



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Tuesday, March 16th, 2021 at 1:30 pm
VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

For the protection of the community, all MIC committee meetings will be held online and by telephone during the current Minnesota COVID-19 State of Emergency. Public access and public comment opportunities will be provided as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 for local government meetings, allowing the use of communications media technology such as telephone and video conferencing.

Login and call-in information and meeting materials can be viewed on the [meeting web page](#) as well as at the bottom of this page.

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 2.16.20 (for Approval)

Items for Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment:

- 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #3
- 2021-2024 Superior Area TIP Amendment #10-12
- FY 2025 Duluth Area TIP Projects

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- LRTP Implementation Team Mtg
- Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan
- Central Entrance Transportation Plan
- Project Updates

Attendance / Meeting Quorum

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, **please contact Barb Peterson at bpeterson@ardc.org or 218-461-2666** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

Virtual Meeting Log-In/Call-In Information:

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 218-302-4275 United States, Duluth (Toll)
Conference ID: **310 023 726#**



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission

221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • www.dsmic.org

**TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(TAC)**

MEMBERS

Airport

Tom Werner

Active Transportation

Vacant

City of Duluth

Cari Pedersen
Cindy Voigt
Chris Lee
Kris Liljebblad

City of Hermantown

David Bolf
John Mulder
(alternate)

City of Proctor

Jess Rich

City of Superior

Todd Janigo
Chris Carlson
Jason Serck
(alternate)

Douglas County

Jason Jackman

Duluth Transit Authority

Chris Belden, *Vice-Chair*
Rod Fournier
(alternate)

Economic Development

Karl Schuettler

MnDOT

Maren Webb
Krysten Saatela Foster
Bryan Anderson
(alternate)

Mobility Challenged

Vacant

Port/Harbor

Kate Ferguson, *Chair*

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi
Matt Hemmila
(alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Dena Ryan

[What is St Urho's Day?](#)



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, March 16th, 2021, 1:30 pm

Happy St Urho's Day

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 2.16.20 (for Approval) Director's Report <p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	10 min
3. 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment , James Gittemeier 	10 min
4. 2021-2024 Superior Area TIP Amendments #10-12	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, Sheldon Johnson 	10 min
5. FY 2025 Duluth Area TIP Projects Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment , James Gittemeier 	20 min
6. LRTP Implementation Sub-committee Mtg	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	15 min
7. Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, James Gittemeier 	15 min
8. Central Entrance Transportation Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	10 min
9. Round Table	
<p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	5 min
10. Project Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erie Pier Management Plan, Mike Wenholz DTA – COA Survey, James Gittemeier DTA Better Bus Survey City of Superior Comp Plan Survey, Ron Chicka 	5 min

Next Meeting
 Tuesday, April 20th, 2021
 Virtual – MS TEAMS
 1:30 pm



Happy Easter-April 4th



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

March 16th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 2.16.21**

- **MIC Director's Report**

- Duluth – Letter of Support – 21st AE Recondition Improvements – At the request of Duluth, the MIC sent a letter of support for a MN Local Road Grant application for a road project along 21st Avenue East. Road amenities include improved pavement condition, ADA additions, modernize signals and overall multimodal accommodations to the corridor.
- Duluth – Travel Demand Model and 2nd Street Project – Last month, via our modeling consultant (SRF) working in tandem with Duluth's consultant LHB, was asked to assist an operational analysis of the 2nd Street corridor in Duluth, near and around the Essentia development and the resulting changes being made to ensure proper traffic flow for this area. Our detailed model will be used to assess traffic operations for the main roadways given current traffic counts and current land uses. The model will be able to pinpoint any potential congestion points in flow so that they may addressed in advance. Also, a scenario is being run in the model whereby 6th AE serves as a connecting roadway between 1st and 2nd Streets (currently does not exist). This is being done to ascertain if such an improvement would greatly improve overall flow and provide a better access for general traffic and emergency vehicles to the hospital campus area.
- Federal Legislation Update – Several meetings over the last few weeks have been occurring with fellow AMPO (Assoc Metro Planning Organizations) national board members targeted at several entities in DC pertaining to the national transportation reauthorization bill currently under review on both sides of the aisle in Congress. To date, the Board has met with both House and Senate staffers, USDOT (new Administration) and the Census Bureau as we discuss the various elements and language proposals coming forth from these agencies. Many items of interest; one being the potential for marching dollars (for the increased federal funds) from the locals to be reduced from a 20% requirement to 10%. This would certainly help as most local hosts of MPOs across the country are seeing a reduced revenue flow – at least presently due to the pandemic – and are therefore unable to match the potential large increase in federal funds that may result in legislation. What has not been detailed yet, is the specific source for the possible increase in federal dollars made available via the bill. More on this item over the coming months that should include an official position statement from the AMPO Board of Director's.

3. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #3

New Project – RTCC Mobility Management

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 Arrowhead Regional Development Commission's (ARDC) Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) mobility management project. This



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project is funded through a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant for private non-profit groups to meet the transportation mobility needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities and is part of a larger Arrowhead Region project. This TIP amendment is for the MPO (urbanized area) portion of the project. This project is a two-year project award beginning on July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

The project details are summarized below:

Amdmt #	Project # Agency	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$
3	TRF-9069-21 ARDC	Section 5310: Arrowhead Regional Development Commission Mobility Management 7/1/21-6/30/23.	2021	60,264	0	12,052

**Based on the adopted MIC Public Involvement Plan (2018), the proposed change requires a formal TIP amendment, not an administrative modification, since the change adds a new individual FTA funded project to the current approved TIP.*

4. 2021-2024 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #10-12

TIP AMENDMENT #10

WisDOT has requested 113-20-011 be deleted from the current 2021-2024 TIP. The project is being deleted as it was never programmed in the WisDOT financial systems.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Douglas County 113-20-011	CTH C MN State Line – STH 35 Preliminary Design	PE ROW CONST		\$10		\$10
Deleted from TIP in March 2021	8758-00-02	TOTAL		\$10		\$10

TIP AMENDMENT #11

WisDOT has requested an amendment to 113-21-003. The project length was incorrectly listed in the TIP and program year funding has advanced. The original project had listed the project from MN State Line to STH 53, however the actual project listing should have been MN State Line to Barnes Road.



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Additionally, the project was scheduled for CY 2022 and the project has now advanced for construction in 2021.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Douglas County 113-21-003 Amended in March 2021	CTH C MN State Line to Barnes Road Construction	PE ROW CONST	\$3,722		\$931	\$4,653
	8758-00-72	TOTAL	\$3,722		\$931	\$4,653

TIP AMENDMENT #12

WisDOT has requested a new project be added to the TIP to include transit services to an upcoming CY 2021 project. WisDOT will be rehabilitating USH 2/53 from 29th Ave E to 53rd Ave E in CY 2021. Funding totaling \$225,000 will be provided to the Duluth Transit Authority for assisting in mitigation efforts for transit route assistance during reconstruction efforts.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-21-018 Amended to TIP in March 2021	USH2/USH 53 29 th Ave E – 53 rd Ave E Transit Mitigation	PE ROW CONST		\$255		\$255
	1198-03-79	TOTAL		\$255		\$255

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

5. PROPOSED FY 2025 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECT REVIEW FOR APPROVAL

The MIC received two (2) project application proposals for FY 2025 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funding. An overview of the projects and public comments received will be presented at the March TAC and MIC meetings for approval. The projects that are approved will then be forwarded to the Northeast MN Area Transportation Partnership (NEMNATP) for funding consideration.

Proposed FY 2025 Roadway Projects for STBG federal funding in the Duluth Area included in the project are in the following table:



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Agency	Description	Project Length (in miles)	Federal \$	State \$	Other \$	Total \$
Duluth	Canal Park Area Reconditioning Project Concrete pavement repairs Lake Ave – Railroad St to Lift Bridge Buchanan St – Lake Ave to Canal Park Dr Canal Park Dr – Buchanan St to cul-de-sac..	1.05	1,480,000	720,000 Municipal State Aid	400,000 Local, Street Sales Tax	2,600,000
St Louis County	Woodland Ave Resurface – from Snively Rd (CSAH 37) to Anoka St. Mill and overlay with curb and gutter replacement. This project is to be constructed in 2023, with payback of federal funds in 2025.	1.4	1,480,000	--	520,000	2,000,000
TOTAL		5.43	2,960,000	720,000	920,000	4,600,000

If you have any questions please contact James Gittemeier, jgittemeier@ardc.org

6. LRTP IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MTG

The MIC’s Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Sustainable Choices 2045 that was approved in October of 2019 is providing a more specific direction for transportation planning in the region. Implementation of Sustainable Choices 2045 is a top priority, as demonstrated by the plan identifying the need for an implementation strategy. The LRTP Implementation Team previously identified revising the TIP process as the first significant step towards implementing the LRTP. The TIP process revisions were completed in 2020 and have begun being implemented, with some tasks remaining to be completed by MIC staff. The purpose of this agenda item is to refocus on the plan’s implementation strategy and start the discussion of what the next item(s) should be to implement. Some options to consider will be provided. This will be a shorter discussion to set the stage for a LRTP Implementation Team meeting in the near future.

7. DRAFT - DULUTH-SUPERIOR METRO AREA PEDESTRIAN PLAN - DISCUSSION

MIC staff will provide an overview of the comments received on the draft Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan. The Draft Plan provides guidance, recommendations, and a map of priority pedestrian areas. This plan provides guidance to decision-makers on where transportation investments in the MPO area should be focused to best improve the pedestrian environment. The draft plan has developed a tier system of priority where walkways are needed, where key gaps should be filled, and where it is critical that the pedestrian walkways are available and reliably clear and free of obstructions.



8. CENTRAL ENTRANCE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

MnDOT has scheduled a full reconstruction of Central Entrance from Mesaba Avenue to Trinity Road in 2026. The Central Entrance Transportation Plan will set the vision and provide direction for MnDOT's upcoming preliminary design and public involvement/engagement processes by advancing the vision of a walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented urban thoroughfare that (1) is safe and comfortable to use by both motorized and non-motorized users and (2) encourages new types of residential and commercial development. This plan will consider and incorporate the numerous past plans along this key regional corridor.

The MIC has hired a consultant to conduct a Central Entrance Transportation Plan. Following a Request for Proposal and review of 9 proposals a contract was signed by the MIC and its selected consultant (WSB). Initial virtual meetings between MIC staff and WSB have begun. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. A small Steering Committee of key partners is being formed. A broader Community Advisory Committee of a wide diversity of corridor stakeholders will be established in the coming months.

9. ROUND TABLE

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

10. PROJECT UPDATES

- **ERIE PIER MANAGEMENT PLAN – PROJECT UPDATE**

The purpose of the Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP) is to aid in establishing management processes that facilitate a dredged material reuse program at Erie Pier, including finding and establishing viable markets for the dredged material. The last EPMP was completed in 2007. The EPMP Committee determined a full rewrite was necessary at this time. Jeff Stollenwerk of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority is the primary author of the EPMP rewrite.

The EPMP Committee reviewed and discussed all 10 sections of the EPMP over the past 9 months. Numerous revisions were made to create a draft final document following the Committee's review. The draft final 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 I consider all comments received before, during, and after the March meeting until March 8. We did receive good comments. The necessary revisions to finalize the EPMP could not be made in time for the March MIC Policy Board meeting. Thus the goal is to incorporate the relevant comments and finalize the EPMP rewrite by April – have the final EPMP brought before the MIC Policy Board at their April meeting.

- **DTA – COA SURVEY**

The Better Bus Blueprint is a full review of the DTA fixed-route bus operations. The study aims to develop recommendations to change the way Twin Ports residents use transit in the region to better meet the community's needs. Please take the Better Bus Blueprint community survey



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[DTA Better Bus Survey](#)

The Better Bus Blueprint will be conducted in five phases. This website will be updated with content during each phase to keep you informed. Draft recommendations are planned to be published in late Spring 2021, with a final recommended network planned for approval in Summer 2021. The service changes may take effect Spring of 2022 after the schedules and implementation steps are taken. For more info, visit the DTA webpage on this project:

[DTA Better Bus Blueprint](#)

- **CITY OF SUPERIOR COMP PLAN SURVEY**

The City of Superior has launched their large-scale survey for the Comprehensive Plan. All should have received a link last week – here it is once more: [Superior Comprehensive Plan Community Survey](#). Besides the transportation section, that the MIC had a hand in, you will note many topics including land use, economic development and housing. The survey is intended to be very broad scale in order to get a thorough response from a range of constituents. The transportation questions are multimodal; focusing on bike and pedestrian needs, efficiency of public transit in the community, and, the effectiveness of freight movement within and through Superior. The survey is open through the end of March.