



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 19th, 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
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Warren Bender	Superior Common Council
	Pete Clark	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
	Adam Fulton	City of Duluth
<i>alternate</i>	Ed Gleeson	DTA
	Ashley Grimm	St Louis County
	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
	Jenny VanSickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>* Excused Absence</b>
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Zack Filipovich	Duluth City Council
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	Tom Szukis	DTA
<b>Others Present</b>		<b>Others Present</b>
	Mike Casey	FWDPT
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Krysten Foster	MnDOT Dist 1
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Pat Huston	MnDOT Dist 1
	Jody Martinson	WSB
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT NW Region
	Ricky Sarran	MIC/GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
<b>Phone In Attendees:</b>	“JVS”?	218.348.4026
	218.590.4464	715.392.8729



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 19th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

Co-Chair Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. A roll call of attendees was done with attendees confirming their presence and the entity they represent.

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 4.21.21 (for Approval)**

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Sam Pomush/Ed Gleeson moved to approve the 4.21.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
-----------------------------------	---

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

Ron Chicka announced that we have purchased some new cameras in order to be able to provide a hybrid option to attend meetings. You may join in person or through Teams as we have been doing. We are hoping for this option to be available in August and are trying various rooms to make sure it works. We will keep you informed.

Ron also gave a brief update on the results of the Superior Comprehensive Plan Survey results. He stated that the steering group is identifying the draft key themes and opportunities that summarize the focus areas for future goals and plan outcomes. Ron cut his report short in respect for the speaker from WSB. He will have more info at a later date.

- **Opportunity for Public Comment**

*None at this time*

## 3. BLATNIK BRIDGE PROJECT: PAT HUSTON, MNDOT DIST 1

Pat Huston began his presentation noting where to find the most current information and contact information for himself and Marc Bowker from the WisDOT side. He then moved into the purpose of the presentation including the fact that it will be fast and furious and much more than can be digested in a 30 min presentation.

Pat then went into the NEPA process which outlines the best way to proceed. This process requires the Purpose and Need and screening criteria to be developed prior to concepts or alternatives. At this point the process is designed to get "everything on the table". Funding and costs cannot be considered until later in the process.

He then shared the purpose statement that has been developed:

*"Provide an interstate highway connection across the St. Louis Bay that does not restrict the movement of freight and provides local, regional, and international movement in a reliable and efficient manner."*

The next step was to determine "Primary" and "Secondary" needs while also keeping a column for additional considerations. The bridge condition is the primary need since it is nearing the end of its service life and maintenance frequency is increasing.



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 19th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Next came a project schedule as it stands currently:

2020 to 2024: Preferred Alternative Selection and Environmental Documentation

2024 to 2026: Preliminary Design

2026 to 2028: Final Design

2028 to 2031: Construction

Milestones were the next topic, followed by alternatives development and screening process moving into the development of conceptual alignments. Then he described the development of sub-alignments and then comparing the high-level potential impacts and additional considerations.

Pat then addressed that the tunnel concepts and Connors Point concept would not be recommended for further evaluation due to several obstacles. He then shared an interactive map where comments can be addressed.

There were several questions and comments to which Pat and Duane Hill stated that other than eliminated the tunnel and Connors Point options due to the space needed to get into and out of we just are not at that point yet.

For more details of the presentation check it out: [Blatnik Bridge Presentation 5.19.21](#)

## 4. CENTRAL ENTRANCE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Jody Martinson began by describing the project's goals and objectives which include a vision for a walkable, bikeable and transit oriented thoroughfare in order to create an attractive destination. This destination will hopefully be safe and comfortable for all ages and abilities and will encourage new types of residential and commercial development.

Jody continued by outlining the public engagement work they plan to do and forming a Community Advisory Committee which will include members of the community organizations, city council members from the area involved, St Louis Cnty commissioner from Dist 1 as well as many other jurisdictions and agencies. WSB is looking for a high level of diversity from the area and one of their goals is to make sure participants feel listened to and considered while responding to all parties whether feasible or not. They are working very hard to create an environment of sharing and trust.

Currently there is an in-person event planned for June 4th & 5th at the intersection of Central Entrance and Arlington as a part of Bus, Bike, Walk Month. There will also be a 2 evening virtual workshop on June 24th & 29th during which past studies will be considered and study the past recommendations. More details to come.

WSB has divided the project area into 5 zones and using a series of maps for each zone will be illustrating past recommendations in order to see an overview. The current schedule has a draft plan ready sometime in October with the final plan presented in December.



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 19th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

## 5. BPAC UPDATES

James Gittemeier gave an overview of the May BPAC meeting. The topics discussed included Bus, Bike, Walk month activities, the Cross City Trail detour and Erie Ponds section closure, and the Pedestrian Plan. Other discussions included project updates for the Morris Thomas Rd Reconstruction, Blatnik Bridge and Central Entrance Transportation Plan.

## 6. FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Due to time constraints this topic will be moved to June meeting.

## 7. ROUND TABLE

### PUBLIC COMMENT

*Mike Casey thanked the city for the Protected Bike Lane in the Lincoln Park area.*

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

- Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan
- DTA – Better Bus Blueprint
- Superior Comprehensive Plan

## 9. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 5:31pm.



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 19th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

## 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		



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

May 19th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

	Tom	Szukis	X		
	Jenny	Van Sickle	X		
	Chad	Ward	X		

## 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