

Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050 Updates for the MIC Board

June 26, 2024



Sustainable Choices 2050 - Vision

Sustainable Choices 2050 is guided by the following overall vision:

Develop a community-supported multimodal transportation system that not only supports the diverse needs of people and commerce, but is also fiscally, socially, and environmentally sustainable over time.



MTP Drafts Shared with TAC

- Socioeconomic Document Update from AECOM (appendix)
- A Vision to Implement chapter
- Key Takeaways chapter
- Action Steps to Implement chapter
- Progress Since *Sustainable Choices 2045* appendix
- MTP Priority Projects Map
- MTP Priority Projects List
- Financial Capacity of Planned Projects (25 Years) Table
- Performance-Based Planning chapter also completed

Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Key Takeaways

3. Key Takeaways

This chapter describes the key takeaway points to consider in making sustainable choices for the Duluth-Superior area transportation system.

KEY TAKEAWAY POINTS	3-2
1. Many Needs and Wants, Limited Resources	3-2
2. Integrated System-Wide Focus	3-2
3. Investment Priorities	3-2
4. Balance of Multiple Goals.....	3-3
5. Equity & Accessibility.....	3-3
6. Multi-Modal Choices	3-3
7. Sidewalk/Pedestrian/Bikeway Connectivity	3-3
8. Public Transportation	3-4
9. Historically Stagnant Population Growth	3-4
10. Aging Population	3-5
11. Low Levels of Traffic Congestion	3-5
12. Commuters	3-5
13. Poverty & Low Income	3-6
14. Ambulatory Difficulty	3-6
15. Evidence-Based Decisions	3-7
16. Safety	3-7
17. Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure	3-7
18. Environmental Sustainability.....	3-7
19. Public Health Impacts.....	3-8
20. Policy Development.....	3-8
21. Geographic Challenges	3-8
22. Unknown Impacts of Emerging Technologies	3-8
23. Cost & Funding Concerns	3-9

Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Action Steps to Implement

9. Action Steps to Implement

This chapter identifies primary action steps that are recommended to be implemented to best achieve the vision, goals, and objectives of *Sustainable Choices 2050* across the Duluth-Superior area transportation system. These action steps are the cumulative integration of updated local socioeconomic and travel demand data, public and stakeholder comments, input from the local jurisdictions, and other planning factors.

- PRIMARY ACTION STEPS TO IMPLEMENT 9-2**
 - 1. Incorporate Performance-Based Planning 9-2
 - 2. Improve Safety 9-2
 - 3. Prioritize a Multimodal System 9-3
 - 4. Maintain System Infrastructure..... 9-3
 - 5. Strive for an Equitable & Accessible System 9-4
 - 6. Policy Development..... 9-5
 - 7. Coordinated Regional Asset Management..... 9-5
 - 8. Prepare for Blatnik Bridge Reconstruction 9-6

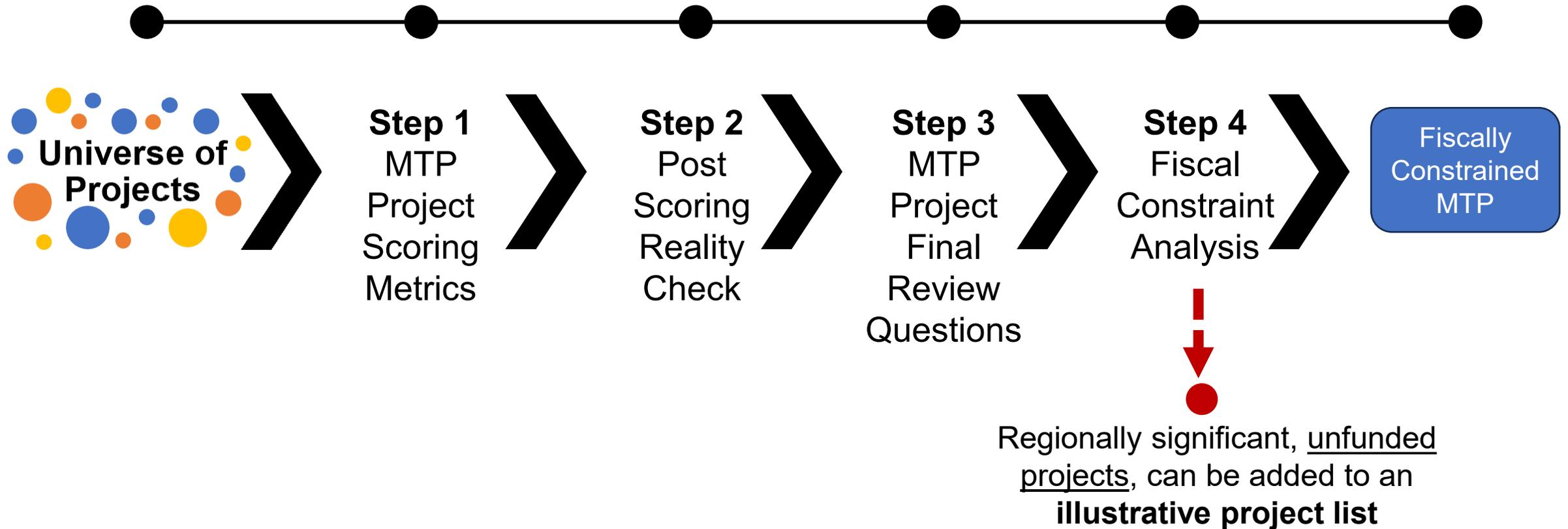
Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

