



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 at 4:00 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.

Guest Speaker: MnDOT State Pedestrian Plan

Jake Rueter, MnDOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Planner
[MnDOT Statewide Pedestrian Plan](#)

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 1.20.20 (for Approval)

Items for Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment:

- 2021-2024 Superior Area TIP Amendments #5-9

Item for Comment & Discussion

- **DRAFT** - Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- FY 2025 TIP Projects Overview
- BPAC Update
- 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 218-529-7541** 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](tel:+12183024275) United States, Duluth (Toll)

Conference ID: **383 292 758#**



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

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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 at 4:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 1.20.21 (for Approval) Director's Report <p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	10 min
3. Guest Speaker: MnDOT State Pedestrian Plan Jake Rueter, MnDOT Pedestrian & Bicycle Planner <u>MnDOT Statewide Pedestrian Plan</u>	20 min
4. 2021-2024 Superior Area TIP Amendment #5-9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, Sheldon Johnson 	10 min
5. DRAFT - Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion w/opportunity for Public Comment, James Gittemeier 	15 min
6. FY 2025 Duluth Area TIP Projects Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, James Gittemeier 	10 min
7. Bike & Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, James Gittemeier 	15 min
8. Round Table *** Opportunity for Public Comment***	5 min
9. Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duluth Area Administrative Modification #9-14, James Gittemeier Superior Area Administrative Modification #1, Sheldon Johnson Central Entrance Project Update, Rondi Watson 	5 min

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021

Virtual - MS TEAMS

4:00 pm





MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

February 17th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 1.19.21**
- **MIC Director's Report**
 - Duluth – Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) – The steering committee for this plan met last month to get the latest on this plan from our consultant. The focus was on the existing operations analysis of the DTAs routes. The report documented many items pertaining to service pros and cons in the entire service area. Key parts of the city were identified for both high and low ridership. Many takeaways, among them some service spans that lack consistency and several routes that are low in ridership possibly since they stop at 6 to 7 pm and their connections do not make them advantageous to the user – particularly with lines in Superior. The DTA does provide a significant amount of service versus peers. The goal of this work is to show where enhancing existing high ridership areas might even be better, while possibly considering an alternate way to service those areas that are traditionally low, yet still provide some level of service.
 - Superior – Comprehensive Plan – Meetings have started with the broad-ranging, multi-discipline steering committee for the Comprehensive Plan. A public participation plan is being drafted along with an extensive survey covering many topics including economic development, housing, land use and certainly transportation. I have been providing feedback on the transportation section and mentioning some items that might be added to the draft questions specifically around freight movement needs in the city. The MICs own work with respect to surveys might prove good supplements for the consultant; these will be added where requested. The survey will be administered in a variety of formats and committee members will be asked to push this out via our own channels. Target is for the end of the month to go live with the survey.
 - Federal Legislation Update – The new Administration is putting together – for consideration by Congress – a \$1.9 trillion recovery plan, titled the American Rescue Plan. Components of the plan are being pieced together at this time. Meanwhile, another interesting coalition pushing for investment in infrastructure and transportation is forming via the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. More than 225 entities across the country are signing onto a call for the new Congress to enact a comprehensive infrastructure bill by the 4th of July. Groups across the country – like the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin – have backed the initiative. Will be interesting to monitor; the federal transportation bill is due to sunset at the end of this September.



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3. 2021-2024 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #5-9

TIP AMENDMENT #5

This project enables North Country Independent Living Center (NCIL) the ability to continue their transportation vouchers program to eligible clients throughout (eight county area including; Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer, and Washburn) northern Wisconsin. The project provides individuals with disabilities and residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing a transportation barrier a means of traveling to work, school, shopping, and other events. The vouchers are used to reimburse friends, neighbors and other volunteers who use their own vehicle for transporting disabled individuals. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.

2021 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
North Country Independent Living	Funding of a Voucher Program for individuals with disabilities and others experiencing transportation barriers in 8 NW Counties.	Voucher Program	99,750		99,750	199,500
113-21-014		TOTAL	99,750		99,750	199,500
Amended to TIP in February 2021						

TIP AMENDMENT #6

This project enables North Country Independent Living Center (NCIL) the ability to operate a mobility management program funding staff members who coordinate rides for the region's population seniors and individuals with disabilities, and also work to expand their service, provide outreach and information of transportation options to residents, and work to coordinate rides with other providers. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021.

