



## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022 at 6:00 pm  
**HYBRID MS TEAMS MEETING NOTICE**

Join us in person, 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 3.15.22 (for Approval)
- 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #2-5

### GUEST SPEAKER: TWIN PORTS INTERCHANGE (TPI) UPDATE – HWY 53 AND GARFIELD INTERCHANGE

- Pat Huston, MnDOT Dist 1, Major Projects Asst District Engineer

### GUEST SPEAKERS: LONDON RD 2026 PROJECT UPDATE

- Tom Lamb, MnDOT Dist 1 Project Manager w/Matt Settergren, PE, LHB

### Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Hazardous Materials Transportation
- MIC/MnDOT I-35 Corridor Project 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](mailto:bpeterson@ardc.org) or 218-461-2666** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

**In Person: BARKER'S ISLAND INN,  
300 MARINA DRIVE, SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN**

### Join via TEAMS Information:

#### **Join Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

Conference ID: **808 359 829#**



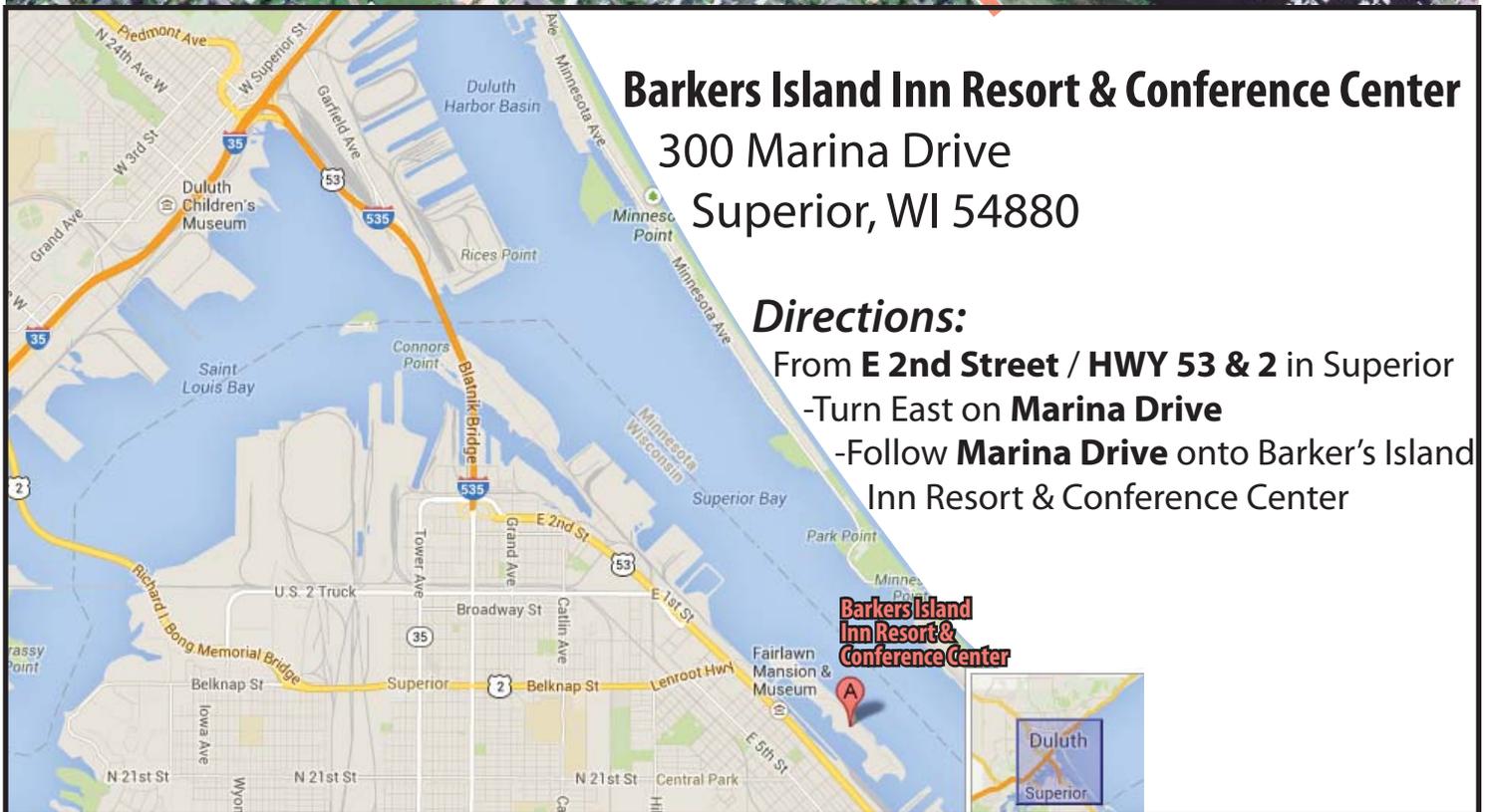
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#### **Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**