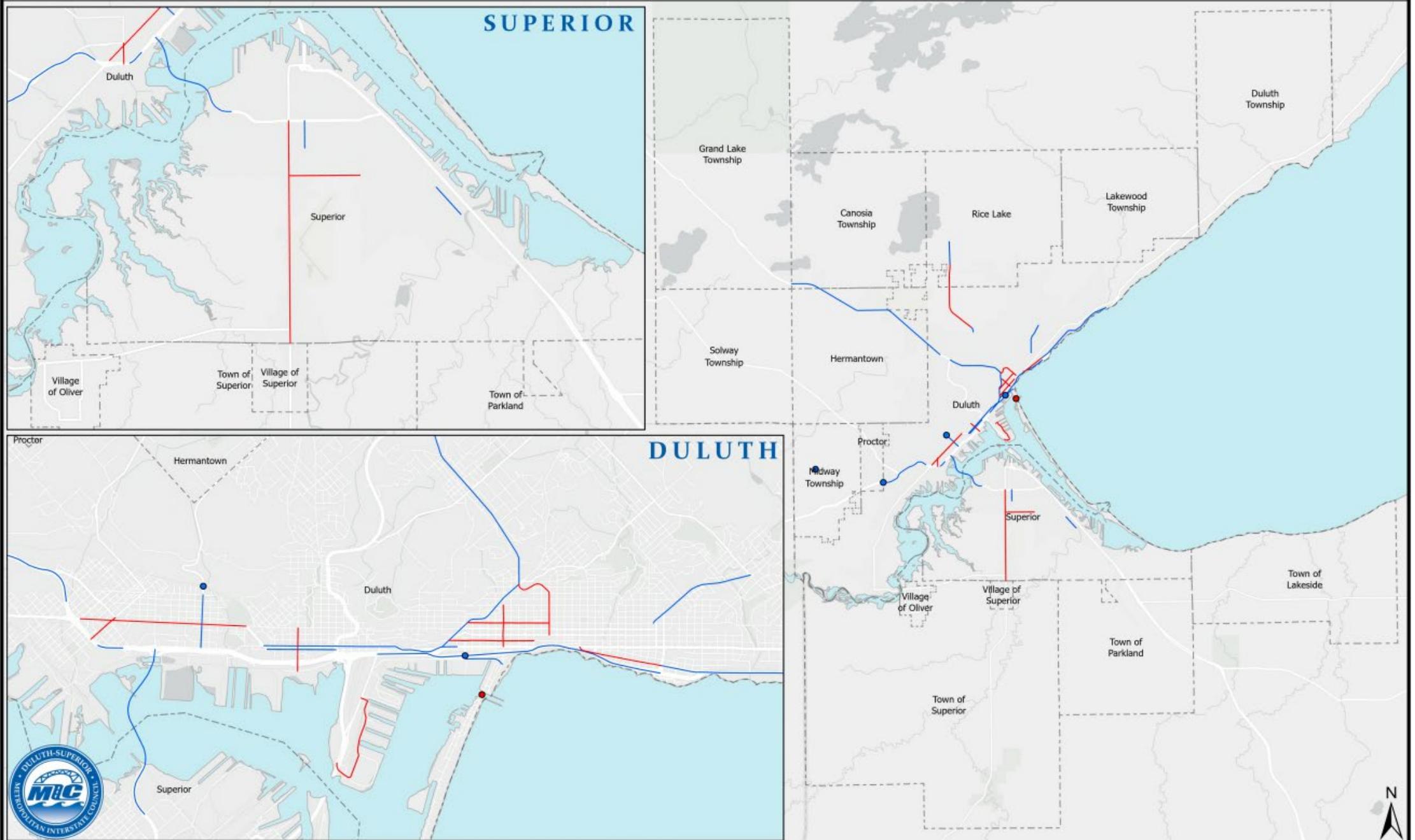
MTP Priority Projects Map & List

MTP Project PBP Scoring Process



ProjectID	Project Location	Project Description	Project Type	Jurisdiction	Fiscally Constrained	Final Rank	Final Score	Step 1 Rank	Step Added to List
MN-03-91	W Superior St	Michigan St to 6th Ave W	Reconstruction	Duluth	Y	1	143	23	1
MN-03-11	40th Ave W	Grand Ave to I-35	Reconstruction	Duluth	Y	2	141	7	1
MN-03-07	W Superior Street	Carlton St to Michigan St	Reconstruction	Duluth	Y	3	135	27	1
MN-03-29	Grand Ave	Carlton St to 59th Ave W	Preservation	Duluth	N	4	134	20	1
MN-03-25	6th Ave East/Central Entrance	2nd Street to Mesaba Ave	Reconstruction	Duluth	N	5	129	31	1
MN-01-06	London Rd	26th Ave E to 60th Ave E Roundabouts at 26	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	6	125	8	1
MN-03-13	London Road	21st Ave E to 26th Ave E	Preservation	Duluth	Y	6	125	14	1
MN-03-28	4th Street	Mesaba Ave to 6th Ave E	Reconstruction	Duluth	N	6	125	15	1
MN-03-51	Woodland Ave	4th Street to Arrowhead Rd	Preservation	Duluth	Y	9	122	24	1
WI-03-03	Hammond Ave	Belknap St to 21th St	Reconstruction	Superior	Y	10	120	17	1
MN-03-73	Central Ave	I-35 to Cody St	Preservation	Duluth	N	10	120	28	1
MN-03-89	1st Street	Mesaba Ave to 4th Ave E	Reconstruction	Duluth	N	12	117	4	1
WI-03-11	Tower Ave	South of Belknap	Reconstruction	Superior	N	13	112	6	1
MN-03-42	27th Ave W	Courtland St to 3rd St	Preservation	Duluth	N	13	112	12	1
MN-03-35	London Rd	Superior St to 21st Ave E	Preservation	Duluth	N	15	111	13	1
WI-03-05	E 5TH ST	24th Ave E and 31st Ave E	Reconstruction	Superior	Y	16	110	29	1
WI-03-06	28th St	Paved Trail	Bike/Pederstrian Improvement	Superior	N	17	107	25	1
MN-03-84	Lake Ave	Superior St to 7th St	Preservation	Duluth	N	18	99	2	1
MN-03-90	W Michigan St	TH 53 overpass to Carlton St	Reconstruction	Duluth	Y	18	99	21	1
MN-02-30	40th Ave W	Grand Ave to 8th St	Reconstruction	Saint Louis Co	Y	18	99	30	1
WI-03-01	Tower Ave	South of Belknap	Preservation	Superior	N	21	97	5	1
MN-03-02	Railroad Street	Lake Ave to 5th Ave W	Preservation	Duluth	Y	22	95	26	1
MN-01-05	Central Entrance Corridor	Partial Reconstruction & Multi-Modal Improver	Reconstruction	MnDOT	Y	23	94	18	1
Unfunded-2	Rice Lake Road	Technology Dr. to N. Tischer Rd.	Reconstruction	Saint Louis Co	N	24	92	145	2
MN-01-01	I-35	Lake Ave to 21st Ave E Concrete Repair and	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	25	84	3	1
MN-02-71	Rice Lake Road	Seperated Bike and Ped Trail	Bike/Pederstrian Improvement	Saint Louis Co	Y	26	81	110	2
MN-01-43	I-35/I-35 Tunnels	Segment(s) to be determined	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	27	79	1	1
MN-03-01	Aerial Lift Bridge	Structural and Mechanical maintenance, pain	Preservation	Duluth	Y	28	74	154	2
MN-03-37	Aerial Lift Bridge	Structural Rehabilitation and Painitng	Preservation	Duluth	N	28	74	155	2
MN-01-42	Hwy 194	Segment(s) to be determined	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	30	69	11	1
MN-03-18	Port Terminal Rd	Garfield Ave to Helberg Dr	Preservation	Duluth	N	31	68	160	2
MN-01-39	Hwy 53	Segment(s) to be determined	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	32	64	19	1
MN-01-08	I-35	Under 5th Ave W Bridge and MN 23 to 50th A	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	33	63	22	1
MN-01-35	5th Ave	5th Ave Bridge #69870 Over I-35	Bridge Repair or Reconstruction	MnDOT	Y	33	63	32	2
MN-02-39	Midway Rd.	Midway Rd at N Cloquet Rd	ntersection Control or Roundabou	Saint Louis Co	Y	33	63	158	2
MN-03-20	Helberg Dr	Garfield Ave to Port Terminal Dr	Preservation	Duluth	N	36	48	161	2
MN-01-17	Haines Rd/40th Ave W RR Crossing	RR Crossing improvements DOT #251887W	Safety	MnDOT	Y	37	47	135	2
MN-01-30	I-35	Boundary Ave to Bridge over Grand Ave/Rej	Reconstruction	MnDOT	Y	38	46	109	2
MN-01-38	Boundary Ave Interchange	I-35 at Boundary Ave	Bridge Repair or Reconstruction	MnDOT	Y	39	42	136	2
MN-01-37	Bong Bridge	Redecking	Preservation	MnDOT	Y	40	32	192	2

