



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

March 17th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

|                          |                        |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Note Taker               | Barb Peterson          |  |
|                          | <b>Members Present</b> |  |
| 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                           |
|                          | Ashley Grimm           | St Louis County                          |
|                          | Rosemary Lear          | Douglas County Board of Supervisors      |
|                          | Nick Ledin             | Superior City Council                    |
|                          | Sam Pomush             | Douglas County Board of Supervisors      |
|                          | Tom Szukis             | DTA                                      |
|                          | Jenny VanSickle        | Superior City Council                    |
|                          | Chad Ward              | City of Proctor                          |
|                          | <b>Members Absent</b>  | * Excused Absence                        |
|                          | Broc Allen             | Douglas County Suburban Townships        |
|                          | Ed Anderson            | City of Superior – Citizen Rep           |
|                          | Janet Kennedy *        | Duluth City Council                      |
|                          | Bob Quade              | City of Rice Lake                        |
| <b>Others Present</b>    |                        | <b>Others Present</b>                    |
|                          | Mike Casey             | Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails |
|                          | Andrea Crouse          | Zietgiest Arts                           |
|                          | Bruce Fehringer        | Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails |
|                          | James Gittemeier       | MIC Principal Planner                    |
|                          | Duane Hill             | MnDOT Dist 1                             |
|                          | Barb Peterson          | MIC Admin Asst                           |
|                          | Ricky Sarran           | MIC/GIS Specialist                       |
|                          | Rondi Watson           | MIC Communications Coordinator           |
|                          | Mike Wenholz           | MIC Sr Planner                           |
| <b>Call in attendees</b> | 218.590.4464           |  |
|                          | 715.394.7727           |  |
|                          | 715.392.8729           |  |
|                          | 218.349.0152           |  |
|                          | 218.348.4026           |  |
|                          |                        |  |



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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 2.17.21 (for Approval)**

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b> | Sam Pomush/Warren Bender moved to approve the 2.17.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously. |
|-----------------------------------|--|

- **MIC Director's Report** (For more details see the meeting materials.)

James provided brief overview of the items included in the meeting materials.

- **Opportunity for Public Comment**

Bruce Fehringer-Smithville resident & member of Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails shared that trails are meant to be made for all ages and abilities which the lower route accomplishes. The upper route does not meet those goals. Bruce stated that the group has presented their concerns to Mayor Larsen and are awaiting her response.

Bruce's comments in its entirety are in the attachment section at the end of this summary.

## 3. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #3

This amendment is for a new project is for the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission's (ARDC) Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) mobility management project. This will be funded using FTA Sec 5310 grant monies.

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b> | Warren Bender/Wayne Boucher moved to approve Amendment #3 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.) |
|-----------------------------------|--|

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

Sheldon Reviewed each of the amendments:

Amendment #10 - WisDOT has requested 113-20-011 be deleted from the current 2021-2024 TIP.

Amendment #11 – Correcting project description to MN State Line to Barnes Road.

Amendment #12 – Transit mitigation during reconstruction USH 2/53 from 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E to 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave E.

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b> | Sam Pomush/Warren Bender moved to approve Amendment #3 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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## 5. FY 2025 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECTS OVERVIEW

James Gittemeier announced that the MIC received two (2) project application proposals for FY 2025 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funding.

Duluth- Canal Park Area Reconditioning Project

St Louis Cnty - Woodland Ave Resurface – from Snively Rd (CSAH 37) to Anoka St

*Andrea Crouse asked if there was going to be more public comment periods for these projects*

*Ashley Grimm stated she would work to make sure there is ample notice for public comments*

*Zack Filipovich asked what is included in the price? Also wondering if bike & ped concessions were being considered.*

*James stated that at this stage these types of details are not yet vetted.*

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b> | Warren Bender/Zack Filipovich moved to approve the proposed 2025 TIP projects. 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. |
|-----------------------------------|--|

## 6. CENTRAL ENTRANCE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mike Wenzholz stated that a full reconstruction of the corridor from Mesaba Ave to Trinity Road in 2026. Working with WSB set a vision and provide direction for MnDOT’s upcoming preliminary design. The vision of a walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented urban thoroughfare that is safe and comfortable to use by both motorized and non-motorized users. The steering committees are being formed and will start work very soon.