*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*

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# DIRECTIONS



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## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

## Policy Board

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

## HYBRID TEAMS MEETING

## AGENDA

<b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b> <b>2. Committee Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 3.16.22 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>***Opportunity for Public Comment***</b></p>	10 min
<b>3. 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #2-5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for approval-Opportunity for Public Comment, Ricky Sarran &amp; Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>4. GUEST SPEAKER: TWIN PORTS INTERCHANGE (TPI) – HWY 53 &amp; GARFIELD INTERCHANGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pat Huston, MnDOT Dist 1, Major Projects Asst District Engineer</li> </ul>	20 min
<b>5. GUEST SPEAKER: LONDON ROAD 2026 PROJECT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Lamb, MnDOT Dist 1 Project Manager &amp; Matt Settergren, PE, LHB</li> </ul>	20 min
<b>6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Jim Fox, MnDOT, Sr Engineer &amp; Kris Liljeblad</li> </ul>	15 min
<b>7. MIC/MNDOT I-35 CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Kris Liljeblad</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>8. ROUND TABLE</b>	5 min
<b>9. PROJECT UPDATES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Modifications #15-18</li> <li>FY 2026 Duluth Area Transportation Alternatives Project Update</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>10. ADJOURN</b>	

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

HYBRID MEETING

HERMANTOWN TRAINING CTR

6:00 pm



## Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = *Approval Item*

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

### 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 3.16.22**
- **MIC Director's Report**
  - Federal Legislation – Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) – Included in the meeting packet is an example of my work involving the national Association of MPOs (AMPO) based in Washington DC. The letter is representative of the advocacy work the national staff – together with the national Board of Director's and other AMPO-based technical groups – coordinates and then provides guidance to several decision-making entities at the national level. These include: the Federal Highway Administration, the US Department of Transportation – Intergovernmental Affairs group, both the US Senate and US House that oversee the development of the bill, and lastly, White House staff. All play a role in the rulemaking and implementation of the many components of this current transportation bill. Our role at AMPO (along with a like group representing regional councils across the nation) is to ensure that policy is adhered to toward benefitting several aspects in either planning or actual infrastructure. One of the primary goals for MPOs is to push legislation that would follow local parameters or approaches toward achieving a multimodal system in an urban area. This empowers local decision-makers (e.g., MPO Policy Boards). There are many sections to the federal bill; a few are outlined broadly in the letter. In the implementation arena, AMPO and other groups push for the greatest coordination possible between MPOs and state DOTs to sound investments bettering both people and goods movement.
  - Federal RAISE Grants – Letters of Support – The MIC has recently provided two letters of support for infrastructure grants to the federal government under this program entitled 'Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity' or RAISE. This nearly \$10 billion competitive program is designed to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and transportation networks across the country. (In prior bills, this program was termed BUILD or TIGER). Projects are based on their merits with the objective of gaining the highest value for every dollar invested. The two projects in the Duluth area are:
    - 1) Duluth – West Superior St in the Lincoln Park District, and
    - 2) St Louis County/Rice Lake – Rice Lake Road (from Martin Road to Ridgeview)These grants will be awarded in August.
  - Wisconsin Transportation Development Association (TDA) Gas Tax Information – Included a short piece on the facts about the federal and (Wis) gas tax in your packets. This long-established advocacy entity (a like one in Minnesota is called the MN Transportation Alliance) works the state angle at federal legislation and how it is implemented in policy and practice. This is an informative item; and when gas prices soar, inevitably there is some mention of abatement of the tax to save dollars for the taxpayer. Likely this won't occur at the federal level – its benefit is very small – though some states have enacted their own "gas



