



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, April 21st, 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.

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 3.17.20 (for Approval)
- Erie Pier Management Plan

Items for Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment:

- 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #4

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- TIP/STIP Cross City Trail Project
- 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Proposed New Projects
- 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 United States, Duluth (Toll)
Conference ID: **982 807 602#**



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, April 21st, 2021 at 4:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 3.17.21 (for Approval) Director's Report *** Opportunity for Public Comment*** 	10 min
3. TIP/STIP Cross City Trail Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, City of Duluth, MnDOT, MIC 	15 min
4. 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Proposed New Project Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, James Gittemeier 	10 min
5. 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, James Gittemeier 	10 min
6. Erie Pier Management Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval, Mike Wenzholz 	10 min
7. Round Table	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *** Opportunity for Public Comment*** 	5 min
8. Project Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2021-2025 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications #15-18 Central Entrance Transportation Plan Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan 	5 min

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 19th, 2021

Virtual - MS TEAMS

4:00 pm



MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

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* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 3.16.21**

- **MIC Director's Report**

- Superior – Comprehensive Plan Survey Results – The extensive survey covering a range of topics is in and has been compiled by the consultant. It was open for 45 days and we received nearly 500 responses. Of the responses, 80% were from people living in Superior; good range of age mix responding except for those under 30; only 15% in this category. (More on this at our meetings.)
- Superior – Road Project Update – Two larger scale projects continue and start in the upcoming construction season. The next segment of East 2nd (2/53) starts back up this month between roughly the Nemadji crossing and the city limits (53rd Ave). There will be only a single lane for travel in each direction. An improved signal system is to be added at 39th Avenue East. Many local streets connecting to East 2nd will be closed or have reduced access due to the work. Tentative completion is set for October. Second: The State is getting to the phase of work for the Tower Avenue/STH 35 and STH 105 intersection project this season with the installation of a signal. In the planning phases for a few years (and discussed in MIC studies), the work will start May 3rd. A somewhat complex one to rebuild; it involves extra items with respect to two nearby rail lines and how they are handled with regard to traffic control. Installation of a median on sections of Tower are also included in this work.
- Federal Legislation Update – Quite a lot going on at the federal level with the new Administration putting forward initiatives, Congressional proposals and other modal agencies weighing in; all targeting transportation infrastructure. Attached one summary item put together by the national MPO staff in DC. The bulleted list below is a brief overview, but by no means an exhaustive one; seemingly new proposals are coming out every week recently.
 - American Rescue Plan: This is more short term based (Covid) in nature and provides \$30B to public transportation and \$350B to State and Local governments. Mainly to target broadband and water infrastructure needs; the text is somewhat silent on transportation. National entities are working on exactly how transportation might be an eligible expense.
 - American Jobs Plan (Administration): This is the one catching some headlines recently coming from the President's side. Amount, depending on which source, is roughly \$2.5 Trillion that speaks to all modes of transportation including transit, rail service, smart technology improvements, airports, inland waterway and coastal ports, resiliency across the network and reconnecting neighborhoods and advancing equity provisions. Possible required matching dollars or availability of these funds are not defined yet. This measure is a more longer term outlook; more toward folded into (in some manner) the upcoming reauthorization of the federal transportation bill – that sunsets as the end of this September



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2021. A key item not resolved is whether these proposed dollars would be a component of a new transportation bill, or whether they would be additive. Also, the proposed funding levels rely on an increase in the corporate tax rate; something that will not be easy to get through Congress. Likely, some increase will happen – a compromise would be reached on how much the corporate tax rate would be increased which then brings down the overall amount of the Administration’s proposal.

- Congress: Both the House and Senate are moving initiatives through their respective chambers. The House has its version of a bill (HR 2) up for discussion and input from a wide variety of stakeholder groups; including the national association (AMPO) where we have suggested many policy additions and changes to text. Of importance within the House bill (similar to Adm stance) are items such as climate change, network resiliency and investing in smart (automated/connected) technology.
- House Member Selected Projects – “Earmarks”: Under a couple of categories, House members across the country are soliciting for projects that they would list/support when and if a new federal bill comes along later in the year (or eventually). So, it does appear earmarks are back, though with many stipulations. I have heard anywhere from five to ten projects per House member and somewhere between \$10M and \$20M per member. Exactly how each potential project is or should be detailed/mentioned in a TIP/STIP is also under debate. MPOs are on record as stating earmarks should not be ones already detailed in a TIP/STIP. To do so, simply supplants funds that were already deemed worthy of inclusion and fully vetted in the TIP/STIP.

3. TIP/STIP AND THE CROSS CITY TRAIL

MIC staff will provide an overview of the efforts taking place to improve TIP and STIP coordination. In 2018, issues with TIP and STIP compliance and process came to light. Staff from the MPOs in Minnesota, MnDOT and FHWA have been working to fully identify the issues and devise recommendations to resolve them. The process changes have started to be put into effect this year.

The Cross City Trail project programmed in the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP for FY 2023 has significant community discussion surrounding it. Working with the view of regional cooperation and the goal of pro-actively resolving possible TIP and STIP issues, the City of Duluth will be presenting to the TAC and MIC Policy Board the latest update on this project and process that is planned to move forward with this project.

4. 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP-PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS

MIC staff will provide an overview of all new roadway and transit projects proposed in the 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP. Staff will discuss how these projects connect with the Long Range Transportation Plan and the next steps in the process that will be undertaken as these projects move into the Draft TIP and public comment phase.

5. 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



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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

6. 2021 ERIE PIER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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, with assistance from Mike Wenholz.

The EPMP Committee reviewed and discussed all 10 sections of the EPMP over the past year. 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 Mike consider all comments received before, during, and after the March meeting until March 8. We did receive good comments, and incorporated the relevant comments into the finalized EPMP before you for the MIC Policy Board's approval. The final EPMP is attached.

7. ROUND TABLE

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- 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.



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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

- 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 WSB as its consultant to conduct a Central Entrance Transportation Plan, which is to be completed by the end of 2021.

Virtual weekly meetings between MIC staff and WSB continue. The first Steering Committee of key partners has been held, and initial summarizing of past plans and studies is underway. A



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broader Community Advisory Committee of a wide diversity of corridor stakeholders is being established. A significant public engagement process will be conducted in the coming months.

- **DULUTH-SUPERIOR METRO PEDESTRIAN PLAN**

MIC staff is responding to comments received by local, state, and federal agencies and the general public on the Ped Plan. Based on the comments received, final edits to the document are underway as well meetings with organizations that have requested and/or made substantive comments. The plan will be brought before the TAC and MIC Policy Board in May for their final review and approval.