



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Policy Board

December 14th, 2022 Meeting

Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Jake Benson	City of Proctor (<i>alternate</i>)
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
	Bill Fennessey	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Mayou	Duluth City Council
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Jason Reid	City of Duluth - Citizen Representative
	Tom Szukis	DTA
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Ashley Grimm	St. Louis County
	Nick Ledin*	Superior City Council
	Jenny Van Sickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward*	City of Proctor
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Dick Haney	Friends of Western Duluth Parks & Trails
	Duane Hill	Dist 1/MnDOT
	Pat Huston	Dist 1/MnDOT
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Ricky Sarran	MIC GIS Specialist



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Chair Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When complete, Chair Boucher asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 10.18.22

Chair Baker then asked if there were any questions or changes to the October meeting summaries. Hearing none he asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Sam Pomush/Ed Anderson moved to approve the 10.18.22 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- CO-CHAIR RE-ELECTION

Ron Chicka shared the responses from the email sent to the Policy Board members asking for either nominations for the Policy Board chairs or if the member preference would be to reinstate Nick Baker and/or Wayne Boucher. The responses were in favor of keeping Nick and Wayne. No nominations were received. He then asked if there were any nominations at this time. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve Nick Baker and Wayne Boucher as co-chairs thru December 2024.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Janet Kennedy/Ed Anderson moved to approve Nick Baker and Wayne Boucher as co-chairs through December 2024. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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3. GUEST SPEAKER: TPI & BLATNIK BRIDGE UPDATE - PAT HUSTON

Pat started his presentation by providing an update of where the TPI project stood. He reviewed the goals:

- Enhance safety by eliminating blind merges and left exits
- Replace aging infrastructure
- Improve freight mobility

He continued by showing the project layout which we have all seen. He did point out that the Hwy 53 bridges (Work Package 3) and I-535/Garfield Interchange (Work Package 4) have been added back into the overall project. He briefly discussed that besides the bridge work there would be work on utilities, storm sewer and pavement reconstruction. They are working towards a goal of completion of the project in Fall of 2024.

Stay in the know via the website: [TPI Project](#)

Pat moved on to the Blatnik Bridge project overview including the purpose and need. He gave a brief review of the current project schedule. He stated that we are nearing the end of Step 3 which is alternatives development and recommending build alternatives to advance for further evaluation. Step 4 goals include:

- Refine alternatives based on Step 3 findings
- Conduct detailed traffic studies for interchange configurations



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- Evaluate vertical profile
- Evaluate detailed social, economic, and environmental impacts
- Recommend Build Alternatives to Advance for Further Evaluation

Pat then provided the alternatives that are being evaluated which include the existing alignment, West/existing combination alignment and a “no build” option along with the 4 interchange options.

For more details check out the MnDOT website: [I-535 Blatnik Bridge](#) This includes an interactive feedback map. You may also review this presentation on the MIC website: [12.14.22 TPI & Blatnik Update](#)

Nick Baker asked if there would be a wider bridge? Pat responded that the design is likely to remain 4 lanes to keep with taking care of tax payer monies responsibly.

Mike Mayou commented that the options with the shared use other should continue to be seriously considered.

Ed Anderson commented that the idea of a tunnel should continue to be considered. Pat responded that Ed should call him for an explanation.

Jason Reid commented that he was curious about the “no build” scenario. Pat stated that it has to be included. If this option is chosen there would need to reduce the lanes and eventually would have to close.

4. 2023-2026 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #2-9

Prescott Morrill reviewed the details of each of the amendments. (Details can be found on our website: [Meeting Packet](#))

With no questions or comments Prescott asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Mike Mayou/Earl Elde moved to approve Amendments #2-9 to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP to the Policy Board. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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5. PROJECT UPDATES:

2023-2026 DULUTH AREA TIP ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS #2-5

I-35 CORRIDOR PROJECT UPDATE

6. ROUND TABLE

Prescott shared that a design workshop for traffic engineers on 12.8.22 addressing pedestrian infrastructure was well attended and provided good information.

7. **ADJOURN:** With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.



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Attachments:

2023-2026 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #2-6

Amendment #2:

The addition of work in FY 2023 for MnDOT, project ID 6982-356

MnDOT has requested the addition of funding in the amount of \$630,000 for stormwater infrastructure repairs along the I-35 corridor, from Lake Ave to 26th Ave E, in FY 2023.

Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan, this addition requires a formal TIP amendment to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP, by way of pre-approval by the MIC Board.

Amendment #2 includes funding as follows:

- 6982-356 will include \$630,000 total project funding in FY2023

The project details are summarized below:

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	State T.H. or Bond \$	Project Total \$	Year
6982-356	MnDOT	I-35	Road Repair	I-35 IN DULUTH FROM LAKE AVE TO 26TH AVE E. STORM STRUCTURE REPAIRS	SF	\$630,000	\$ 630,000	2023

Amendment #3

The addition of work in FY 2024 for the City of Duluth, project ID 118-126-022AC

The City of Duluth has requested Advance Construction (AC) payback funding in the amount of \$1,480,000 for Mill & Overlay, Storm Sewer, Curb & Gutter, and ADA improvements along 3rd St in Duluth, from 12th Ave E to Mesaba Ave, in FY 2024.

Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan, this addition requires a formal TIP amendment to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP, by way of pre-approval by the MIC Board.

Amendment #3 includes funding as follows:

- 118-126-022AC will include \$1,480,000 AC payback in FY2024.

The project details are summarized below:

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Fed AC \$*	Fed AC Payback**	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
118-126-022	Duluth	MSAS 126	Resurface	3rd St, in Duluth From 12th Ave E To Mesaba Ave/Mn 194 Mill & Overlay, Storm Sewer, C&G & ADA	STBGP	\$1,400,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$1,750,000	2023
118-126-022	Duluth	Highway MSAS 126	Mill and Overlay, Storm Sewer Rehab	3rd St., in Duluth, from 12th Ave. E. to Mesaba Ave. (MN 194) Mill & Overlay, Storm Sewer, Curb & Gutter, and ADA Improvements (AC Project Payback 2024)	STBGP	\$1,930,000	\$1,480,000		\$ 855,000	\$2,785,000	2023
118-126-022AC	Duluth	Highway MSAS 126	Mill and Overlay, Storm Sewer Rehab	3rd St., in Duluth, from 12th Ave. E. to Mesaba Ave. (MN 194) Mill & Overlay, Storm Sewer, Curb & Gutter, and ADA Improvements (AC Payback 1 of 1)	STBGP	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,480,000	\$ -	\$1,480,000	2024

Note: SP 118-126-022 includes \$530,000 FY23 STBGP-TAP funds.



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Amendment #4

The addition of Advance Construction (AC) payback funding in FY 2023 for MnDOT, project ID 6980-62AC

MnDOT has requested Advance Construction (AC) payback funding in the amount of \$30,000,000 for the Garfield Ave Interchange/I-535 in FY 2023. This project was added after the Final Draft 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP was released for public comment. While it was included in the 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP, it now needs to be amended into the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP.

Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan, this addition requires a formal TIP amendment to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP, by way of pre-approval by the MIC Board.

Amendment #4 includes funding as follows:

- 6980-62AC will include \$30,000,000 AC payback in FY2023.

The project details are summarized below:

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed AC Payback**	Project Total \$	Year
6980-62AC	MnDOT	I-535	AC Payback	I-535 in Duluth 0.7Mi. S Jct I-35 to 0.5 Mi. N. Minnesota State Line. Garfield Interchange Bridge improvements, Concrete pavement, Retaining Walls (AC Payback 1 of 1).	NHPP	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000	2023

Amendment #5

Additional funding in FY 2023 for MnDOT, project ID 0980-162

MnDOT has requested additional funding for project ID 0980-162 for a total project cost of \$1,100,000 for clear zone maintenance, and tree and brush removal on I-35 in Mahtowa. This change is added as an amendment as the change is greater than 50% of the project cost, and is greater than \$1M in total project cost after this requested change.

Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan, this addition requires a formal TIP amendment to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP, by way of pre-approval by the MIC Board.

Amendment #5 includes funding as follows:

0980-162 will include a total project cost of \$1,100,000 in FY2023.

The project details are summarized below:

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	State T.H. or Bond \$	Project Total \$	Year
0980-162	MnDOT	I-35	Safety Improvement, Landscaping	I 35 NB & SB IN MAHTOWA FROM CSAH 4 TO CSAH 14, BOUNDARY AVE IN PROCTOR (CSAH 14) & MN48/HINCKLEY TO WILLOW RIVER (CSAH 43). CLEAR ZONE MAINTENANCE, TREE REMOVAL & BRUSHING. (ASSOC. 6982-341, 5880-202)	HSIP	\$337,500	\$ 37,500	\$ 375,000	2023
0980-162	MnDOT	I-35	Safety Improvement, Landscaping	I 35 NB & SB IN MAHTOWA FROM CSAH 4 TO CSAH 14, BOUNDARY AVE IN PROCTOR (CSAH 14) & MN48/HINCKLEY TO WILLOW RIVER (CSAH 43). CLEAR ZONE MAINTENANCE, TREE REMOVAL & BRUSHING. (ASSOC. 6982-341, 5880-202)	HSIP	\$990,000	\$110,000	\$1,100,000	2023



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Amendment #6

Additional funding in FY's 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 for MnDOT, project ID's 8801-BLATNIK CA-23, -24, -25, and -26

MnDOT has requested additional funding for Consultant Agreements/engineering for the Blatnik Bridge project. This formal amendment is to add Wisconsin's share of consultant agreements, adjust federal funding split to 90%/10%, and to add FY 2026 funding to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP. \$9,000,000 in federal funding is being provided centrally. Wisconsin's share of Consultant Agreements was originally omitted in error, and is now being added. There are no additional federal funds required or scope of work changes, therefore fiscal constrain is maintained.

Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan, this addition requires a formal TIP amendment to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP, by way of pre-approval by the MIC Board.

Amendment #6 includes funding as follows:

- 8801-BLATNIK CA-23 will include a total project cost of \$4,888,888 in FY2023
- 8801-BLATNIK CA-24 will include a total project cost of \$4,222,222 in FY2024
- 8801-BLATNIK CA-25 will include a total project cost of \$8,444,444 in FY2025
- 8801-BLATNIK CA-26 will include a total project cost of \$20,000,000 in FY2026

The project details are summarized below:

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
8801-BLATNIK CA-23	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2023	NHPP	\$2,200,000	\$ 115,790	\$ -	\$ 2,315,790	2023
8801-BLATNIK CA-23	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2023	NHPP	\$2,200,000	\$ 244,444	\$ 2,444,444	\$ 4,888,888	2023
8801-BLATNIK CA-24	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2024	NHPP	\$1,900,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	2024
8801-BLATNIK CA-24	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2024	NHPP	\$1,900,000	\$ 211,111	\$ 2,111,111	\$ 4,222,222	2024
8801-BLATNIK CA-25	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2025	NHPP	\$3,800,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000	2025
8801-BLATNIK CA-25	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2025	NHPP	\$3,800,000	\$ 422,222	\$ 4,222,222	\$ 8,444,444	2025
8801-BLATNIK CA-26	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2026	NHPP	\$9,000,000	\$ 473,684	\$ -	\$ 9,473,684	2026
8801-BLATNIK CA-26	MnDOT	I-535	Engineering	BLATNIK BRIDGE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT AGREEMENTS - 2026	NHPP	\$9,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$20,000,000	2026