Duluth-Superior Area Priority Transportation Projects



Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Financial Capacity of Planned Projects (25 Years)

Figure 6.8 - Financial Capacity of Planned Projects (25 years)

Figure 6.8 - Financial Capacity of Planned Projects (25 years)									
	Revenues				Expenditures				
MPO Jurisdictions	Federal \$	State \$	Local \$	Total Revenues	Planned Projects	Surplus/ Deficit	Unfunded Needs	Operations & Maintenance	Notes
MnDOT	\$ 368,700,000	\$ 368,700,000	\$ -	\$ 737,400,000	\$ 1,595,278,000	\$ (857,878,000)	\$ 55,400,000	\$ 177,800,000	1
WISDOT	\$ 166,900,000	\$ 103,800,000	\$ -	\$ 270,700,000	\$ 956,106,500	\$ (685,406,500)	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 138,000,000	2
Douglas County	\$ 62,300,000	\$ -	\$ 38,200,000	\$ 100,500,000	\$ 22,553,000	\$ 77,947,000	\$ -	\$ 186,600,000	3
St. Louis County	\$ 56,800,000	\$ 258,200,000	\$ 210,800,000	\$ 525,800,000	\$ 172,064,000	\$ 353,736,000	\$ 71,200,000	\$ 324,800,000	3
City of Duluth	\$ 48,600,000	\$ 146,200,000	\$ 170,400,000	\$ 365,200,000	\$ 228,065,332	\$ 137,134,668	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 416,500,000	3
City of Hermantown	\$ 25,200,000	\$ 93,100,000	\$ 42,800,000	\$ 161,100,000	\$ 8,600,000	\$ 152,500,000	\$ -	\$ 34,200,000	3
City of Proctor	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 19,700,000	\$ 9,950,000	\$ 9,750,000	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 12,500,000	3
City of Superior	\$ 21,000,000	\$ -	\$ 13,200,000	\$ 34,200,000	\$ 62,000,000	\$ (27,800,000)	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 161,100,000	3
Total	\$ 751,700,000	\$ 975,000,000	\$ 487,900,000	\$ 2,214,600,000	\$ 3,054,616,832	-\$840,016,832	\$ 301,600,000	\$ 1,451,500,000	

Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Other Key Findings & Updates

Public Engagement – Phase 1

Issues & Opportunities

- Public Survey
- Focus Groups & Targeted Stakeholders
- Consultations
- Presentations to MIC Policy Board & TAC

Public Engagement – Phase 1

Public Survey

- 422 responses received
- Overall, comments suggest a community desire for a more **equitable** and **sustainable** transportation network that **prioritizes safety, accessibility, and environmental considerations**

Public Engagement – Phase 1

Focus Groups & Targeted Stakeholders

- Pedestrians
- Sustainability
- Equity
- HTAC - Port/Harbor/Multimodal Freight
- BPAC
- Older Adults
- People with Disabilities

Public Engagement – Phase 1

Consultations

- MIC Area Jurisdictions (2 rounds)
- Passenger (NLX) & Freight Rail
- Superior-Douglas County Area Chamber of Commerce
- Duluth Transit Authority (DTA)
- Natural Resources & Environmental
- Historic Resources

Public Engagement – Phase 1

Key Themes/Findings

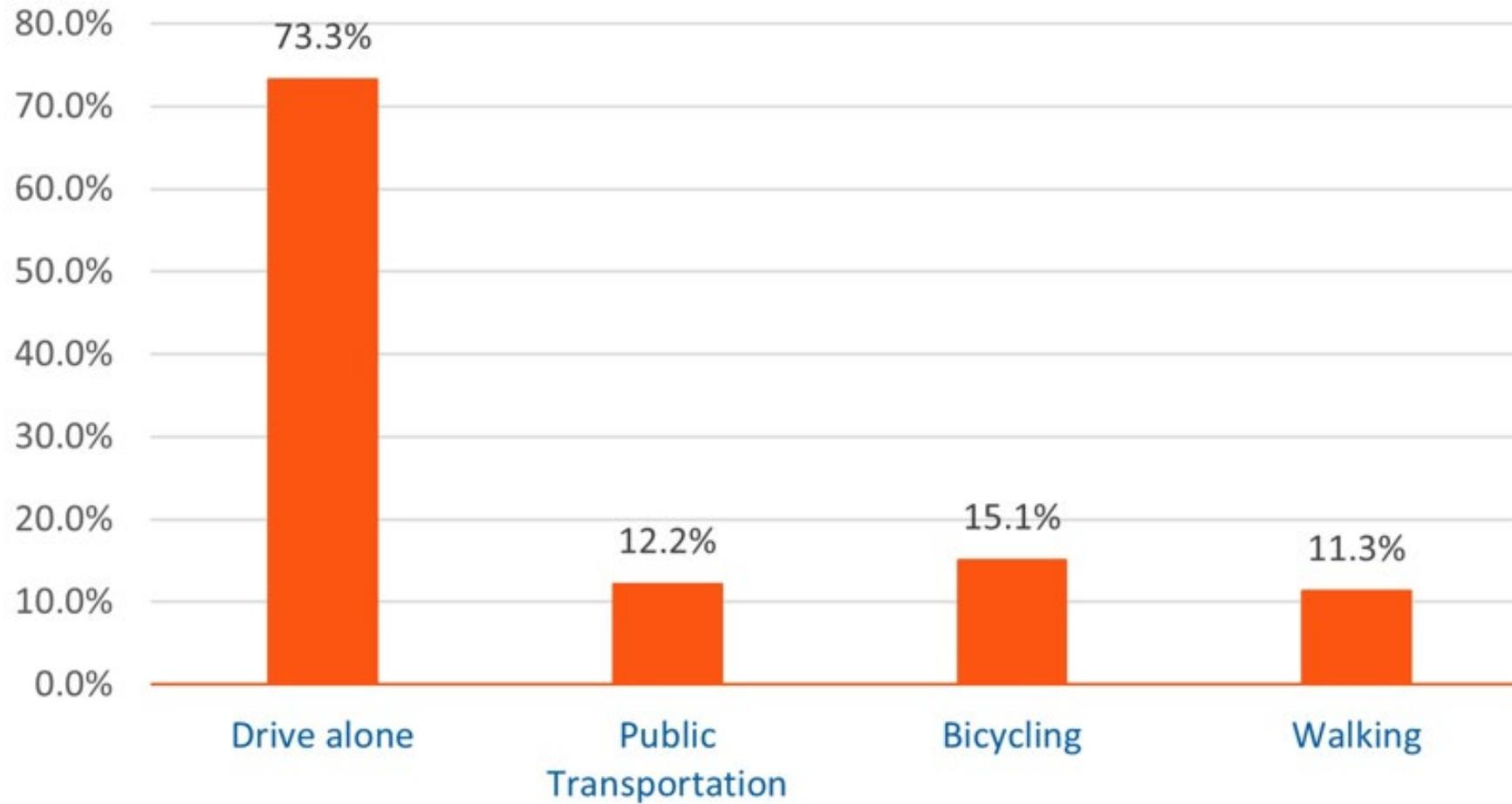
- Safety identified as very important
- Improved facilities for walking, biking, and transit
- Year-round reliability & maintenance (snow clearance)
- Improvements in transit operations, especially STRIDE
- Prioritize the most vulnerable users of the transportation system
- Focus on Equity (historically underserved areas & populations)
- Need funding
- Policy Recommendations

Public Engagement – Phase 2

Draft & Final MTP

- Conduct agency consultations (FHWA, MnDOT, WisDOT)
- Distribute online & to MIC, TAC, BPAC, HTAC and identified contacts
- Hold public meetings (Duluth & Superior)

What method(s) of transportation do you routinely use?

