



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 1:30 pm**  
**MEETING NOTICE**

This meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting – join us in person at the location listed below OR participate virtually via Microsoft Teams (login info, below).

Meeting materials can be viewed on the [meeting web page](#) as well as on the attached pages.

### **Items for Approval:**

- Meeting Summary of 5.16.23
- Draft 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP – Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on July 1, 2023

### **Items for Presentation and Discussion**

- 2024-2025 MIC Work Program Project Discussion
- BPAC Update
- MTP 2050 Update

### **Project Updates**

- Administrative Modification #11 to the 2023/26 Duluth Area TIP
- 2023 Proposed Work Program Amendment – Safety Action Plan

### **In-Person Meeting Location:**

**WisDOT/Lake Superior Room**  
**1701 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Superior, WI**

### **OR Join virtually via TEAMS below:**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TEAMS MEETING](#)

### **OR Join by Phone (audio only)**

**+1 218-302-4275**

**Conference ID: 672 978 136#**

### **Attendance / Meeting Quorum**

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please contact Tari Aanonsen at [taanonsen@ardc.org](mailto:taanonsen@ardc.org) or 218-529-7541 to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

*The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Complaint instructions and forms can be found in the Title VI Non-Discrimination Program and Limited-English Proficiency Plan online at [dsmic.org/titlevi-policy](http://dsmic.org/titlevi-policy). If you require ADA accommodations to be able to participate in this meeting, or if language translation services are needed, please contact the MIC office at least three days prior to the meeting, and we will do our best, within the resources available to us, to accommodate your request.*

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

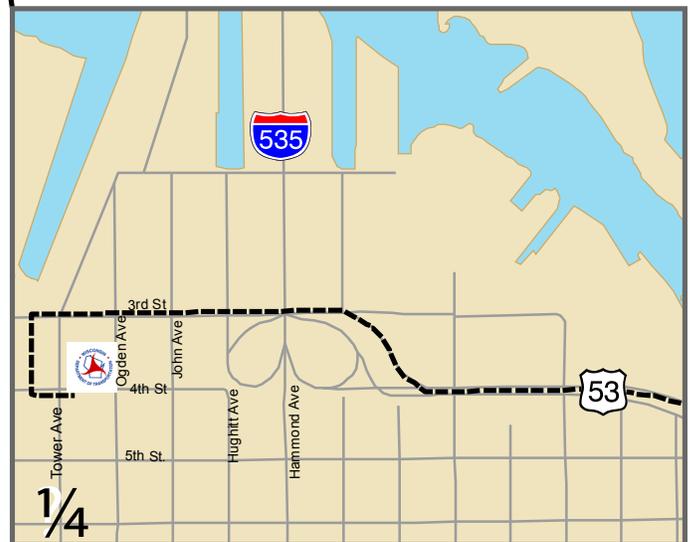
*Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission*

**221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • [www.dsmic.org](http://www.dsmic.org)**

**WisDOT Northwest Region - Superior Office**  
**1701 N 4th St**  
**Superior, WI**



**From Minnesota** on either I-35 N or S:  
 Take 535 / 53 (Blatnik Bridge) to Superior, WI  
**Bear RIGHT off bridge, then straight following signs for South 35**  
 At stop, turn LEFT onto 3rd St  
 Bear LEFT as road curves (Tower Ave)  
 Turn LEFT at 4th St (1st left)  
 WisDOT will be on the left



**From Wisconsin:** Follow 53/2 from the south  
 Bear RIGHT at signs for **Superior Business District/ South 35 / Vehicle Registration Driver Licensing**  
 this becomes N 3rd St  
 Bear LEFT as road curves (Tower Ave / South 35)  
 Turn LEFT at 1st left (4th St)  
 WisDOT will be on the left

- Parking lot in front of building
- Meeting held in Lake Superior Conference Room

TRANSPORTATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(TAC)  
MEMBERS

Airport

Tom Werner

Active Transportation

Skip Williams

City of Duluth

Cari Pedersen

Cindy Voigt

Chris Lee

James Gittemeier

City of Hermantown

John Mulder

David Bolf (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

Jarl Carlson (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, June 20, 2023, 1:30 pm  
**MEETING AGENDA**

<b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b>	
<b>2. Committee Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 5.16.23 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>3. Draft 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP- Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on July 1, 2023</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for approval, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>4. 2024-2025 MIC Work Program Project Discussion</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	15 min
<b>5. Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>6. Long Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050 Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Rondi Watson</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>7. Project Updates</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023 Proposed Work Program Amendment – Safety Action Plan</li> <li>Administrative Modification #11 to the 2023/26 Duluth Area TIP</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>8. Round Table</b>	
	5 min
<b>9. Adjourn</b>	

*No TAC or MIC Mtg in July*

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, August 15th, 2023  
Proctor City Hall/Community Center  
1:30 pm



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Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 5.16.23\*
- Directors Report

**Northern Lights Express (NLX)**– The NLX did receive the necessary matching funds toward the federal amount in the recently concluded MN legislative session. The purchases now go toward capital equipment (train set) and other needs along the line, such as station setup. This is likely still a few years away, according to project leaders.

**Minnesota Transportation Bill:** In late May, an \$8.8 billion transportation package was passed by the Minnesota Senate and House and signed by Gov. Walz. Described as the largest investment in the state’s roads, bridges and transit systems in Minnesota history, the bill budgets \$7.85 billion over the next biennium for roads, transit, airports and rail projects, including more than \$1 billion in new revenue sources per year dedicated to transportation. These include:

- Gas Tax: Effective January 1, 2024, the gas tax will be indexed to the rate of inflation in future years. The increase is capped at 3% and it will amount to a five-cent increase over the current rate of 28.5 cents a gallon, to possibly 33.5 cents a gallon by 2027.
- Home Delivery Fee: a new 50-cent retail delivery fee will be charged for retail deliveries more than \$100. It will not apply to groceries, prescription drugs, baby products and restaurant deliveries.
- Vehicle Registration: The current tax is \$10 plus 1.25% of the base value for a passenger vehicle will increase to 1.54% for vehicles purchased before November 2020, and 1.575% for vehicles purchased after then. Vehicle registrations will continue to drop down each year for 10 years after the purchase to \$35.
- Vehicle Sales Tax: The vehicle sales tax will increase from 6.5% to 6.875%.
- Metro Sales Tax: There’s also a new Twin Cities metro sales tax of 0.75%, which will apply to the seven-county metro area and go toward transit projects.



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Agenda Item Descriptions

**Duluth Area I-35 Corridor Plan** - The MIC and the DOT recently hosted a series of focus groups (downtown residents and freight industry reps) and a public open house where we presented a series of design concepts for the different segments of the 14-mile corridor. Key areas for further refinement and gaining consensus are the West Duluth and Thompson Hill areas, as these are due for the life-cycle improvements in the next 5 to 6 years.

The open house was well-attended and generated a great deal of interest. More than 50 people showed up in person, half of whom submitted written comments, and several news stories were featured in both local and Twin Cities media outlets:

[Redesigning the road into Duluth](#) - WDIO broadcast 6:00 pm, 6/6/23

[Planning the future of I-35 in Duluth](#) – KBJR broadcast 10:00 pm, 6/6/23

[Should Interstate 35 through downtown Duluth be dismantled?](#) – Minneapolis Star Tribune, 6/11/23

Very notably, 275 people (to date) have completed the online survey! It remains open through June 20 on the I-35 project website if you would like to submit comments on the proposed designs.

We will follow up with the consultant’s summary report of the public comments, when complete.

