



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, May 16th, 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: Better Bus Blueprint
Chris Belden, DTA

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 5.18.21 (for Approval)

Items for Approval w/Opportunity for Public Comment

- 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #5
- DRAFT 2022-2026 Duluth Area TIP/Open 30 day public comment period

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Blatnik Crossing Resolution
- HTAC Update
- Federal Legislation 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 United States, Duluth (Toll)

Conference ID: **904 433 655#**



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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Suburban Townships

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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Policy Board

Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 at 4:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 5.18.21 (for Approval) Results of Meeting Survey Director's Report <p style="text-align: center;">*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	10 min
3. Guest Speaker: Better Bus Blueprint, Chris Belden, DTA	20 min
4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment , James Gittemeier 	10 min
5. DRAFT – 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release for 30-day public comment period eff. 7/1/21 , James Gittemeier 	15 min
6. BLATNIK CROSSING POLICY BOARD RESOLUTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka & Mike Wenholz 	10 min
7. HTAC UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	10 min
8. FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka 	10 min
9. ROUND TABLE <p style="text-align: center;">*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	5 min
10. PROJECT UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Entrance Transportation Plan Update 	5 min

Next Meeting

No Meeting in July

Wednesday, August 18th, 2021

Virtual or In-person (TBD)

4:00 pm



MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 16th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 5.19.21**

- **MIC Director's Report**

- Superior – Tower Ave (Belknap to 28th) Modeling Project – Our consultant maintaining our traffic model (AECOM) is teaming with NWRPC via the City of Superior to conduct a traffic analysis of Tower Avenue to determine the feasibility of a “road diet” being applied along the corridor – lessening the travel capacity. Several discussions between the DOT and the City led to this getting started: and having NWRPC act as the fiscal agent. Funding is via the City. The objective is to determine the level of traffic impact should the roadway be reduced to a 3-lane (or similar) concept. Once this is complete, further talks with City administration will occur to determine further planning and whether that could be done via the MIC.
- Superior – U.S. 53 (E 2nd St) from Blatnik Bridge to 2nd Ave East – This section of U.S. 53 from the Blatnik to near the Belknap intersection is under preliminary design with construction set for 2025. Components of the work include pavement repair, resurfacing of the Blatnik ramps, curb/gutter repairs and a key safety improvement involving the installation of a full median closure of the 'E' Street intersection. Right turn deceleration lanes will be added along the southbound route. It will become a right-in, right-out only intersection.
- Blatnik Bridge – Bike and Pedestrian subcommittee – As several topics/discussions involving the potential facility of a bike/ped connector have surfaced over the past few months, the DOTs have set up a new subcommittee to further examine this one issue. MIC staff is involved and providing our perspective on the user needs of such an amenity at this location. Local units of government and other advocates will also be incorporated into the meetings. This smaller group will provide recommendations on a ped/bike connector to the Blatnik Bridge steering committee.
- Duluth – Waterfront (DECC) Area Redevelopment – The MIC staff – along with a series of other area stakeholders – was interviewed recently (via the City's consultant) concerning possible redevelopment along the harbor waterfront area roughly between the Irvin slip bridge and Pier B hotel. Of note for the MIC, is adequacy of transportation and facility needs in this area. In the interview, we spoke to a couple of our plans that addressed improvements including the recent Bayfront Traffic Study conducted by Alliant Engineering. We also referenced our Land Use Port Plan that is relevant in that it denotes the land use line in this area of the harbor distinguishing between industrial and commercial growth.
- Duluth - Freight Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Movement – Over the past couple of months – after being contacted by Dale Bergeron (formerly with the MN Sea Grant and our former HTAC member and Chair) – I have been meeting with District and Central Office DOT staff to discuss the many issues involving safety in the movement of such freight through and around our



MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 16th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

community. Of most concern to Dale, is the travel of such trucks along London Road; the stretch from the I-35 terminus to the US 61 freeway. Dale has been speaking to other governmental units plus key businesses to raise awareness to the potential threats this commodity flow has to adjacent landowners. To date, DOT staff and I are leading the direction of this initiative.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: BETTER BUS BLUE PRINT, CHRIS BELDEN, DTA

Chris Belden (Adm and Planning Director) for the DTA will provide an overview of the work completed to date from the 'Better Bus Blueprint' study – or the Comprehensive Operational Analysis – conducted by Connetics Group. He will also provide information on a couple of the latest technical improvements set into place by the DTA.

