



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

June 18, 2024 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative & Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Jeff Abboud	WisDOT
	Chris Belden (after voting items)	Duluth Transit Authority
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Derek Fredrickson	MnDOT District 1
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Chris Lee *	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
	Skip Williams*	Active Transportation
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Trish Crego	City of Hermantown
	Miles Hanson	City of Duluth, Americorps
	Sheldon Johnson	NWRPC –MIC Deputy Director
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Transportation Planner
	Josh Pearson	FHWA-MN
	Dena Ryan	FHWA-MN
	Nicole Samuelson	MIC Intern
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Erika Shepard	MnDOT Central Office
	Matthew Sorensen	WisDOT Central Office
	Mike Sullivan	Marad/US DOT/Maritime Administration
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Principal Planner



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When completed, Ron asked if there were any questions or other changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summaries of 5.14.24*

Ron then asked if there were any questions or changes to the May meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Maren Webb / James Gittemeier moved to approve the 5.14.24 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Director Chicka reported on several items of interest that were highlighted in the Director’s Report in the agenda packet as well as some items listed below:

Bridge Modeling – Following on prior work examining different options for closure of the Blatnik Bridge (direction, lanes) and resulting issues with freight traffic, we’ll again look at what our model states as to impacts to the network of full closure that would occur in three years’ time. This is not to look at possible remedies, though possibly still an option. It needs to be conducted as simply a task of the designated MPO and being the responsible entity overseeing the transportation network of Duluth - Superior. At a minimum, we’d have results of what the model would forecast as to impacts – where and to what degree. Depending on our budget, this might occur with our consultant later this year, or early in 2025. It’s possible this could complement the detailed mitigation work currently being undertaken by the two DOTs.

MIC Board - Douglas County – We have a Certificate of Appreciation to present at the Board meeting in June to Rosemary Lear. A change was made in the latest appointments to committees, and I was informed of this last month. Rosemary has been with the MIC for 12 years and we greatly appreciate her time and contributions over the time span. Thank you on behalf of the MIC staff and committees.

Federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant – To receive the required match funds for the recent \$250K grant the MIC received, we’ve submitted a request to the Minnesota DOT for the full \$62,500 so that we may utilize the full federal amount and be prepared to issue the RFP, likely early next year. We should know if we are successful. If not, we’re prepared with a few options as to acquiring the match from member jurisdictions, in addition to the match from ARDC.

Wisconsin Carbon Reduction Program Funding – After continued deliberations at the State level, MPOs (and others) were notified last month of these federal funds, once more, being made available to member jurisdictions. Project eligibility has been expanded to more categories – more in the spirit of the federal program – including construction and planning of on/off road facilities for bikes and pedestrians. Since a year was missed in the cycle, we’ve got approximately \$150K to use within the MPO area in Wisconsin. There is a local match requirement. We are discussing project options with eligible applicants currently. Applications are due by the end of June.

Todd Janigo commented that the ATP plan identified the Millenium Trail to Tower Avenue connection as the most ideal use of the Wisconsin CRP funds in the Superior area.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

3. DRAFT 2025-2028 DULUTH AREA TIP – RELEASE FOR 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON JULY 1, 2024*

Prescott Morrill discussed the current steps leading up to the release for public comment for the Draft 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP. The MIC is currently consulting with constituent jurisdictions for input and completing the draft document for review.

The MIC is requesting approval for the release of the Draft 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP for the 30-Day Public Comment Period on July 1, 2024.

Questions regarding the Duluth Area TIP should be directed to Prescott Morrill at 218-529-7556 or by email at pmorrill@ardc.org.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and text describing the motion to recommend the release of the Draft 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP.

4. DRAFT LONG RANGE MTP 2050 – RELEASE FOR 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AUGUST 1, 2024*

Mike presented several chapters of the Draft Long Range MTP 2050 for review and discussion. Time was allowed for feedback on the following chapters and pieces to the draft document:

- Socioeconomic Document (Update from AECOM)
• Key Takeaways Chapter
• Acton Steps to Implement Chapter topics
• MTP Priority Projects Map
• MTP Priority Projects List
• Financial Capacity of Planned Projects (25 Years) Table

Discussion took place regarding specific items to include or omit from the final draft document. The overall goal for the Long Range MTP 2050 was to take action steps to implement performance-based planning, building off of the 2045 plan. The MIC is very appreciative for the additional efforts and input by the local jurisdictions over the past several months in helping attain this goal.

Questions regarding the Long Range MTP 2050 should be directed to Mike Wenholz at 218-529-7573 or by email at mwenholz@ardc.org.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and text describing the motion to recommend the release of the Draft Long Range MTP 2050.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

5. 2025-2026 MIC WORK PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Ron Chicka requested TAC personnel consider optional/discretionary projects that the MIC staff might facilitate. These would be in addition to the ongoing work of the TIP, Metro Long Range Plan and our modal elements (Bike/Ped, Harbor, Freight, Roadway and Transit). Please reach out to Ron in the next 6-8 weeks with any requests or suggestions.

6. ROUND TABLE

- Ricky Sarran asked the committee if they all wanted to receive a copy of the Draft 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP document, once it was completed and ready for review. Committee members agreed that it would be best to send it to the entire committee.
- Maren Webb stated that information is published regarding the next TED solicitation; funding is available for 2025-2027.
- Ron Chicka mentioned that there are public meetings being held by St. Louis County the following week regarding 40th Ave W and the intersection at 24 Ave W and Piedmont.

7. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2024-2027 Superior Area TIP- Administrative Modification #1**

Project Description Change to Project 113-24-001

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation requested a change to the project description (FIPS Number) for an existing TIP project already listed in the 2024-2027 TIP. The project, USH 2 from 53rd Ave E to CTH C (TIP Project ID 113-24-001), will incorporate a change in the FIPS number from 1180-00-31 to 1180-00-60*. The project year, scope and cost are not affected.

- **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**

In April of this year, ISD 709 was awarded a grant from MnDOT to fund a 3-year dedicated position for a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) coordinator. This person will be working with Duluth ISD 709 to implement existing SRTS plans and will be housed with Duluth's ISD 709.

- **2024 MIC Safety Action Plan**

MIC staff is continuing to work with AECOM to draft the MIC Safety Action Plan. At present, the project team is reviewing Safety Emphasis Areas that pertain to various streetscape contexts, and what types of implements may be used in the future to mitigate safety risks. Additionally, MIC staff, with the assistance of our AECOM consultants, are working towards an inventory of all applicable road sections and intersections where these safety measures may be implemented.

- ### 8. ADJOURN:
- With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Ron Chicka adjourned the meeting at 2:59 pm.