Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 at 1:30 pm

HYBRID MEETING NOTICE

This meeting will be held in person, with an option to participate virtually via Microsoft Teams. See "location," below, or the meeting web page for more information.

Guest Speaker: MnSHIP

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 6.14.22
- 2022-2025 Superior Area TIP Amendment #9
- 2023-2026 DRAFT Superior Area TIP /Open 30-day public comment period
- 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP Adoption

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- 2023-24 Work Program Project Discussion
- 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.

We will be meeting In Person at the MNDOT DIST 1 BLDG ON MESABA

Join via TEAMS Information:

JOIN MICROSOFT TEAMS MEETING

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

Conference ID: 986 568 643#

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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

221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • www.dsmic.org

Duluth Mn DOT District Office

MIC Meeting Location

Mn DOT Lake Superior Room
1123 Mesaba Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEMBERS

Airport
Tom Werner

Active Transportation
Vacant

City of Duluth
Cari Pedersen
Cindy Voigt
Chris Lee
James Gittemeier

City of Hermantown
David Bolf
John Mulder
(alternate)

City of Proctor
Jess Rich

City of Superior
Todd Janigo
Chris Carlson
Jason Serck
(alternate)

Douglas County
Jason Jackman

Duluth Transit Authority
Chris Belden, *Vice-**Chair***
Rod Fournier
(alternate)

Economic Development
Karl Schuettler

MnDOT
Maren Webb
Krysten Saatela Foster
Bryan Anderson
(alternate)

Mobility Challenged
Vacant

Port/Harbor
Kate Ferguson

St. Louis County
Jim Foldesi
Matt Hemmila
(alternate)

WisDOT NW Region
Dena Ryan

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, August 16th, 2022, 1:30 pm

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review **2. Committee Business** • *Meeting Summary of 6.14.22 (for Approval)* • *Director's Report*	*10 min*
3. GUEST SPEAKER: MNSHIP (MN STATE HIGHWAY INVESTMENT PLAN) PRESENTATION	*30 min*
4. 2022-2025 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #9 • *Recommend approval to the Policy Board, Sheldon Johnson*	*5 min*
5. 2023-2026 SUPERIOR AREA TIP /OPEN 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (AUG 19TH – SEPT 19) • *Recommend approval to the Policy Board, Sheldon Johnson*	*5 min*
6. 2023-2026 DULUTH AREA TIP • *Recommend adoption to the Policy Board, Prescott Morrill*	*10 min*
7. 2023-24 WORK PROGRAM PROJECT DISCUSSION • *Presentation and Discussion, Ron Chicka*	*20 min*
8. ROUND TABLE	*5 min*
9. PROJECT UPDATES • *I-35 Corridor Plan* • *Safety Action Plan*	*5 min*
10. ADJOURN	

Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022
SUPERIOR LIBRARY IN PERSON
VIRTUAL VIA TEAMS
1:30 pm

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Transportation Advisory Committee

August 16th, 2022

Agenda Item Descriptions

* = *Approval Item*

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 6.14.22**
- **Directors Report**

  - Wisconsin State Freight Plan Update - Participated as a committee member in the WisDOT June Freight Advisory Committee meeting in Madison. Wisconsin's updated freight plan was presented, going for public comment through the Fall. Staff from Madison are set to present to the HTAC in September. Other topics presented included impacts of e-commerce on freight infrastructure and resiliency needs of freight infrastructure.

  - Support Letters for Blatnik Funding and City of Superior Project Funding – In meeting attachments, there are two items we assisted with our partners over the recent past. For possible Blatnik funding, the DOTs consulting team compiled support letters from local agencies for the federal Bridge Investment Program. Second, per the City of Superior staff and with extra funding out of the recent federal bill, we wrote a letter supporting the decision to apply funds to the Barker's Island bridge project, as the City's top priority for these dollars.

  - MNDOT Connected and Automated Vehicle Event – On Monday the 15th, MNDOT District 1 offices will have held their Connected and Automated Event – 4 pm at the main headquarters in Duluth. (We have sent a couple of reminders on this event if interested in signing up.) The event is occurring statewide to showcase the existing technology and improvements on the way. An equipped research vehicle will gather a variety of roadway data while in route to each event and this information will be presented to attendees.

  - Blatnik Bridge Update – Since our committees have last met, a couple of subjects/events have taken place. Toward the end of June, a very well-attended Open House was held at the Superior Library. All components – to date – of the project were presented. DOT staff plus the consulting team were there to take questions and talk with attendees over a series of posterboards. A key new item talked about concerned a few options in play for the landing of the bridge on the Superior side. All options recommend a new design; one where Hammond is de-emphasized and acts more like an exit/entry than today. Options include one or a series of roundabouts at this location to access the mainline roadway. It's possible the shifting of Hwys. 2/53 may require right-of-way acquisition. Talks have occurred with landowners in this area as to that possibility. Secondly, the consultant hired to come forward with recommendations on walking and biking options for the Blatnik completed their report. Though the specific type of facility is still to be fully developed, the report did state that there is support for a path on the newly built Blatnik Bridge.