2021 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
North Country Independent Living	Funding a mobility manager within NCIL	Mobility Manager	22,173		5,543	27,716
113-21-015		TOTAL	22,173		5,543	27,716
Amended to TIP in February 2021						



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TIP AMENDMENT #7

This project enables the Challenge Center to replace a current vehicle with a new Minivan, Rear-load equipped. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT.

2021 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Challenge Center, Inc. 113-21-016 Amended to TIP in February 2021	1 - Minivan Replacement Vehicle Purchase Rear-Load Accessible	Vehicle Purchase	32,800		8,200	41,000
		TOTAL	32,800		8,200	41,000

TIP AMENDMENT #8

This project enables Senior Connections to replace a current vehicle with a new Minivan, Side-load equipped. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Senior Connections, Inc. 113-21-017 Amended to TIP in February 2021	1 - Minivan Replacement Vehicle Purchase Side-Load Accessible	Vehicle Purchase	32,800		8,200	41,000
		TOTAL	32,800		8,200	41,000

TIP AMENDMENT #9

WisDOT has requested 113-17-004 be deleted from the current 2021-2024 TIP, due to a change in project length. While 113-17-004 is recommended for deletion, project number 113-20-001 is the same project currently listed in the 2021-2024 TIP that has the same project objectives with the correct beginning and ending project length.



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Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-17-004	USH 2 (USH 53 Interchange) 53 rd Ave E – USH 2/53 Interchange	PE ROW CONST		\$225		\$225
Deleted from TIP in February 2021	Mainline/Ramp Joint Repairs 1180-00-31	TOTAL		\$225		\$225

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

4. MNDOT PEDESTRIAN PLAN – DRAFT OVERVIEW

MnDOT has released the Statewide Draft Pedestrian Plan which sets a framework to create, safe, convenient and desirable walking for all. The Draft Plan has identified that walking is essential to achieving MnDOT’s vision: a multimodal transportation system that maximizes the health of people, the environment, and our economy. MnDOT is planning to invest more in walking with a focus on safety, equity, and climate change. The Plan calls for MnDOT to leverage its resources and role as statewide leader to support agencies at the regional and local levels in their efforts to advance walking. An overview of this Draft Plan will be presented. For more information, MnDOT’s Draft Pedestrian System Plan is available at minnesotawalks.org where a copy of the Draft Plan is available as well as a map with the “Priority Areas for Walking”.

5. DRAFT - DULUTH-SUPERIOR METRO AREA PEDESTRIAN PLAN

MIC staff will provide an overview of the draft Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan. The Draft Plan provides guidance, recommendations, and a map of priority pedestrian areas. During this Pedestrian Plan update process, as well as, during the development of the LRTP Sustainable Choices 2045, it became abundantly clear that there are a lot of needs, even more wants, but limited resources. 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 for everyday use.

6. FY 2025 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECT OVERVIEW

The FY 2025 TIP project solicitation for federal funding in the Duluth area closed on Friday, January 29, 2021. The MIC received three (3) project application proposals for the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funding. Project details are shown in the tables below.



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The projects will be presented at the February TAC and MIC meetings for initial review and comment, as well as at an upcoming public engagement session. The list of projects, along with comments received, will be put before the TAC and MIC in March for their approval, and 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.

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 STBG	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.	1.4	1,480,000	--	520,000	2,000,000
MnDOT	London Rd (MN 61) Resurface – from 28 th Ave E to 60 th Ave E. Includes roundabout at 26 th Ave E and 40 th Ave E.	2.98	7,130,000		1,200,000 Duluth State Aid estimated	8,330,000
TOTAL		5.43	10,090,000	720,000	2,120,000	12,930,000

7. BIKE & PED ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) UPDATE

The BPAC met in February at their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting and discussed the Pedestrian Plan, various project updates, and the following topics:

- Quarterly meeting structure – with the continued desire by a number of committee members to have more frequent meetings since there is limited time on the agenda to full discuss bike and ped related issues. A proposal was made by MIC staff to have a longer quarterly meeting, similar to the HTAC meeting structure, where a presenter or specific topic would be set on the agenda with more time for presentation and discussion. Further discussion is needed.



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- Morris Thomas Road Project Recommendation – St. Louis County asked the BPAC for a recommendation on this upcoming reconstruction project. The BPAC held a special meeting to learn more about the project from the County and then held a discussion. Based on the discussion, MIC staff composed a draft report and solicited comments from the BPAC. A final recommendation report was reviewed and approved by the BPAC. The report will now be sent to St. Louis County as official BPAC comments.
- Cross City Trail (CCT) Project – discussion took place over the reasons for alignment for Phase 3 (Irving Park to Keene Creek Park and the Upper Cross City Trail route. Concerns were raised over the lack of progress on the planning the Lower CCT route. The City of Duluth noted that the Lower CCT route is a priority and recognizes the directness and original intent of the trail to be along this alignment below Grand Avenue/MN Hwy 23. However, the issue of retaining an easement or purchase of ROW from BNSF remains with no further progress. In addition, the City of Duluth noted that they have a responsibility to connect to the Upper CCT, which was built as an “island” segment with the intention that it would be connected to the existing CCT.

8. ROUND TABLE

PUBLIC COMMENT

9. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2021-2024 SUPERIOR TIP ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION #1**

WisDOT has requested an administrative modification to the 2021-2024 TIP, due to a change in year for a project deliverable. TIP project ID 113-16-006, IH 535, Superior to Duluth, St. Louis River Bridge (construction, paint, misc. maintenance 1199-00-74) is currently listed as a 2022 project. WisDOT has requested the project be moved to 2021.

- **2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP – ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS #9-14**

The MIC has approved the requested changes to the following Duluth Area TIP projects. None of these projects meet the thresholds required for a formal amendment. These changes have been administratively made to the TIP. The changes (in red) are detailed in the following table:

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction & Change	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
9	118-010-028 City of Duluth Year & Cost increase (less \$1m project)	TED: MN 23/West River Drive in Duluth, intersection signalization.	2019 2021	0	0	354,000 375,000	354,000 375,000 6% cost increase



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10	6982-318 MnDOT Year & Cost decrease (less than 50% for \$1-3m projects).	SPP I-35, in Proctor & Duluth at Thompson Hill, from 0.51 S0. Boundary Ave to S. end Bridge No: 69879 over MN 23, NB & SB driving lanes excluding ramps, pavement overlay.	2022 2021	2,700,000 1,530,000 (NHPP)	300,000 170,000	0	3,000,000 1,700,000 43% cost decrease
11	6932-14 MnDOT Cost decrease (less than 35% for \$3-10m projects)	MN 194 construct roundabout at CSAH 13/Midway Rd. (Tied to 6916-113)	2022	2,400,000 1,280,000	600,000 320,000	550,000 1,100,000	3,550,000 2,700,000 23% cost decrease
12	6982-345 MnDOT New project	ITS I-35 Scanlon on from JCT MN 33 to Thompson Hill Visitor Center in Proctor. Extend fiber optic cable.	2021	0	600,000	0	600,000
13	8821-332 MnDOT Year change	ITS Districtwide signal communication & PTZ cameras.	2021 2022	324,000	81,000	0	405,000
14	118-147-019 Duluth Cost increase (less than 50% for \$1-3m projects)	E Superior St Recondition, from 45 th Ave E to 60 th Ave E.	2021	1,360,000	357,150 400,000 (MSA)	0 740,000	1,717,150 2,500,000 46% cost increase

Based on the adopted MIC Public Involvement Plan (2018), the proposed change conforms to Administrative Modification guidelines.

- CENTRAL ENTRANCE PROJECT UPDATE**

The MIC is managing the RFP process to hire a consultant to produce to produce a Central Entrance Transportation Plan in 2021. Its purpose is to define a vision for this corridor as a walkable, urban thoroughfare that is comfortable to use by both motorized and non-motorized users.

Nine consultant proposals were received by the deadline and the selection committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday February 11 to score the proposals. We hope to be able to announce the selected consultant by the TAC and MIC meetings the following week.