## Agenda Item Descriptions

tax” holiday. More importantly, TDA advocates for increased funding for the state’s network; pointing out that 45% of the road network is categorized in either poor or mediocre condition. Whereas the gas tax might save the average driver about \$100 over the course of a year, deteriorating roads cost the average driver approximately \$730 per year in maintenance, accelerated depreciation due to wear and tear and increased fuel consumption.

- Duluth – Safe Routes to School Award – Lincoln Park Middle – In February, Duluth was awarded nearly \$300K from the DOTs grant program for the school to aid pedestrian and ADA improvements – stemming from the MICs planning work (see attached map). Existing sidewalks in poor condition will be replaced on designated routes (Atlantic/Devonshire). Curb ramps will be installed. Lastly, an ADA-compliant shared-use path will be constructed where a few years back (James Gittemeier and others) built a temporary path through a wooded area along this right-of-way.
- Superior – Tower Avenue Study – Work moving forward on this planning effort, via a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant, looks promising for the potential development of a “road diet” along Tower between Belknap and 21<sup>st</sup> Street. There are various operational issues from a traffic perspective that will need to be considered, if constructed. However, they are numerous pedestrian and safety amenities that come into play, on the positive side, should this project come to fruition. Currently, an expanded look further south in the corridor – to 28<sup>th</sup> Street – might be underway soon as this section could also undergo an alteration. Further analysis is needed here.

**\*\*\*OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT\*\*\***

### 3. 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #2-5

**FY 2022 Duluth Transit Authority New Projects and Cost Increases:** The Duluth Transit Authority has requested three additional 2022 projects as well as changes to two programmed 2022 projects. Based on the financial criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan, these project changes will require formal TIP Amendments, as follows:

**Amendment 2** adds a new project (TRF-0016-22N) to fund a bus rapid transit feasibility study.

**Amendment 3** adds new projects (TRS-0016-22TA and TRS-0016-22O) that will be utilizing leftover Lo-No funds and STBGP funds to purchase two new electric buses to replace aging diesel buses.

**Amendment 4** modifies the project description for TRS-0016-22J to specifically reference the FY2017, 2018 & 2020 rehabilitation of the DTA Operation Center facility. In addition, it will no longer be using FY2022 funds and will instead be repurposing older, unspent funds.

**Amendment 5** adds an additional \$200,000 to the ITS project TRF-0016-22G.

The project details are summarized below:



## Agenda Item Descriptions

	4/12/2022	State Project ID	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Fed AC \$*	Fed AC Payback**	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
New Project	Amendment 2	TRF-0016-22N	SECT 5307: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; DTA BUS RAPID TRANSIT FEASIBILITY AND CORRIDOR STUDY	FTA	\$ 280,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,000	\$ 350,000	2022
New Project	Amendment 3	TRS-0016-22TA	DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; PURCHASE TWO (2) CLASS 700 ELECTRIC REPLACEMENT BUSES	STBGP	\$ 891,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 222,800	\$ 1,114,000	2022
New Project	Amendment 3	TRS-0016-22O	DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; PURCHASE TWO (2) CLASS 700 ELECTRIC REPLACEMENT BUSES	LO-NO	\$ 837,632	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,817	\$ 985,449	2022
	Original	TRS-0016-22J	SECT 5307: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS	FTA	\$ 720,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180,000	\$ 900,000	2022
	Amendment 4	TRS-0016-22J	SECT 5307 <b>FY2017, 2018, &amp; 2020: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY OPERATION CENTER FACILITY REHABILITATION</b>	FTA	\$1,688,320	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 422,080	\$ 2,110,400	2022
	Original	TRF-0016-22G	SECT 5307: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; ITS	FTA	\$ 240,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ 300,000	2022
	Amendment 5	TRF-0016-22G	SECT 5307: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; ITS	FTA	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	2022

If you have any questions please contact Ron Chicka: [rchicka@ardc.org](mailto:rchicka@ardc.org) or 218.529.7506.

