



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 15th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
Committee Vice-Chair	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
Committee Chair	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Krysten Saatela Foster	MnDOT Dist 1
<i>alternate</i>	Matt Hemmila	St Louis Cnty
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
<i>alternate</i>	John Mulder	City of Hermantown
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT NW Region
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis Cnty
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth
	Kris Liljeblad	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
	vacant	Active Transportation/Zeitgeist Arts
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Carol Andrews	St Louis County
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Bobbi Retzlaff	FHWA Community Planner
	Ricky Sarran	MIC-GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
	Mike Wenzholz	MIC Sr Planner



1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Kate Ferguson called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A roll call of attendees was done with attendees confirming their presence and the entity they represent.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 5.18.21

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Mulder/Cari Pedersen moved to approve the 5.18.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- Meeting Survey Results

Rondi Watson reviewed the survey results which showed that most were ready to go back to meeting in person.

- MIC Director’s Report

3. GUEST SPEAKER: BETTER BUS BLUEPRINT, CHRIS BELDEN, DTA

Chris Belden opened his presentation discussing the upgraded and new technology being used which includes fareboxes, ticketing and text option “Where’s My Bus?”. There is also many improvements and replacement of bus shelters to make them more comfortable. Chris added that the DTA is reviewing and consolidating bus stops.

Chris recognized Connetics Transportation Group as the consultant the DTA has hired to provide:

- Deep-dive into current conditions and performance
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities
- Gather community input
- Make recommendations for an improved transit network

Chris then described what goes into route planning; tradeoffs and potential outcomes; guiding principles; an assessment of the existing service and aservice summary. He then delved into demographic and market analysis showing a population density and major job distribution maps for the service area along with other maps showing travel propensity, latent demand and trip patterns.

He shared the results of the survey and stakeholder polling and the route workshops that were held. Chris began to wrap up the presentation discussing network concepts then into evaluation points that lead into recommendations and next steps.

4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #5

James Gittemeier described that the amendment was for the St. Louis County/MnDOT Bridge Bundling Project with a cost increase from \$15 to \$20 million but no scope changes. After asking for any questions or comments and hearing none James asked for a motion to approve.



Motion Discussion and Vote	Krysten Foster/Cindy Voigt moved to approve Amendment #5 to the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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5. DRAFT – 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP

James Gittemeier began by describing the project lists for each year (2022-2025). He continued by describing the constructed, planned and being studied roundabouts in the MIC area; shared the transit projects included in the TIP and the described the funding for TIP and how it has changed over the past few years. After asking for questions or comments James asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Cari Pedersen/Maren Webb moved to approve the release of the Draft-2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP for the 30 day comment period. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. BLATNIK CROSSING POLICY BOARD RESOLUTION

Mike Wenholz described the proposition of the MIC bringing a resolution generally supporting the I-535 Blatnik Crossing (“Bridge”) project to the MIC Policy Board. The resolution would not include any specific option, design, or location. A key component that would be expressed is that the Blatnik Crossing is an important freight and commercial connection between the Twin Ports that supports economic development. The resolution will be presented to the Policy Board at the August meeting.

7. HTAC UPDATE

Mike Wenholz reviewed the agenda items on the June meeting agenda. These items included:

- The Blatnik Crossing Resolution to be presented to the MIC Policy Board in August and then sent on to MnDOT.
- St Louis River Habitat Workgroup – Kari Hedin, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa shared the purpose of the group and who participates.
- Duluth Entry Acoustic Velocity Current Indicator – Steve Brossart, USACE described what the indicator identifies and that it assists with navigation and research projects.
- Harbor Maintenance & Minnesota Point Beach Nourishment – Melissa Bosman, USACE shared the dredging schedule for 2021. She also noted that there will be active mitigation of the 2020 debris.

Mike also shared the PaddleSafeTwinPorts.org website which includes:

- Dashboard of conditions
- Interactive map of launch sites
- Safety information
- Downloadable float plan



8. FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ron Chicka shared some of the work being done on the “hill”. This includes:

- The American Jobs Plan - \$2.5 Trillion to create millions of good jobs, rebuild our country’s infrastructure.
- Senate EPW counter to Administration -Senate – Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 (STRA) A Framework to Improve the Nation’s Infrastructure - \$300.5 Billion over 5 years
- House Transportation & Infrastructure -Invest in America Act - \$547 B; 5 yr bill

Ron then concluded describing the “LOT Coalition” (Local Officials in Transportation) and how AMPO continues to work to work with the coalition as Congress and the Administration develops infrastructure policy and provides input on these policy.

9. ROUND TABLE

Maren Webb stated that Bryan Anderson will be taking over her duties while she is on maternity leave. She plans to return in January, 2022.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

10. PROJECT UPDATES (PLEASE SEE THE MEETING MATERIALS FOR DETAILS)

- *Central Entrance Transportation Plan Update*

Mike gave a brief update on the status of this project which is being lead by WSB.

11. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Vice-Chair Chris Belden adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.