*Zack Filipovich asked what the timeline is for the steering committees.*

*Mike responded that currently emails have gone out to “staff” at the MIC, City of Duluth & St Louis County*

*Zack then asked if this project could be extended to the Mall area*

*Mike responded that this particular plan was sticking to the upcoming MnDOT reconstruction project which is only going as far as Trinity at this time.*

*Ashley Grimm noted that a community advisory committee should involve the people who are as diverse as the population of Duluth.*

## 7. DULUTH-SUPERIOR METRO PEDESTRIAN PLAN

James Gittemeier provided an overview of the comments that have been received. He also explained the plan provides guidance to decision-makers on where transportation investments in the MPO area should be focused to best improve the pedestrian environment.

## 8. ROUND TABLE

Krysten Saatela Foster, the new State-Aid Engineer at MnDOT District 1, wanted to introduce herself to the Policy Board members. She is the new “John McDonald” and is available to answer any questions they may have.



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## PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- 2020 Erie Pier Management Plan
- DTA – COA Survey, James Gittemeier DTA Better Bus Survey
- City of Superior Comp Plan Survey, Ron Chicka

10. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

### ATTACHMENTS:

#### 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 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<br>ARDC | Section 5310: Arrowhead Regional Development Commission Mobility Management 7/1/21-6/30/23. | 2021 | 60,264     | 0                   | 12,052   |

### Roll Call Vote

2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #3

3.17.21

|         | First Name | Last Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----|----|---------|
| Members |            |           |     |    |         |
|         | Broe       | Allen     |     |    |         |
|         | Ed         | Anderson  |     |    |         |
|         | Nick       | Baker     | X   |    |         |



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|  |          |            |   |  |  |
|--|----------|------------|---|--|--|
|  | Warren   | Bender     | X |  |  |
|  | Wayne    | Boucher    | X |  |  |
|  | Pete     | Clark      | X |  |  |
|  | Earl     | Elde       | X |  |  |
|  | Zack     | Filipovich | X |  |  |
|  | Adam     | Fulton     | X |  |  |
|  | Ashley   | Grimm      | X |  |  |
|  | Rosemary | Lear       | X |  |  |
|  | Janet    | Kennedy    |   |  |  |
|  | Nick     | Ledin      | X |  |  |
|  | Sam      | Pomush     | X |  |  |
|  | Bob      | Quade      |   |  |  |
|  | Tom      | Szukis     | X |  |  |
|  | Jenny    | Van Sickle | X |  |  |
|  | Chad     | Ward       | X |  |  |

## 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<br>Thousands |       |       |       |
|---|--|--------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|
|   |  |                    | Federal  | State | Local | Total |
| Douglas County<br>113-20-011<br>Deleted from TIP<br>in March 2021 | CTH C<br>MN State Line – STH<br>35<br>Preliminary Design | PE<br>ROW<br>CONST |  | \$10  |       | \$10  |
|   | 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. Additionally, the project was scheduled for CY 2022 and the project has now advanced for construction in 2021.



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| Jurisdiction and Project Number                       | Project Description   |                                 | Estimated Costs & Funding Sources<br>Thousands |       |                    |                        |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|-------|--------------------|------------------------|
|   |   |                                 | Federal  | State | Local              | Total                  |
| Douglas County<br>113-21-003<br>Amended in March 2021 | CTH C<br>MN State Line to Barnes Road<br>Construction<br>8758-00-72 | PE<br>ROW<br>CONST<br><br>TOTAL | \$3,722<br><br>\$3,722                         |       | \$931<br><br>\$931 | \$4,653<br><br>\$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 29<sup>th</sup> Ave E to 53<sup>rd</sup> 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<br>Thousands |                    |       |                    |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|-------|--------------------|
|  |  |                                 | Federal  | State              | Local | Total              |
| WisDOT<br>113-21-018<br>Amended to TIP in March 2021 | USH2/USH 53<br>29 <sup>th</sup> Ave E – 53 <sup>rd</sup> Ave E<br>Transit Mitigation<br>1198-03-79 | PE<br>ROW<br>CONST<br><br>TOTAL |  | \$255<br><br>\$255 |       | \$255<br><br>\$255 |

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

## Roll Call Vote

2021-2024 Superior Area TIP Amendment #10-12 3.17.21

|         | First Name | Last Name | Yes | No | Abstain |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----|----|---------|
| Members |            |           |     |    |         |
|         | Bree       | Allen     |     |    |         |
|         | Ed         | Anderson  |     |    |         |
|         | Nick       | Baker     | X   |    |         |
|         | Warren     | Bender    | X   |    |         |
|         | Wayne      | Boucher   | X   |    |         |