3. Guest Speaker: MnSHIP (MN State Highway Investment Plan

Joshua Pearson, MnSHIP Project Manager

The 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP) directs capital investment for Minnesota's state highway system. The plan must identify investment priorities given current and

expected funding. It is updated every four years, as required by the Minnesota Statute. The DOT is currently in the next update cycle and is taking public input; including presenting to ATPs and MPOs statewide for their respective feedback. The plan takes into account many factors and prioritizes future investments to address the widening gap between highway revenues and construction costs. MnSHIP also considers federal and state laws, MnDOT policy and current and expected future conditions on the state highway system. MnSHIP describes how MnDOT will use capital investments to repair, replace and improve the state highway system. The plan does not address how MnDOT funds the operation of the system or day-to-day maintenance.

4. 2022-2025 Superior Area TIP Amendment #9

TIP AMENDMENT #9

A TIP amendment has been requested for resurfacing work along STH 105, .20 miles west of East Riverside Drive. This will be a small resurfacing project 0.07 miles in length in the Town of Superior. This short section of pavement is over the box culvert (Little Pokegama River) due to settlement of subsoils. Resurfacing work is scheduled for 2022.

2022 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-22-015 Amended to TIP in August 2022	STH 105 .20 miles west of East Riverside Drive 0.07 miles 100% State funds Resurfacing 8760-00-62	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		$74.9 $74.9		$74.9 $74.9

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

5. DRAFT 2023-2026 Superior Area TIP/Open 30-day Public Comment Period beginning 8.19.22

The draft is can be found here: *DRAFT 2023-2026 Superior TIP*

6. 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP

The document is available here: **Draft 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP**

7. 2023-2024 Work Program Project Discussion

Last month the MIC's Annual Review meeting was held with DOT and FHWA staff to discuss our work activities and budget items. As part of this dialogue, we learned there will be an estimated $50,000 - $75,000 available for an additional short-range project in the upcoming 2023 budget.

Staff discussion of MIC-area transportation priorities yielded the following list of possible projects. Each one was identified for future study in the MIC's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

I would like to hear your thoughts at the August TAC and MIC meetings about what project(s) to potentially include in the draft work program and budget for CY 2023.

Possible Projects for Inclusion in the FY 2023 MIC Work Program and Budget:

Safety Action Plan - Part 2
Rationale:

- The modeling work to be conducted this year (Part 1) will identify specific locations needing improvement; Part 2 would identify remediation efforts for those locations.
- This plan will addresses motorized as well as active transportation modes.
- Other partners (Co-City) may be able to contribute to the MIC's funding to cover needed consultant costs for this project.

Rail Crossing Assessment (MIC area)
Rationale:

- This is one mode we haven't addressed in quite a while, and we are periodically asked for this information.
- It's relevant to several recommendations in our prior Safe Routes to School plans.

Traffic Signal System Assessment (MIC Area)
Rationale:

- Identified for future study in the MIC's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- Issue of signal coordination and technology was raised during the 2018 Bayfront study; also has connections to the (above) Safety Action Plan.
- Might have transit and emergency service benefits, if implemented.

MIC Area Roadway Capacity Assessment (4-to-3 lane reductions)
Rationale:

- Identified for future study in the MIC's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- 6th Avenue East Corridor in Duluth identified as one potential corridor.

8. Round Table

9. Project Updates

- *I-35 Corridor Plan*

The project is well underway. Our consultants from Bolton & Menk developed a logo and other branding elements, finalized the Communications and Engagement Plan with input from MIC staff, and delivered a number of high-quality materials for us to use in interacting with the public during Downtown Duluth Sidewalk Days in mid-July. They have also initiated a detailed data collection effort as part of documenting existing corridor conditions. The kickoff meeting for the Steering Committee – consisting of representatives from all jurisdictions along the corridor, as well as from the Duluth Port Authority and the Duluth Transit Authority – was held on July 26.

- ***MIC Area Safety Action Plan***

This project will be underway during the second half of 2022, continuing into 2023. It will prepare a comprehensive safety action plan that identifies prioritized recommendations to guide traffic safety efforts to reduce and/or eliminate risk factors for roadway crashes in the Duluth-Superior metro area.

A Project Management Team (PMT) which is comprised of representatives of state, county, and municipal agencies will guide the work. Key stakeholders and the public will be engaged, including underserved communities, the trucking industry, the DTA, law enforcement, and bike and pedestrian users of the roadway system. The plan will be consistent with the US DOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy, the Safe Streets for All Program, and the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

10. *ADJOURN:*