



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

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 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 6.18.24
- 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendment #16
- Final 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP

### Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Draft 2025-2026 MIC Work Program Discussion
- Long Range MTP 2050 Project Update

### Project Updates

- City of Duluth West Superior Street Traffic Re-routing
- 2027 & 2028 MN Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Solicitation

### In-Person Meeting Location:

Duluth International Airport  
4701 Grindon Drive  
Duluth, MN 55811

### OR join virtually via TEAMS below:

[Click here to join teams meeting](#)

### OR join by Phone (audio only)

**+1 218-210-0525**

Conference ID: 716 059 556#

### Attendance / Meeting Quorum

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please notify 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). We are committed to accessibility. If you have an accommodation request that will allow you to participate more fully, 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)**

# Directions to Duluth Airport Conference Room



-The Conference Room is located on the 3rd floor of the airport terminal. Take the elevator, located toward the back of the building (near the restrooms on the 2nd (skywalk) level, or between the baggage claim carousels on the ground floor).

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

David Bolf

Trish Crego (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

Rod Fournier (alternate)

Economic Development

Karl Schuettler

MnDOT

Maren Webb

Derek Fredrickson

Bryan Anderson

(alternate)

Mobility Challenged

Vacant

Port/Harbor

Kate Ferguson

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi

Matt Hemmila (alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Mae Sommerfeld



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 1:30 pm  
MEETING AGENDA

1. <b>Introductions/Agenda Review</b>	
2. <b>Committee Business</b>	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary 6.18.24 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul>	
3. <b>2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendment #16</b>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for approval, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	
4. <b>Final 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP</b>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for adoption, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>	
5. <b>Draft 2025-2026 MIC Work Program Discussion</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Ron Chicka</li> </ul>	
6. <b>Long Range MTP 2050 Project Update</b>	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Mike Wenholz</li> </ul>	
7. <b>Round Table</b>	5 min
8. <b>Project Updates</b>	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Duluth West Superior Street Traffic Re-routing</li> <li>2027 &amp; 2028 MN Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Solicitation</li> </ul>	
9. <b>Adjourn</b>	

*Next Meeting*  
Tuesday, Sept 17, 2024  
WisDOT  
1:30 pm



## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

### Transportation Advisory Committee

August 20, 2024

## Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

### 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 6.18.24\*
- MIC Director's Report

**Blatnik Update and Bridge Traffic Mitigation Modeling** – Hope all can attend our September meetings; we'll be having a presentation from the DOT as to status of the Blatnik, plus a more extensive discussion as to traffic mitigations efforts being planned for when there is only the Bong Bridge to move between the cities. Meetings are being conducted to put forward potential flow options/restrictions. Key will, obviously, be Belknap on the Superior side. The MIC will also document the traffic issue within the context of the Long Range Plan being modeled by our consultant, AECOM.

**Bong Bridge Public Meeting** – Sent last week, and just prior to the MIC Board meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Wis DOT will be holding an information meeting from 5 to 7 pm at the Superior Library to detail maintenance work to be performed on the bridge next construction season – 2025. Some of the work here is being done knowing that the Bong will see an inordinate volume of traffic once the Blatnik closes in a few years. The major impact will be that traffic will be funneled down to one lane in either direction. At some stage, the ramps on the Mn side will be closed for repairs as well.

**MIC Mid-Year State/Federal Review** – On August 8<sup>th</sup>, we conducted our annual State and Federal review of all operations of the MIC. We go over various administrative items including financial and other reporting requirements via both states. One document we will be looking to update next year is our Memo of Understanding (MOU) that lays out the working arrangements between the MIC, the DOT and the DTA (our two main funding partners). We also reviewed the contents of the Work Program, status of each TIP and where the MTP is at in its approval stages. All items checked out and we are in good standing with the oversight agencies.

**Duluth – Central Entrance Review** – At the end of the month, I've arranged to meet with the MIC Board Councilors on the Duluth side, along with the Duluth Mayor's representative on the MIC Board to discuss the upcoming public review meetings on possible design of the reconstructed Central Entrance corridor – now slated for either 2028 or 2029. All should recall the extensive work that the MIC conducted that led to the current design initiative underway with MnDOT. Most important for upcoming decisions on design will be some level of adherence to the City's Small Area Plan established for the corridor and how well some chosen design fits the objectives of said City plan. Before the year is out, I'll re-present the MICs Plan on the roadway to refresh everybody as to what we stated. I should point out that, at some point in the future, the MIC Board will very likely be asked to approve added federal funds for the project targeted for actual construction.



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**Northern Lights Express** – After talking with County Commissioner (and MIC Board member) Annie Harla, I've been invited to attend meetings of the NLX/Depot committee. City, County and St. Louis Co. Regional Rail staff convene to discuss upcoming steps in the NLX project, including possible transportation issues and changes that may occur surrounding the Depot. Will report back to the MIC as needed.