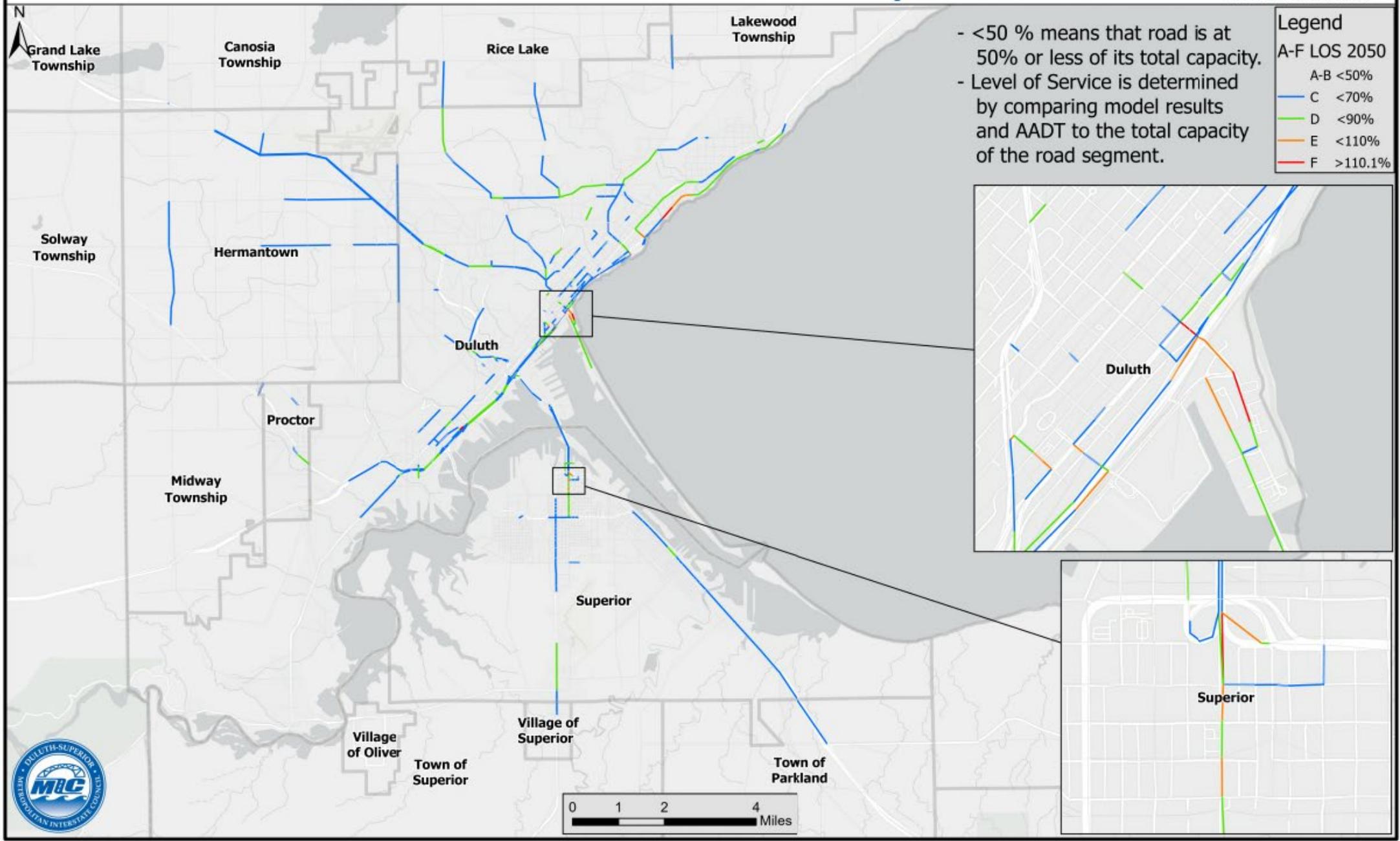


422 total respondents

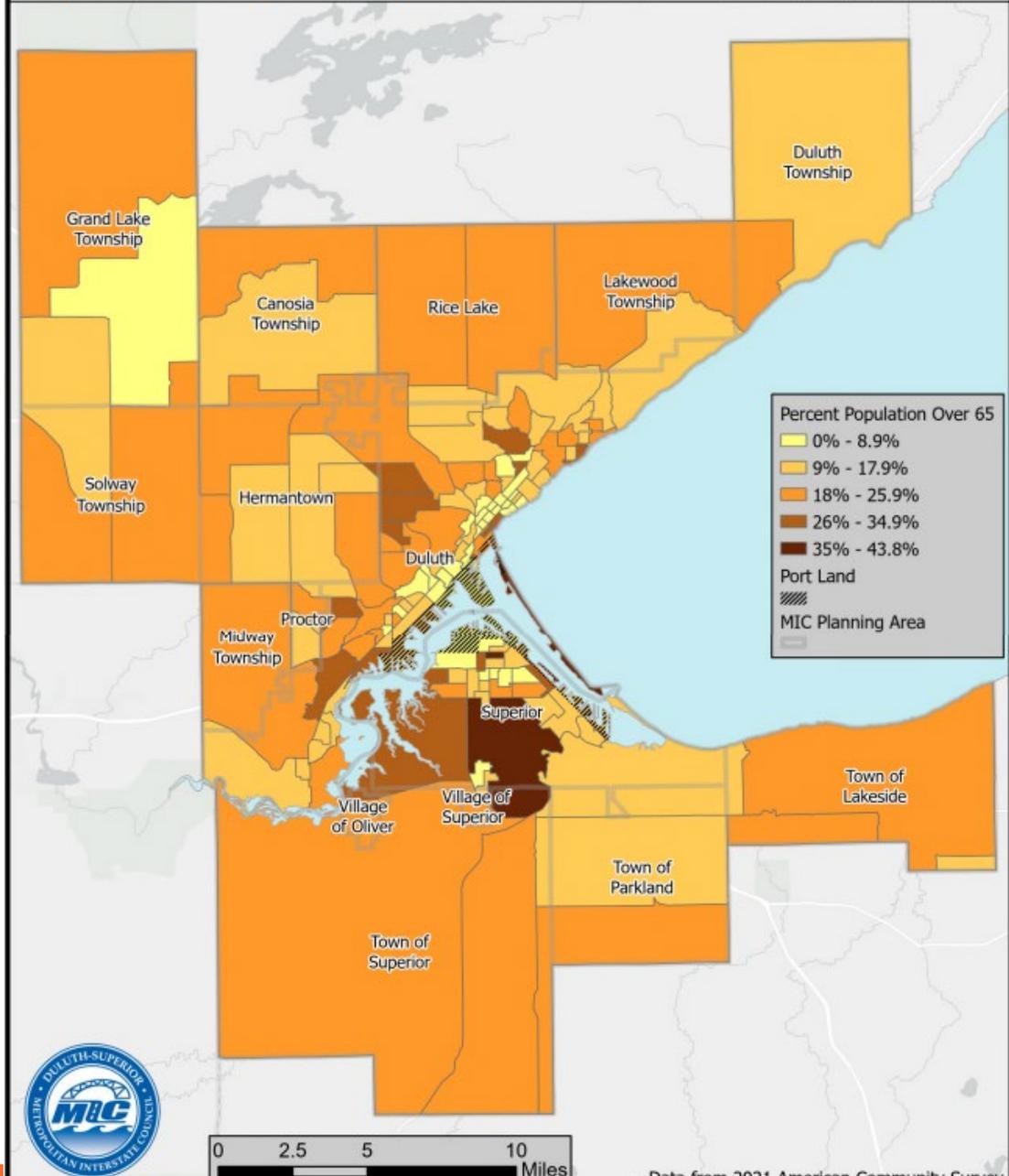
2024 MIC Area Roadway/Pavement Condition By Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	% Good	% Fair	% Poor
MnDOT	61	33	5
St Louis County	82	14	4
City of Duluth	32	0	68
City of Hermantown			
City of Proctor			
City of Rice Lake			
WisDOT	83	7	10
Douglas County			
City of Superior	19	68	13

