

Jim Miller stated that Congressman Tom Tiffany is not a supporter of “earmarks” but will help with any grant applications being completed.

• Opportunity for Public Comment

None at this time

3. TIP/STIP CROSS CITY TRAIL PROJECT

James Gittemeier began the discussion reviewing the MPO process and actions that the Policy can and can not do.

Janet Kennedy asked what would happen if a project is removed?

James responded: if the Board were to remove a project it would lose and Federal dollars.

He then turned it over to Kris Liljeblad.

Kris quickly shared the history of the Cross City Trail. He continued stating that the 2023 project focus changed to now completing the lower trail. Kris announced that there is going to be a public meeting scheduled for May 27th. More details to come.

Zack Filipovich thanked Kris for the clarity provided.



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Krysten Foster then took the last segment recognizing the Friends of Western Duluth Parks and Trails group concerns that dropping the completion of this remaining section could have resulted in a negative effect on future TA project funds.

4. 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP PROPOSED NEW PROJECT DISCUSSION

James Gittemeier quickly reviewed the TIP timeline then continued discussing the addition of the London Rd project along with the I-35 and Garfield Ave projects approved last month. He continued reviewing the transit projects that will also be added to the Draft 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP. The 2022-2025 TIP is being drafted through April and May and will be presented at the June TAC & MIC meetings asking for approval to release the draft for the 30-day public comment period then presented for approval in June.

5. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #4

James Gittemeier briefly reviewed the amendment for the DTA purchase of 2 new buses. He then asked for approval.

Zack Filipovich asked why diesel vs hybrid? James said he would look into that and report back.

Pete Clark noted that the DTA is having issues with the hybrid models particularly in winter.

Rondi Watson shared that electric busses have been disappointing so for now the DTA is sticking to the diesel powered busses.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Wayne Boucher/Chad Ward moved to approve Amendment #4 to the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; a roll call vote was called and the motion passed unanimously. (Copy of the vote is attached at the end of this summary.)
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6. ERIE PIER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mike Wenholz explained that the EPMP subcommittee determined that a full rewrite was needed. Mike stated that Jeff Stollenwerk, Duluth Seaway Port Authority was the primary author of the plan. When it was completed the draft was shared with and reviewed by the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) voting members for their March meeting. The HTAC voted to approve the EPMP with a condition that Jeff and Mike consider all comments received before, during, and after the March meeting until March 8. Those comments have been reviewed and the relevant comments were incorporated into the finalized Erie Pier Management Plan before presenting to the Policy Board for approval.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Zack Filipovich/Sam Pomush moved to approve the Erie Pier Management Plan. There was no discussion the motion passed unanimously.
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7. ROUND TABLE

Janet Kennedy asked James if he could find some information concerning the walkability near the old K-Mart area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Fehring, Chair of the FWDPT, stated he was looking forward to the lower route completion. He also thanked city staff the work on this project. Also wanted to thank the city and MnDOT for the detour during the construction.

Mike Casey thanked Zack for his questions about the fuel use of the busses and his representation the MIC Board and City Council since he has chosen not to run again.

8. PROJECT UPDATES (details can be found in the meeting materials)

- 2021-2025 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications #15-18 (details attached)
- Central Entrance Transportation Plan
- Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan

9. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.



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ATTACHMENTS:

2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #4

A request has been made to add a new federally funded project to the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. This new project is for the Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) to purchase two (2) new 40-foot diesel buses to replace existing regular route transit vehicles. This project was selected by the MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation on April 8, 2021 with the use of FTA Section 5339 funding, and the funds must be spent by June 30, 2021.

The project details are summarized below:

Amdmt #	Project # Agency	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
4	TRF-0016-21H DTA	Section 5339: DTA purchase of two new Class 700 (40-foot) diesel buses to replace existing regular route transit vehicles.	2021	739,037	214,963	106,000	1,060,000

Roll Call Vote

2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #4

4.21.21

	First Name	Last Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Members					
	Broe	Allen			
	Ed	Anderson			
	Nick	Baker	X		
	Warren	Bender			
	Wayne	Boucher	X		
	Pete	Clark	X		
	Earl	Elde	X		
	Zack	Filipovich	X		
	Adam	Fulton	X		
	Ashley	Grimm	X		
	Rosemary	Lear	X		
	Janet	Kennedy	X		
	Nick	Ledin	X		
	Sam	Pomush	X		
	Bob	Quade	X		
	Tom	Szukis	X		
	Jenny	Van Sickle	X		
	Chad	Ward	X		



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2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS #15-18

The MIC has approved the changes to the TIP projects in the following table. Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan (2018), the changes for each project did not meet the thresholds to follow the formal amendment process. Therefore, these projects were administratively modified in the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP.

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Description	Year	Federal \$	State \$	Local \$	Total \$
15	118-010-028 City of Duluth 6910-112 MnDOT	TED: MN 23/West River Drive in Duluth, Intersection signalization.	2021	0	0 247,000 TED	375,000 0	375,000 247,000
16	6982-324 MnDOT	I-35 in Duluth 0.2 mi N. JCT Lake Ave. Repair drainage system under Lakewalk to outlet at Lake Superior.	2021 2022	0	1,100,000 1,200,000	0	1,100,000 1,200,000
17	6910-107 MnDOT	MN 23 from JCT MN 210 to Mission Creek. Mission Creek Cemetery landscaping. (Tied to 6910-106).	2021	0	2,100,000 1,603,000	0	2,100,000 1,603,000
18	6982-318 MnDOT	SPP I-35, in Proctor & Duluth at Thompson Hill, from 0.51 S. Boundary Ave to S. end Bridge #69879 over MN 23, NB & SB driving lanes excluding ramps, pavement overlay.	2021	1,530,000 900,000 (NHPP)	170,000 100,000	0	1,700,000 1,000,000