**RAISE Grant – Rice Lake Road Corridor Project** - St. Louis County Public Works was awarded a \$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project. At the TAC and MIC meetings last December, Vic Lund presented information about the project and we subsequently provided a letter of support for the County's grant application. The project will improve safety and traffic flow along this critical freight and passenger transportation route and will also provide regional economic development and community benefits.

**Title VI and Language Access Plans** – Following up on the request made at our May meeting – if you haven't done so already, please respond to the short survey we sent to determine the demographic composition of our Board and Committee members. This is so we can assess, in accordance with our Title VI and Language Access plans, who's involved in our discussions about transportation issues and planning projects as advisory committee members.

#### **Letter(s) of Support:**

- **St Louis County** – Federal Rail Administration grant program to explore the feasibility of grade separation at two locations along Midway Road (CSAH 13) immediately south of USH 2 (Adolph) and diagonal crossing at St Louis River Road. Each is exposed to approximately 30 trains per day. Delays to freight traffic along this key corridor for goods movement is becoming a concern.



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**3. 2024-2027 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #16\***

**TIP AMENDMENT #16**

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for preliminary engineering scheduled to begin in 2024 for work associated with a 90-bridge deck sealing project covering the NW Region of WisDOT with a total cost of \$35,000. The funding below is for PE work associated with the two bridges in the MIC area.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	USH 53	PE	.60	.15		.75
113-24-027	Multiple Bridge Structures	ROW				
Amended to TIP in August 2024	B-16-0012&16-0024 (0.0 miles)	CONST				
	Bridge Preventative Maintenance NHPP	TOTAL	.60	.15		.75
	1190-03-07					

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).

**4. FINAL 2025-2028 DULUTH AREA TIP\***

After the Public Comment Period (July, 2024), The 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP is ready for approval by the MIC Policy Board, to be voted on at the August MIC Policy Board meeting, after review by the TAC. The TIP will then be approved by FHWA later in the year, likely in September or October of 2024.

**5. DRAFT 2025-2026 MIC WORK PROGRAM DISCUSSION**

At the meeting this month, we'll cover the contents of the Work Program for 2025. The short-term section will be predominately the Safe Streets For All award (\$250K + match) that will follow-up on our current work via AECOM. We hope to get this launched during the first quarter of the year. Under our Transit element, we'll note several smaller tasks that the DTA has discussed with us that will include their planning efforts. Other modal elements, including our updated Bike and Pedestrian Plans, will likewise continue into '24. We'll note some further Metropolitan Transportation Plan work for next year (modeling) plus the usual compilation of the TIP for each state. Administrative items will include the usual, and an update of what is termed the 'Memorandum of Understanding' that denotes the tasks/responsibilities between our two main funding partners – the State DOT and Transit (DTA) – and the MPO. Full budget numbers to come next month.



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## 6. LONG RANGE MTP 2050 PROJECT UPDATE

Every MPO is federally required to prepare and update a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the key plan of each MPO. An MTP provides the overall vision for the region's transportation system, includes goals and objectives to help meet the vision, identifies projects that can be included in future TIPs, and provides the underpinning of the MPO's work program. The MIC is required to update its long-range MTP at least once every 5 years. The next MTP update is due this October. MIC staff have been working on numerous tasks to support the MTP update for many months.

MIC staff have received review comments from and had formal consultation with federal and state oversight reviewers. A brief summary of this important review step and some key input received will be provided.

TAC members will receive a copy of the latest draft MTP that includes revisions following the federal and state oversight review. This will allow a final review opportunity for TAC members over the next few weeks prior to finalizing the MTP in September in preparation for recommending adoption in October.

A summary of the ongoing public comment period and two open houses for the draft MTP will also be provided.

## 7. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

## 8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **City of Duluth West Superior Street Traffic Re-routing**

The City of Duluth, towards their efforts to reconstruct West Superior Street, is considering routing options for a 3-phased detour plan for all modes of traffic. These detours are currently planned for construction during the following three years:

- 2026/Phase 1: Point of Rocks to 18<sup>th</sup> Ave W

- 2027/Phase 2: 18<sup>th</sup> Ave W to 24<sup>th</sup> Ave W

- 2028/Phase 3: 24<sup>th</sup> Ave W to Carlton St

- **2027 & 2028 MN Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds**

MnDOT is still reviewing their CRP solicitation schedule, and the main points are as follows:

1. MnDOT is working to align CRP grants', PROTECT grants', and Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants' timelines.
2. In this next round, likely this Fall, CRP and PROTECT grants will be soliciting for FY27, 28, and, 29.
3. The CRP funding will follow similar processes for eligibility as the previous two years (FY25, and 26).



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4. PROTECT grants are intended to have a more streamlined solicitation process, through the ATP. This will be guided by the Resilience Improvement Plan.
5. Additional information on these programs and schedules will be available in early September, 2024, with time for questions and feedback in October, 2024.

## 9. ADJOURN