**3. DRAFT 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP-RELEASE FOR 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON JULY 1, 2023\***

On approval, the MIC will release the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP for public comment for a 30-day period, beginning July 1, 2023. At this time, our lists of public projects for Fiscal Years 2024-2027 should be complete for the time being, according to our input from our constituent jurisdictions. After this public comment period, any pertinent comments received will be incorporated into the final version of the TIP, with the action to adopt to be included in the agenda for the August 2023 MIC Board meeting.

**4. 2024-2025 MIC WORK PROGRAM PROJECT DISCUSSION**

For the meetings this month, please consider optional/discretionary projects that the MIC staff might conduct. This is in addition to the usual and ongoing items: TIP, Metro Long Range Plan and our modal elements (Bike/Ped, Harbor, Freight, Roadway and Transit). Projects considered last year that may be options for this year include a signal assessment study and a roadway capacity analysis (4 to 3 lanes).

Please present any further project thoughts at our June TAC and MIC meetings.



## 5. BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) UPDATE

Prescott Morrill will give a brief update from the recent presentations given at the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

## 6. LONG RANGE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) 2050 UPDATE

It's that time again – every 5 years we are required to update the MIC's 25-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan (aka MTP – formerly known as the Long Range Transportation Plan or LRTP). The MIC's MTP guides the development of the Duluth-Superior multimodal transportation system; the 2050 update must be adopted by the Policy Board by October 2024. Rondi Watson will give a brief overview of what this project will entail.

## 7. PROJECT UPDATES

- *2023 Proposed Work Program and Budget Amendment-MIC Area Safety Action Plan*

Due to being short-staffed now, as well as the inability for area jurisdictions to financially contribute (at this time) to the second phase of the MICs Safety Action Plan, I am proposing an amendment to our 2023 Work Program and Budget whereby we incorporate this stand-alone project into the scope of work for the 2050 update of our long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The specific task would be to expand the safety component of the MTP by outlining in some detail the criteria/points behind the federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program, thereby setting the MPO up for future initiatives within this federal program. Given that we already have a fairly rich crash history database across the planning area, we should also be able to demonstrate, or trial-run, a couple of corridors to ascertain how well they fit/score against the SS4A guidelines. This amended work would be conducted by a combination of in-house staff and staffing via our existing third-party contract for our MTP via AECOM.

MIC staff needs a little time to get some paperwork for such an amendment moving that will therefore require a special meeting of the MIC Board, likely in the first half of next month. We have done so several times over the years, usually for a needed TIP amendment. The special meeting would be a very short – virtual only and likely scheduled at 4 pm - to approve the Work Program amendment.



**Agenda Item Descriptions**

- *Administrative Modification #11 to the 2023/26 Duluth Area TIP*

**Change in project FY funding for Project # TRF-9069-24, Section 5310 funds**

ARDC has requested that the Mobility Management Project # TRF-9069-24 be listed in FY 2023 instead of FY 2024, in accordance with a change that MnDOT has made, from a one-year to a two-year funding process for this project.

This change has been approved by MIC staff, is within fiscal constraints, and has been made administratively to the 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP, as detailed in the table below.

State Project ID	Agency	Route System	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Other \$	Project Total \$ STIP (MnDOT Total)	Project Total \$ (MPO Total)	Current Planned Year
TRF-9069-24	ARDC	TRANSIT	Mobility Management	SECTION 5310: ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MOBILITY MANAGEMENT 7/1/24 - 6/30/2025	FTA	\$ 61,480	\$12,296	\$ 73,776	\$ 73,776	2024
TRF-9069-24	ARDC	TRANSIT	Mobility Management	SECTION 5310: ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MOBILITY MANAGEMENT 7/1/24 - 6/30/2025	FTA	\$ 61,480	\$12,296	\$ 73,776	\$ 73,776	2023

*\*Based on the criteria adopted in the 2021 MIC Public Involvement Plan, these project changes do not require formal TIP Amendments and can be made as an Administrative Modification.*

**8. ROUND TABLE**

**9. ADJOURN**