2050 Level of Service — Duluth-Superior MPO



Duluth-Superior Percent Population Age 65+ by Block Group





Increasing Cost of Transportation Infrastructure Construction



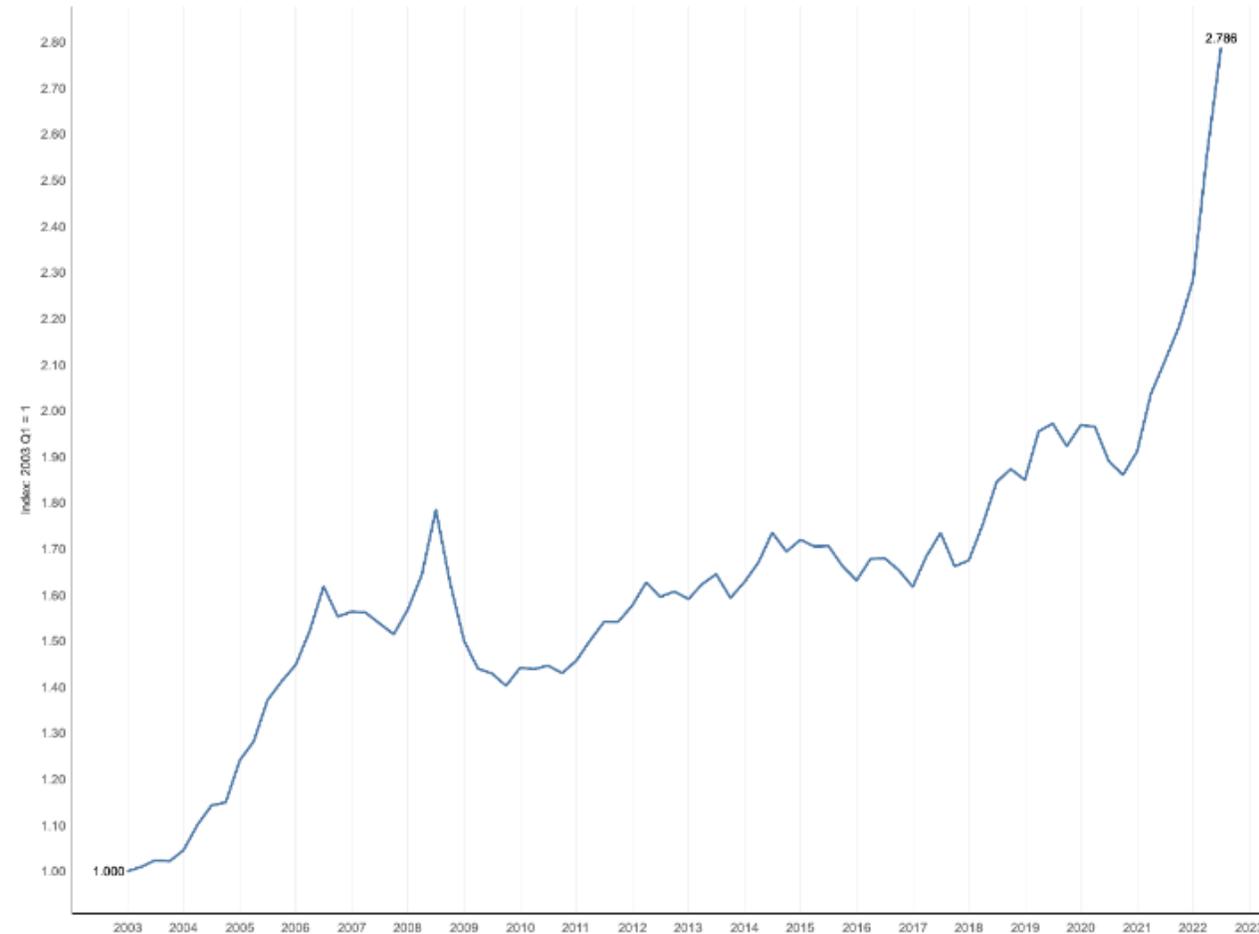
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

National Highway Construction Cost Index (NHCCI)