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|--|----------|------------|---|--|--|
|  | Pete     | Clark      | X |  |  |
|  | Earl     | Elde       | X |  |  |
|  | Zack     | Filipovich | X |  |  |
|  | Adam     | Fulton     | X |  |  |
|  | Ashley   | Grimm      | X |  |  |
|  | Rosemary | Lear       | X |  |  |
|  | Janet    | Kennedy    |   |  |  |
|  | Nick     | Ledin      | X |  |  |
|  | Sam      | Pomush     | X |  |  |
|  | Bob      | Quade      |   |  |  |
|  | Tom      | Szukis     | X |  |  |
|  | Jenny    | Van Sickle | X |  |  |
|  | Chad     | Ward       | X |  |  |

## 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:

| Agency          | Description   | Project Length (in miles) | Federal \$       | State \$                          | Other \$                                     | Total \$         |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Duluth          | <b>Canal Park Area Reconditioning Project</b><br>Concrete pavement repairs Lake Ave – Railroad St to Lift Bridge Buchanan St – Lake Ave to Canal Park Dr<br><br>Canal Park Dr – Buchanan St to cul-de-sac.. | 1.05                      | 1,480,000        | 720,000<br>Municipal<br>State Aid | 400,000<br><br>Local,<br>Street<br>Sales Tax | 2,600,000        |
| St Louis County | <b>Woodland Ave Resurface</b> – 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        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    |   | <b>5.43</b>               | <b>2,960,000</b> | <b>720,000</b>                    | <b>920,000</b>                               | <b>4,600,000</b> |

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



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## MIC Policy Board Meeting - Public Comment

(Bruce Fehringer)

17-Mar-2021

### Topic: Cross City Trail Public Comment

Good afternoon. I'm Bruce Fehringer a long time resident of the Smithville neighborhood in Duluth. Today I'm speaking on behalf of the Friends of Western Duluth Parks and Trails and the Cross City Trail (CCT) Coalition.

The Cross City Trail's Segment 3 and other upper routes, 4a, 5, and 5a pose the following challenges to accessibility, and render the trail a route that is not suitable for transportation:

- Not ADA accessible or UDC compliant (City staff stated that they will just apply for variances)
- Upper route adds an additional mile to the route vs. the lower **direct** route.
- The upper route is indirect **and** circuitous (an analogy would be that we would **not** expect people in **Western Duluth** to drive a car **to downtown Duluth** via **Superior, WI**)
- Safety issue: Crossing busy Highway 23/Grand Avenue at grade, in two locations
- There are **no** daily destinations along the upper route and few connections to the upper neighborhood
- The trail's goal to be for all ages and abilities will not be met because of steep topography. Access for all ages and abilities is essential for transportation when one in five people living in western Duluth identify with having a disability (per census statistics).

Therefore, the City of Duluth's proposed "upper route" of the trail serves mostly recreation not transportation. This may be why the public does **not** support it. We want to ensure that the **Cross City Trail** is safe, accessible to all ages, abilities, and incomes for purposes of daily transportation, which can only be achieved through the "lower route".

Last week, representatives of several community organizations met with **Duluth** Mayor Larson. We stressed that the BNSF Railroad right-of-way is **NOT** needed now. We can build two thirds of segment 6 (lower route) from Munger Trailhead to Raleigh St. without the BNSF right-of-way. This extends the Munger trail to within 9 blocks of the existing terminus of the trail in Irving Park. Building it now would provide immediate benefits for those in western neighborhoods. We are asking the City of Duluth to reallocate segment 3 funds to build this section. The current Cross City Trail mini-master plan adopted in 2017 states, "Segment 6 holds the highest priority for future investment for the City and for the community."

We requested Mayor Larson arrange for appropriate staff to meet and work with the Cross City Trail Coalition to review the feasibility of building this section of segment 6 with current 2023 TA funding. Segment 2, the River Route, was recently completed and serves as a prime example of how we envision working with City staff again. Timing is critical. We are awaiting her response.

**Our request of you today is to clarify and confirm that there is a process to reallocate the current 2023 TA funds from segment 3 to segment 6, the lower route, the transportation route, and to provide Mayor Larson and City staff with the process steps.**