



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, December 8th, 2021 at 6:00 pm
VIRTUAL MS TEAMS 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: Superior Comprehensive Plan, Jason Serck

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 10.20.21 (for Approval)

Items for Approval w/Opportunity for Public Comment

- 2021 Updated Public Involvement, Title VI & Language Access Plans
- 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Central Entrance Vision Plan 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 218-461-2666** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

Join via TEAMS Information:

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 218-302-4275 United States, Duluth (Toll)

Conference ID: **526 498 350 #**



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, December 8th, 2021, 6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MS TEAMS MEETING

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 10.20.21 (for Approval) Director's Report <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Opportunity for Public Comment Period"</i></p>	10 min
3. GUEST SPEAKER: SUPERIOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, JASON SERCK	20 min
4. 2021 UPDATES TO THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, TITLE VI & LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, Rondi Watson 	10 min
5. 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, James Gittemeier 	10 min
6. CENTRAL ENTRANCE VISION PLAN UPDATE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka and James Gittemeier 	20 min
7. ROUND TABLE	5 min
8. PROJECT UPDATES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Modifications #1-3 2026 Duluth Area TIP Application BPAC Update 	5 min
9. ADJOURN	

Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 19th, 2022

TBD

6:00 pm



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

December 8th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 10.20.21**
- **MIC Director's Report**
 - MNDOT – 5th Avenue West Modeling Project – The MICs travel demand model will be used by the DOTs consulting team to evaluate different forecasted traffic scenarios for this work item being aided by TKDA consulting. We will work with the DOT to assist in other matters of this study as they arise. This work is one component that could link to our own upcoming I-35 project set for next year. Both this 5th Avenue West overpass work and our I-35 plan will attempt to incorporate some components, or objectives, that were laid out by the leaders within the Duluth Waterfront Collective group seeking a “lessened footprint” of the Interstate in the downtown and one that is more multimodal in function.
 - Hazardous Material Freight Movement – As mentioned over the course of the year, the Minnesota DOT and I have had a series of meetings discussing how a study might get launched where the level and frequency and location of hazardous material is transported in the MIC area. We'll be sending an invite soon to a meeting where a presentation will be provided by Dale Bergeron (formally with the Port Authority and served on the HTAC) discussing the situation in this area and the topic, in general. We will be trying to determine if there is a desire or the ability to move forward with a large area-wide study on this topic – and possibly led by the MIC with funding sources to be determined.
 - New Federal Bill – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – We've got a new bill; with an acronym that isn't as catchy as those in the past (i.e., SAFETEA-LU or FAST ACT)! So, after moving through Congress the President signed the bill into law on November 15th – PL 117-58. It is a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that includes a 5-year surface transportation bill (where among many things MPO funds live). Total for transportation is set at \$567B over the 5-year life of the legislation. Much of the details are being rolled out to various entities via DC sources, including the national MPO association (AMPO). Besides the usual highway and transit sections, there are several other key programs including: climate initiatives, rail, aviation, broadband, water infrastructure and equity provisions. Many items will need vetting at the state level as to distribution prior to disbursement. Some of the key ones for MPOs are highlighted here:



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1. For MPOs on a macro level, there is an increase of 30% in highway planning funds and a nearly doubling of transit planning funds. Matching dollars still necessary via the local MPO host.
2. Up to 100% federal share is possible for safety projects.
3. Climate-related initiatives such as lo/no emission bus programs and vehicle charging grants.
4. Rail program to include up to \$36B for intercity passenger rail.
5. Use of planning funds that encourage stronger coordination with housing officials and address the housing-transportation-economic development connection.
6. Requires a percentage of MPO funds go to activities associated with Complete Streets planning.
7. Increases roadway mileage in an urban area that can be designated as a key freight corridor.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

3. GUEST SPEAKER: SUPERIOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, JASON SERCK, PLANNING & PORT DIRECTOR-CITY OF SUPERIOR

Jason will provide an overview of the recently completed Comprehensive Plan which is currently out for comment and is scheduled to be presented to the City Council in January.

4. 2021 UPDATE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, TITLE VI & LANGUAGE ACCESS PLANS

The MIC's Public Involvement Plan (PIP) identifies steps and strategies for public engagement at each phase of the planning process. The PIP requires a full review and update by the end of this year to ensure compliance with the federal FAST Act. The public comment ended November 30.

Our Title VI and Language Access Plans are also being updated. They similarly focus on identifying and reaching out to traditionally underserved or disadvantaged communities. I will be presenting all three plans for Board approval at the December meetings.

5. 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #1

FY 2022 New Federal Aid Project

Presented to MIC Policy Board for Approval: 12/8/2021

MnDOT has requested that a new FY 2022 federally funded project be inserted into the 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP. The project is to replace signage at various locations along U.S. Highway 53 between Duluth and International Falls and is utilizing federal carry-over dollars. The project details are summarized below:



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Amdmt #	Project # Agency	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
1	8821-353 MnDOT (Lead agency) New Project	US Hwy 53 from Duluth to International Falls, Sign replacement various locations.	2022	2,800,000	700,000	0	3,500,000

6. CENTRAL ENTRANCE VISION PLAN UPDATE

The Draft Central Entrance Vision Plan is now available for review and comment at:

www.dsmic.org/centralentrance There will be two (2) public information and comment sessions taking place on Wednesday Dec. 1, 2021 at Noon and 5pm. All comments on the draft Vision Plan are due on Friday December 10, 2021. At the TAC and MIC Policy Board meeting, staff will provide a brief review of the draft plan, the next steps, and an overview of the comments received and MIC response.

7. ROUND TABLE

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Modifications #1-3

There are three (3) modifications to the FY 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP. One project number change and two project description changes, as the Haines and Piedmont Resurfacing projects are now tied together for construction administration purposes. The changes are detailed in the following table:

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total \$
1	6981-9030L 6981-27 MnDOT	Blatnik Bridge (#9030) Rehab – I-535, NB & SB between Duluth & Superior over St. Louis River.	2022	2,610,000 (NHPP)	3,190,000	0	5,800,000



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2	069-691-033 St. Louis County	Haines Rd (CSAH 91) Resurfacing from Morris Thomas Rd to Airport Rd. (Tied to 69-654-006)	2023	1,120,000	0	954,556	2,074,556
3	069-654-006 St. Louis County	Piedmont Ave Resurfacing from Haines Rd (CSAH 91) to Chambersburg Rd. (Tied to 069-691-033)	2023	280,000	0	80,000	360,000

- **2026 Duluth Area TIP Applications Process Overview**

The Duluth Area TIP project selection process is underway. An initial meeting with the MIC area jurisdictions took place in September to discuss the potential projects for FY 2026 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding. New project applications forms will be sent out December 15, 2021 and will be due on January 28, 2022.

- **BPAC Update**

The November BPAC meeting including the following topics, an election to keep the existing chair and vice chair, discussion on meeting format for 2022, and project updates including the Draft Public Involvement Plan and the Draft Central Entrance Vision Plan. The BPAC discussed holding special topics at upcoming BPAC meetings, organizing educational workshops for 2022, as well as revising the project review process. The updated review process will now start with an initial staff review report, followed by an opportunity for BPAC members to review and approve the findings and recommendations at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Next BPAC meeting is Thursday February 3, 2022 from 2:30pm-4pm.