#### 4. GUEST SPEAKER: TWIN PORTS INTERCHANGE (TPI) UPDATE – HWY 53 AND GARFIELD INTERCHANGE

**PAT HUSTON, MAJOR PROJECTS ASST DISTRICT ENGINEER**

#### 5. LONDON ROAD 2026 PROJECT

MnDOT's Project Manager Tom Lamb will present the latest design for the reconditioning project from 26<sup>th</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. Proposed changes include roundabouts at 26<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Avenues East, narrower drive lanes to allow a bikeable shoulder both directions, pedestrian refuges to improve crossing safety at eight intersections, and replacement of dying ash trees throughout the corridor.

#### 6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

MIC sponsored a Lunch and Learn virtual meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with a presentation by Dale Bergeron about Hazardous Materials Transportation. It attracted over 70 participants. MIC staff will share its research conducted since then, followed by discussion about the subject.

#### 7. MIC/MnDOT I-35 CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

A selection panel representing MnDOT District 1, City of Duluth, and MIC picked the Bolton and Menk team for this 17-month planning project for the corridor from Proctor to 26<sup>th</sup> Ave E. The team will conduct a community-driven evaluation of the corridor's existing and future needs, develop alternatives, and conduct visioning in order to prepare a community-supported, detailed implementation plan.



## Agenda Item Descriptions

### 8. ROUND TABLE

### 9. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP Modifications**

#### **Duluth Transit Authority Cost Changes**

(SP# TRF-0016-22A, TRF-0016-22B, TRS-0016-22I, TRS-0016-22T)

The Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) requested that costs be updated for several 2022 projects. No changes in scope are being made; however, the project description for TRS-015-22I (Admin Mod 17) is being changed to specify the type of work being done, and the project description for TRS-015-22T (Admin Mod 18) is being changed to reflect the purchase of four rather than five diesel replacement buses.

Based on the financial criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan (2021), these project changes do not require formal TIP Amendments and can be made as Administrative Modifications.

These project changes are detailed in the following table.

4/12/2022	State Project ID	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Fed AC \$*	Fed AC Payback **	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
Original	TRF-0016-22A	DULUTH DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE	LF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,070,475	\$ 1,070,475	2022
Admin Mod 15	TRF-0016-22A	DULUTH DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE	LF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,007,000	\$ 1,007,000	2022
Original	TRF-0016-22B	SECT 5307: DULUTH OPERATING ASSISTANCE - REGULAR ROUTE	FTA	\$1,163,804	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$16,761,361	\$17,925,165	2022
Admin Mod 16	TRF-0016-22B	SECT 5307: DULUTH OPERATING ASSISTANCE - REGULAR ROUTE	FTA	\$1,129,907	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$16,888,693	\$18,018,600	2022
Original	TRS-0016-22I	SECT 5307: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; PAVEMENT AND CONCRETE WORK	FTA	\$ 232,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,000	\$ 290,000	2022
Admin Mod 17	TRS-0016-22I	SECT 5307: DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; <b>BUS STOP AMENITIES &amp; DESIGN</b>	FTA	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 250,000	2022
Original	TRS-0016-22T	DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; PURCHASE FIVE (5) CLASS 700 DIESEL REPLACEMENT BUSES	STBGP	\$2,184,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$273,000	\$ 273,000	\$ 2,730,000	2022
Admin Mod 18	TRS-0016-22T	DULUTH TRANSIT AUTHORITY; PURCHASE FOUR (4) CLASS 700 DIESEL REPLACEMENT BUSES	STBGP	\$2,673,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 668,400	\$ 3,342,000	2022

- **FY 2026 Duluth Area Transportation Alternatives Project Update**

#### **Campus Connector Segment 5**

On April 13<sup>th</sup> Northeast Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (NEMANTP) approved funding for the Campus Connector Segment 5 for FY 2026. This project is for the segment of W St Marie St between Carver Ave and Vermillion Rd as shown in the image below from the Campus Connector Trail MMP.

Total TA funding approved for this project is \$384,091.



# Agenda Item Descriptions