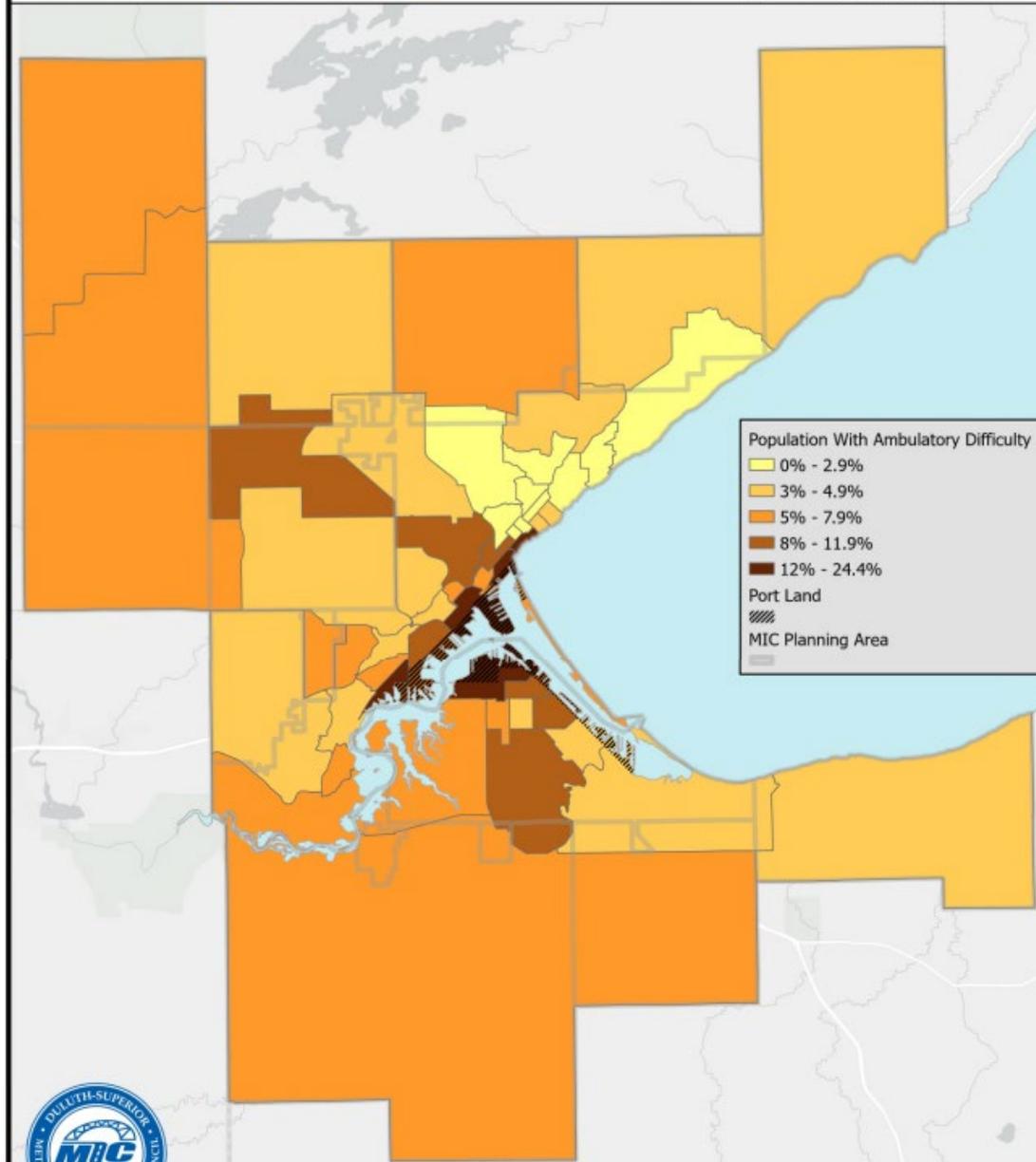


Select Year and Quarter:

2003 Q1 2022 Q3



Duluth-Superior % of Population with Ambulatory Difficulties per Census Tract



- Ambulatory difficulty includes those who have difficulty walking or using stairs.
- Data from 2021 American Community Survey

Table 6. Poverty by Families

Geography	All Families	Percent Below Poverty Level:	Families of 3 or 4 People	Percent Below Poverty Level:
United States	79,849,830	9.1%	32,207,636	9.5%
Minnesota	1,404,798	5.6%	536,202	5.5%
Wisconsin	1,479,364	6.8%	541,985	7.5%
St. Louis County, MN	48,309	6.9%	16,350	7.5%
Douglas County, WI	11,423	7.8%	739	12.6%
MIC (MN)	25,951	5.7%	9,506	4.9%
<i>Duluth city</i>	17,944	7.2%	6,465	6.1%
<i>Hermantown city</i>	2,414	3.4%	1,088	5.6%
<i>Proctor city</i>	756	0.9%	300	0.0%
<i>Rice Lake township</i>	1,199	2.3%	377	0.0%
<i>Grand Lake township</i>	752	3.9%	318	2.5%
<i>Lakewood township</i>	677	1.5%	186	2.7%
<i>Canosia township</i>	605	0.7%	250	0.0%
<i>Solway township</i>	618	0.5%	216	0.0%
<i>Duluth township</i>	615	1.1%	188	0.0%
<i>Midway township</i>	371	1.6%	118	0.0%
MIC (WI)	7,905	8.8%	2,895	7.0%
<i>Superior city</i>	6,315	10.4%	2,306	8.7%
<i>Superior town</i>	697	1.9%	271	0.0%
<i>Parkland town</i>	442	1.4%	155	1.9%
<i>Lakeside town</i>	169	5.3%	44	0.0%
<i>Superior village</i>	190	2.6%	89	0.0%
<i>Oliver village</i>	92	5.4%	30	0.0%
Total MIC	33,856	6.4%	12,401	5.4%

Source: American Community Survey 2021

6.4% of Families

=

2167 Families

Below Poverty Level in MIC Area



Board MTP Feedback

- Any Questions or Concerns?
- General thoughts or recommendations?

Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Remaining Timeline



Significant Deadlines

- Complete DRAFT MTP (Now – June)
- Request Approval for Public Review Period (today)
- Submit DRAFT MTP to FHWA, MnDOT, and WisDOT for review (July)
- Public Review Period & Public Open Houses (August)
- Make Final Revisions (September)
- Request Approval of final MTP (October)

Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

**Request Release of DRAFT MTP
for 30-Day Public Review Period**



Action Requested

Motion to approve the release of the draft of *Sustainable Choices 2050* for a 30-day public comment period to open on August 1, 2024.

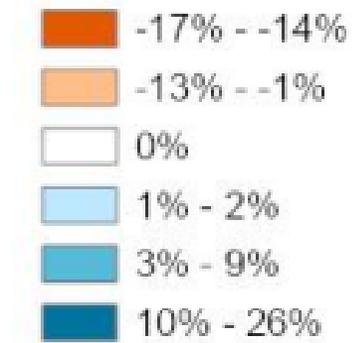
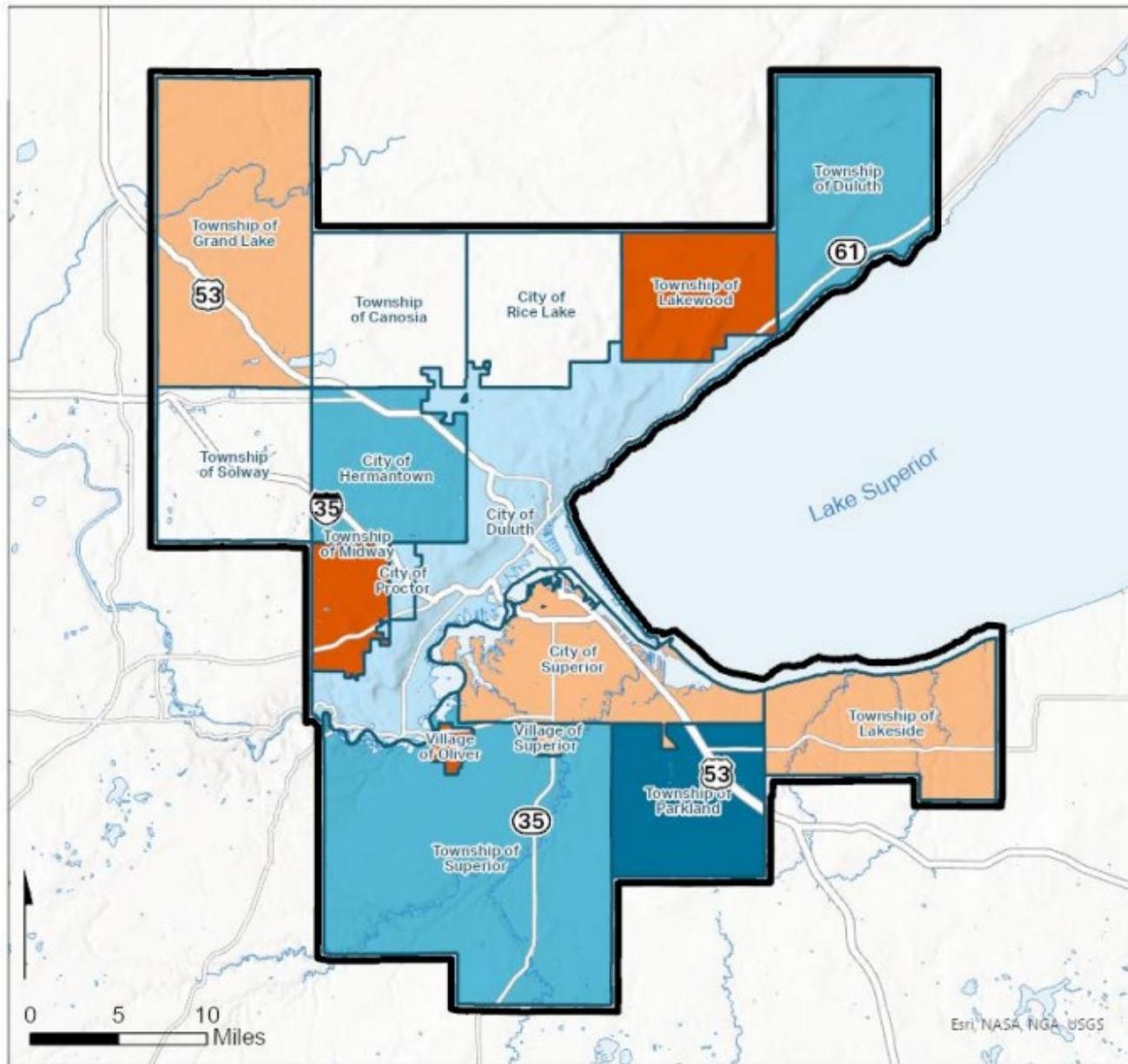
Duluth-Superior Long-Range Transportation Plan



Sustainable Choices 2050

Questions / Discussion

Mike Wenholz
mwenholz@ardc.org

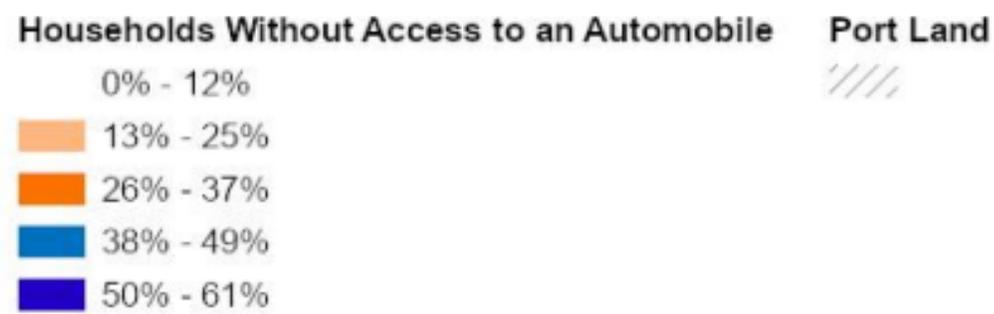
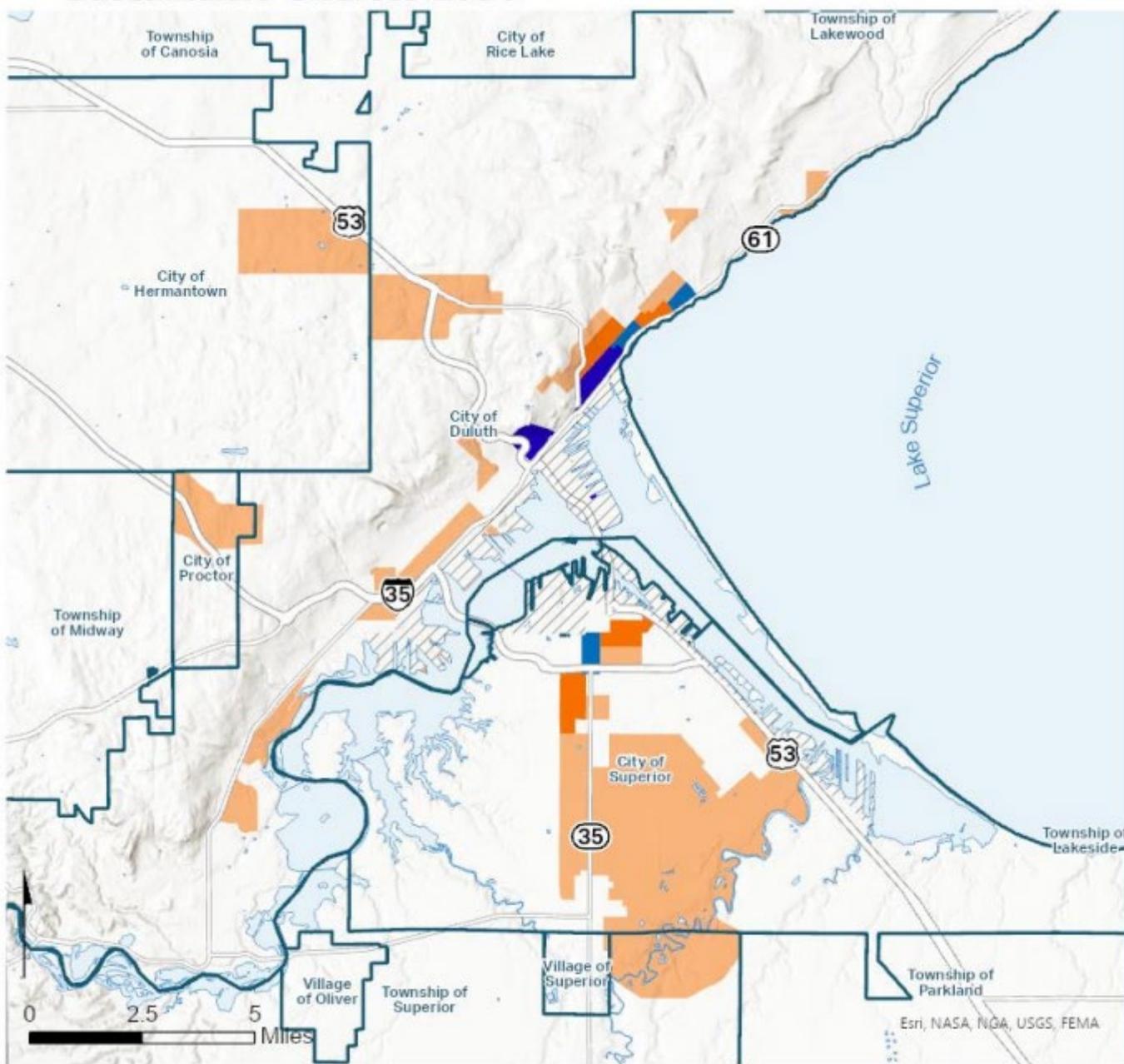


Source: American Community Survey 2015, 2021

Percent Change in Population 2015 - 2021

		2000	2010	2015	2020	2015-2020	2021	2015-2021
1	United States	281,421,906	308,745,538	316,515,021	331,449,281	14,934,260		
2	Minnesota	4,919,479	5,303,925	5,419,171	5,706,494	287,323		
3	Wisconsin	5,363,675	5,686,986	5,742,117	5,893,718	151,601		
7	St. Louis County, Minnesota	200,528	200,226	200,506	200,231	(275)		
8	Douglas County, Wisconsin	43,287	44,159	43,799	44,295	496		
9	MIC (MN)	113,033	115,242	115,719	115,316	(403)	116,352	633
10	Duluth city	86,918	86,265	86,178	85,852	(326)	86,711	533
11	Hermantown city	7,448	9,414	9,627	9,577	(50)	10,128	501
12	Proctor city	2,852	3,057	3,060	3,039	(21)	3,113	53
13	Rice Lake township	4,139	4,095	4,119	4,136	17	4,114	(5)
14	Grand Lake township	2,621	2,779	2,789	2,793	4	2,728	(61)
15	Lakewood township	2,013	2,190	2,449	2,177	(272)	2,117	(332)
16	Canosia township	1,998	2,158	2,213	2,328	115	2,210	(3)
17	Solway township	1,842	1,944	1,919	1,995	76	1,924	5
18	Duluth township	1,723	1,941	1,872	2,061	189	2,040	168
19	Midway township	1,479	1,399	1,493	1,358	(135)	1,267	(226)
20	MIC (WI)	32,133	32,386	31,822	31,455	(367)	32,005	183
21	Superior city	27,368	27,244	26,817	26,260	(557)	26,601	(216)
22	Superior town	2,058	2,166	2,035	2,103	68	2,167	132
23	Parkland town	1,240	1,220	1,330	1,553	223	1,670	340
24	Lakeside town	609	693	581	552	(29)	574	(7)
25	Superior village	500	664	700	709	9	696	(4)
26	Oliver village	358	399	359	278	(81)	297	(62)
27	Total MIC	145,166	147,628	147,541	146,771	(770)	148,357	816

Source: Census 2000, 2010, 2020, American Community Survey 2015



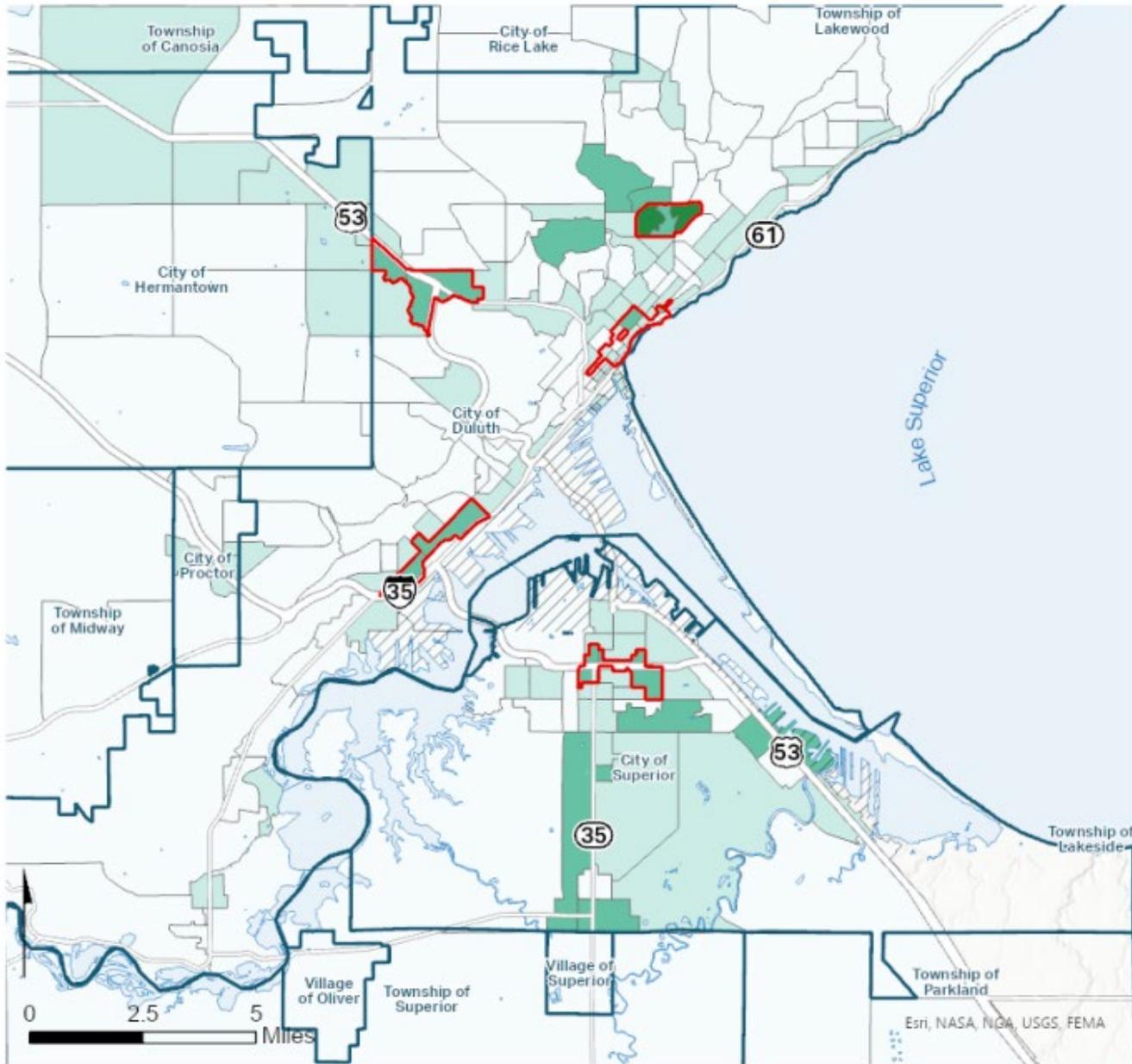
Source: ACS 2021

Low Access to Automobiles

Table 9. MIC Employment

	Employed in the MIC Area	Employed and Living in the MIC Area	Employed in the MIC Area but Living Outside	Living in the MIC Area but Employed Outside
2015	87,360	56,203	31,157	14,764
2016	88,112	55,456	32,656	14,620
2017	88,671	55,085	33,586	15,890
2018	87,582	52,891	34,691	15,977
2019	90,915	54,770	36,145	15,334
2020	84,482	50,354	34,128	14,542
2021	82,817	48,672	34,145	15,159
Change 2015-2021	(4,543)	(7,531)	2,988	385

Source: On the Map 2021



Number of trips shorter than 1 mile

- 26 - 488
- 489 - 1171
- 1172 - 2214
- 2215 - 5573
- 5574 - 13054

Short Trip Generators

- Port Land
-

Source: Replica

Short Trip Generating Areas