



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

February 14th, 2023 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

* = *Approval Item*

Note Taker(s)	Barb Peterson	
Members Present		
Committee Vice-Chair	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Krysten Saatela Foster*	MnDOT Dist 1
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	John Mulder	City of Proctor (<i>alternate</i>)
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
	Skip Williams*	Active Transportation
	vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Bryan Anderson	MnDOT Dist 1
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Joe Klein	MnDOT Central Office
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Anna Pierce	MnDOT Central Office
	Bobbi Retzlaff	FHWA
	Ricky Sarran	MIC-GIS Specialist
	Matt Schreiber	MnDOT
	Bob Sullivan	MARAD
	Voni Vegar	MnDOT
	Rondi Watson	MIC – Communications Coordinator



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Vice Chair Chris Belden called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When complete, Vice Chair Belden asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. Hearing none he continued.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

• Meeting Summary of 1.17.23

Vice Chair Beldon then asked if there were any questions or changes to the march meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	James Gittemeier/Jim Foldesi moved to approve the 1.17.23 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Ron Chicka provided a brief verbal Directors Report which included the following:

- Sheldon Johnson’s visit to the White House to attend a “Communities in Action: Building a Better Wisconsin” is part of a White Houser series that will feature local elected officials and community leaders working on behalf of their communities to create opportunities and improve people’s everyday lives.
- Duluth Central Entrance at UMD – The MICs plan will get some further “airtime” on Feb 27th at the School of Engineering. I have been asked to present our plan to students and faculty at a school function focusing on novel/interesting projects currently under study in the area. James Gittemeier, City Planning, is going to assist. This presentation will provide another opportunity to promote the key aspects of this plan; that of potentially building a more multimodal corridor for all users. Construction is still about 3 to 4 years out. The DOT is currently conducting feasibility analysis of our plan along with preliminary design.
- Ron touched on the attached Blatnik Bridge material from MnDOT addressing various alignments.
- He also shared that MIC staff is assisting the County on Feb 6th with an in-person public input event as part of early planning for possible future improvements to Howard Gnesen Road between West Arrowhead Road in Duluth and Martin Road in Rice Lake. Three public workshop sessions were held at Homecroft Elementary School.
- Howard Gnesen Road is an important transportation corridor that currently does not offer safe or comfortable options for walking and bicycling. St. Louis County received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to help prepare an Active Transportation Plan for the roadway; that includes biking, walking or using mobility devices like scooters and wheelchairs. The goal right now is to gather input from people who live, work, go to school or travel along the road. This input will help the County to understand the needs and preferences of the community before they begin the preliminary design process.

3. 2023-2026 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #7-9

Prescott Morrill reviewed the changes creating the amendments and with no questions asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jim Foldesi/Chris Lee moved to recommend the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP Amendments 7-9 to the Policy Board for approval. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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4. CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM

The Carbon Reduction Program is a new program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The purpose of the program is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources.

To use the Carbon Reduction Program funds, Minnesota must ask for, select and obligate eligible projects. This requires teamwork, coordination and cooperation at all levels of government.

For details see the link below:

[MNDOT CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM](#)

5. PROJECT UPDATE

- *2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modification #7-9*

Admin Mod #7: St. Louis County is requesting Project ID 069-070-048 no longer “TIED TO” Project ID 069-700-020. This has been approved by MIC staff.

Admin Mod #8: The Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) is removing three project line items from the Duluth 23-26 TIP in FY 2023. These projects were all non-vehicle capital improvement projects. They are: TRF-0016-23E, TRF-1600-23H, and TRF-1600-23I. This has been approved by MIC staff.

Admin Mod #9: The DTA is adjusting funding for three project line items. None of these changes rise to the level of need for an Amendment to the 23-26 TIP per MnDOT guidance. These project items and totals are as follows (these have been approved by MIC staff):

- TRF-1600-23, Route Operating Assistance. Project change: \$20,721,390 → \$19,820,400, in FY2023
- TRF-1600-23A, Dial-a-Ride Operating Assistance. Project change: \$1,158,050 → \$1,107,700 in FY 2023
- TRF-1600-23B, Capital improvement for Bus Barn floor rehab. Project change: \$400,000 → \$480,000, in FY 2023

6. ROUND TABLE

James Gittemeier announced that the West Superior St will begin Public Meetings in March.

7. ADJOURN: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Vice Chair Belden adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.