4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #5

A request has been made to increase the total cost of the St. Louis County/MnDOT Bridge Bundling Project from \$15 million to \$20 million. There have not been any changes to the scope of the project. The cost increase reflects unexpected conditions encountered during design. The cost increase is partially covered by a new funding source, which is the Bridge Repair/Replace Off System (BROS) funding, in addition to the Federal Funds Miscellaneous (FFM). The only bridge project within the MPO is the Skyline Parkway Bridge in Proctor. The cost breakdown below reflects this MPO-specific project. The project details are summarized below:

Amdmt #	Project # Agency	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
5	069-070-055 PE21 SLC (lead agency)	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace bridges & box culverts, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294.(assoc 8821-336).	2021 2022	1,040,000 1,010,198 (Proctor Bridge) FFM 8,146,800 (St. Louis County)	0	260,000 1,431,807 (Proctor Bridge) 7,359,863 (St. Louis County)	1,300,000 2,442,004 (Proctor Bridge) 17,931,213 (St. Louis County)
5	069-070-055A (New Project)	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace bridges & box culverts, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294.(assoc 8821-336)	2022	400,000 2,024,550 (AC) BROS		606,138	1,006,138



MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 16th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Amdmt #	Project # Agency	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
5	8821-336 MnDOT	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace 21 bridges, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294.	2022	1,328,960 FFM 1,065,200	332,240 266,300		1,661,200 1,331,500
5	8821-336P (New Project)	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace 21 bridges, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294 .	2022	774,800 STBGP <5K	193,700		968,500
5	069-070-055AC (New Project)	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace bridges & box culverts, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294.	2023	2,024,550 (AC Payback) BROS			0

If you have any questions please contact James Gittmeier, jgittmeier@ardc.org.

5. DRAFT – 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP

The Draft 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP has been compiled and ready for review. The jurisdictions with projects programmed in this document are asked to review the project lists and inform MIC staff of any corrections or changes by Friday June 18, 2021. Once all corrections have been made, the Draft TIP will be released for the 30-day public comment period scheduled to begin on July 1, 2021 and run through July 30, 2021. There will be a set of public engagement sessions held on Tuesday July 13, 2021 at 9am, Noon, and 4pm. More details on these sessions will follow. All public comments received will be reviewed and addressed before the TIP moves to final approval, which is scheduled for August 18, 2021. [Draft 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP](#)

6. BLATNIK CROSSING POLICY BOARD RESOLUTION

MnDOT and WisDOT have begun early discussion and planning to consider options for addressing the aging Blatnik Bridge. Due to the significance of the proposed Blatnik Crossing project – including the likely replacement of the Blatnik Bridge – to the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area, the MIC is proposing to bring a resolution generally supporting the I-535 Blatnik “Bridge” (Crossing) project to the MIC Policy Board. The resolution is not about any specific option, design, or location. Key components of a draft resolution are being shared with each of the MIC’s three advisory committees for discussion and suggestions. The key components of the draft resolution will be shared with both the TAC and MIC Policy Board during the June meetings.



MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 16th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

7. HARBOR PLANNING UPDATE

The Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) met on June 2, 2021. It was again held virtually. The meeting was well attended, with approximately 58 people logged or called in. The agenda included the following:

- Blatnik Crossing MIC Policy Board Resolution
- HTAC Subcommittee Updates
- The St Louis River Habitat Work Group
- Duluth Velocity Meter and Light
- 2021 Duluth-Superior Harbor Maintenance Dredging

Mike and Ron will share a few key details for the September HTAC meeting.

8. FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Provided will be the latest as to the federal transportation reauthorization bill as it is under development by Congress and the President.

9. ROUND TABLE

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

10. PROJECT UPDATES

- *Central Entrance Transportation Plan Update*

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 third Steering Committee meeting of key partners has been held. A broader Community Advisory Committee of a wide diversity of corridor stakeholders is continuing to be established. The plan's logo/branding has been set and the interactive website is live. Work towards a significant public engagement process for the plan is ongoing, with the first two public engagement events having occurred as part of the Better Central Entrance event co-collaborated with Zeitgeist. Information about the Planning process and past recommendations for the corridor were on display, WSB and MIC staff answered questions, people were able to take a walking tour along Central Entrance, and many people completed a survey to provide comments on and ideas for the corridor.