



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
	Hannah Alstead	Duluth City Council
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mark Johnson	City of Superior
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Mayou	Duluth City Council
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Randy Skowlund	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Tom Szukis	DTA
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Annie Harala	St. Louis County
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Jenny Van Sickle	Superior City Council
	vacant	City of Duluth - Citizen Representative
Others Present		
	Tari Aanonsen	MIC Admin Asst
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Sara Husen	WisDOT
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC
	Eli Jurewicz	MIC Intern
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Ricky Sarran	MIC GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Co-ord./Planning Asst.



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Wayne Boucher, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Boucher asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. Ron Chicka asked that the release date of the Draft 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP (Item# 4) be changed to September 1, 2023. The change was noted and Chair Boucher continued to Item# 2.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

• Meeting Summary of 6.21.23

Chair Boucher then asked if there were any questions or changes to the June meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Sam Pomush/Chad Ward moved to approve the 6.21.23 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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• Meeting Summary of 7.26.23

Chair Boucher then asked if there were any questions or changes to the July meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Ed Anderson/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 7.26.23 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Ron Chicka reported the following:

- **Safety Action Plan 2023 and 2024-** The 2023-24 UPWP was amended last month to include work by our consultant, AECOM, involving crash data analysis. The amendment was also approved by the DOT and FHWA of both states, allowing that work to continue. We are waiting to hear if our application for the Safe Streets for All grant is approved for \$250,000. We should find out in the fall of this year.
- **MIC Staffing Update-** The MIC is still in need of a Planner/Senior Planner. The position will be reposted in the coming weeks. This is a key position for the MIC that is primarily responsible for coordination of the HTAC.
- **I-35 Plan Update-** The project is nearing completion. The steering committee is set to meet next month. Ron will be taking part in two upcoming events that relate to the project. One will involve a walking tour focusing on the future of downtown Duluth and its relationship to the freeway. The event will be hosted by the UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research. The other event will be a presentation of the project for discussion and input at the MN Freight Advisory Committee meeting in St. Paul in early September. Lastly, the City of Duluth is preparing to submit a grant for the federal Reconnecting Communities Program to further examine West Duluth and downtown areas of the freeway. AECOM is preparing that application.
- **Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Triennial Review-** Ron and Rondi Watson (DTA Board Chair) will be participating in the federal review of the full range of services provided by the DTA. Planning work will be reviewed, along with the progression of the TIP and other transit projects.



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3. 2023 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #13-19

Deputy Director, Sheldon Johnson, presented the following 2023-2026 Superior Area TIP Amendments for recommendation to the Policy Board for approval:

Amendment # 13 – A request from WisDOT for pavement marking work on STH 13 from Engdahl Road to USH 53.

Amendment #14 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with preliminary design to the St. Louis River Bridge.

Amendment #15 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with preliminary design to the St. Louis River Bridge.

Amendment #16 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with real estate acquisition associated with the St. Louis River Bridge.

Amendment #17 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with a road closure at a rail crossing.

Amendment #18 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with a rail signal replacement project.

Amendment #19 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with a rail crossing surface replacement.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the 2023 Superior Area TIP Amendments #13-19. Ed Anderson proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to correct Amendment #16 to state “ROW” instead of “PE”. Baker/Pomush accepted the change to their original motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
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4. DRAFT 2024-2027 SUPERIOR AREA TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on ~~August 25~~ September 1, 2023

After a brief review of four new projects for inclusion, Deputy Director, Sheldon Johnson, requested the Draft 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on September 1, 2023 be recommended to the Policy Board for approval.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the Draft 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on September 1, 2023. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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5. FINAL 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP

Prescott Morrill briefly highlighted a handful of new projects slated in the TIP and then recommended the Final 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP to the Policy Board for adoption. At which point, Chair Boucher called for Public Comment. There was none.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Ed Anderson / Chad Ward moved to approve the Final 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. DRAFT URBAN AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Director Chicka began by explaining that the MIC Urban Area Boundary is reviewed for adjustment every ten years.

Richard Serran, MIC GIS Specialist, briefly outlined the adjustments as requested in the draft. He further explained that the adjustments are largely due to changes in Census data, along with the inclusion of whole towns or cities, where a portion was already existing in the boundary area. Dense areas have also been considered for inclusion.

The Final MIC Urban Area Boundary Adjustment will be presented next month for the recommendation to the Policy Board for approval.

7. 2024-2025 MIC WORK PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Director Ron Chicka described how the MIC would present items/tasks for inclusion in the draft 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at our upcoming meeting(s). In particular, it is time to update the MIC Bike/Ped Plan itself, along with incorporating an amendment for the Short-Range Plan if the federal grant is awarded for the Safe Streets for All program. Also, to be discussed will be to include a discretionary project, with the help of a consultant, for an areawide Traffic Signal Assessment Plan. Final UPWP approval is anticipated in September.

8. DULUTH AREA I-35 CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE

Rondi Watson gave a progress report on the I-35 Corridor Study, as it is nearing completion. Highlights included feedback from an online survey and public meeting, both well populated. Respondents varied by modality and key themes were attained from the survey. One major theme that surfaced is to prioritize both pedestrian and bicycle modes of transportation in the area. Survey results also showed the popularity of certain concepts, over others, that were proposed through the study for both Spirit Valley, (the Consolidated Interchange), and the downtown, (the Lid Concept). Next steps include implementation, the application for the Connecting Communities Grant and lastly, the Final Plan, to be presented to the Policy board for approval in December 2023.

9. ROUND TABLE

Mike Mayou voiced his support and excitement over the Connecting Communities grant application and wanted to know if there was anything else he can do to support the effort. Director Chicka responded that letters of support from jurisdictions would be customary and requested to go along with the application process. A template will be available next month.

Sam Pomush voiced concerns over the suspension of certain bus routes/service to Superior from Duluth, particularly in the Billings Park neighborhood.

Tom Szukis stated that the DTA worked on collecting data for a number of years to make informed decisions on the changes currently underway with the DTA service routes. After community impact is assessed, further adjustments may be made. Rondi Watson, MIC Communications Coordinator and DTA Board Chair, added that efficiencies were determined in order to serve more people overall.



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Mark Johnson stated that he represents the constituents of Billings Park and understands that the DTA's overhead cost per rider is substantial, however, the cessation of service still leaves six community members without transportation services.

Prescott Morrill, MIC planner, recognized MIC Intern, Eli Jurewicz, for his work with the MIC over the course of the summer. This will be his last week of work with the MIC.

8. **ADJOURN:** With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm.