



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
Policy Board**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6:00 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 9.18.24
- 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendments #17-18
- WisDOT 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM1) Targets
- Final 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP
- Final 2025-2026 MIC Work Program
- Final Long Range MTP 2050

**Items for Presentation and Discussion**

- Be MinneSNOWta Nice
- Harbor Technical Advisory Committee Update

**Project Updates**

- MIC Area Safety Action Plan

**In-Person Meeting Location:**

Hampton Inn  
310 Canal Park Drive  
Duluth, MN 55811

**OR**

**OR**

**Join virtually via TEAMS below:**

[Click here to join Teams Meeting](#)

**Join by phone (audio only)**

**+1 218-210-0525**

**Conference ID: 450 143 950#**

**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)**



**Legend**

- Primary On-Street Signed Route (Heavy-Moderate Traffic)
- Primary On-Street Signed Route (Low-Moderate Traffic)
- Primary On-Street Unsigned Route
- Secondary Connector Route
- Bicycling Prohibited or Not Recommended
- - - Off Road Bike Path
- Scenic Skyline Parkway
- Gravel Road
- DTA Route

Hampton Inn  
 310 Canal Park Drive  
 Duluth, MN  
 218-720-3000

From I-35 N:  
 Take the 5th Ave W exit - Exit 256B toward Lake Ave  
 Turn right onto Lake Ave/Canal Park Drive  
 Stay straight to go onto N Lake Ave  
 N Lake Ave becomes Canal Park Dr

**Policy Board Members**

**Minnesota Members**

**City of Duluth**

Mike Mayou  
Terese Tomanek

**City of Duluth**

**Citizen Rep**  
Yauhen Karatai

**City of Hermantown**

Wayne Boucher (Co-Chair)

**City of Proctor**

Chad Ward

**City of Rice Lake**

Bob Quade

**Duluth Transit Authority**

**Board**

Adam McGill

**St. Louis County**

Annie Harala

**St. Louis County**

**Suburban Townships**

Scott Welsh

**Wisconsin Members**

**City of Superior**

Jenny VanSickle

Nick Ledin

Mark Johnson

**City of Superior**

**Citizen Rep**

Ed Anderson

**Douglas County**

Nick Baker (Co-Chair)

Randy Skowlund

John Lohse

Sam Pomush

**Douglas County**

**Suburban Townships**

Broc Allen



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**

**Policy Board**

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 6:00 pm**

**MEETING AGENDA**

<b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b>	
<b>2. Committee Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 9.18.24 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director’s Report</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">“Open Public Comment Period”</p>	10 min
<b>3. Be MinneSNOWta Nice</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Mimi Stender, Duluth Aging Support/Duluth Age Friendly</li> </ul>	15 min
<b>4. 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendments #17-18</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for adoption, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>5. WisDOT 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM1) Targets</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for adoption, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>6. Final 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for adoption, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>7. Final 2025-2026 MIC Work Program</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for adoption, Ron Chicka</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>8. Final Long Range MTP 2050</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for adoption, Mike Wenholz</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>9. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Mike Wenholz</li> </ul>	15 min
<b>10. Round Table</b>	
	5 min
<b>11. Project Updates</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MIC Area Safety Action Plan</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>12. Adjourn</b>	

**No Meeting in November**

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Superior Library

6:00 pm



---

## Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = Presented for Approval or Adoption

### 1. Introductions / Agenda Review

### 2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 9.18.24\*
- MIC Director's Report

**Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) National Policy Update** – At the recent national conference, a series of meetings were held that has outlined the policy points that AMPO (on behalf of all MPOs) will put forward in upcoming meetings with Congress and Administrative (White House) staff. These meetings are being held over the coming 12 to 18 months as all parties work on the next federal reauthorization bill – due to expire in Sept 2026. The makeup of the next Congress and the Presidency will certainly have a big impact on where our policies head. AMPO, working with the national Board of Director's, is very well positioned to promote our platform.

Key legislative priorities are the following:

- 1) Increase Planning Funds to meet increased Federal Planning Requirements
- 2) Shift Certain Discretionary Funding to Formula Funding
- 3) Reducing Local Match for Federal Transportation Programs
- 4) Allowing for Carryover of Federal Funds
- 5) MPOs Becoming Direct Recipients for Certain Federal Funds

Will discuss the above items in greater detail at the meetings next week.

### 3. Be MinneSNOWta Nice (BMN)

Mimi Stender, (Duluth Aging Support/Duluth Age Friendly) will be presenting information about this community lead group, Be MinneSNOWta Nice and its goal to promote a spirit of community collaboration to keep our city sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Sidewalks play a vital role in connecting homes, bus stops, businesses, parking spaces and essential services in our extensive transportation network. This group aims to develop, support and empower a social network of neighbors that will help each other keep Duluth's sidewalks passable during our winter months. Amanda and Andrea will give a brief history of the group's formation and talk about the fall/winter BMN Campaign.

### 4. 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendments #17-18\*

#### TIP AMENDMENT #17

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction scheduled to begin in 2026 for work associated with signals and gates at two Union Pacific rail crossings in the vicinity of the Blatnik Bridge future replacement site.



**Agenda Item Descriptions**

*\* = Presented for Approval or Adoption*

**2026 Transportation Improvements Projects (Rail)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535	PE				
113-24-028	UP RR-Xing	ROW				
	186166U	CONST		250		250
	&186165M					
Amended to TIP in October 2024	Signals RR Signals					
	Interconnect	TOTAL		250		250
	0.0 Miles NHS					
	1199-00-50					

**TIP AMENDMENT #18**

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction scheduled to begin in 2026 for work associated with signals and gates at one Union Pacific rail crossing in the vicinity of the Blatnik Bridge future replacement site.

**2026 Transportation Improvements Projects (Rail)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535	PE				
113-24-029	UP RR-Xing	ROW				
	186169P	CONST		250		250
	Signals RR Signals					
Amended to TIP in October 2024	Interconnect					
	0.0Miles NHS	TOTAL		250		250
	1199-00-51					

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).



Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = Presented for Approval or Adoption

5. WisDOT 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM1) Targets\*

Pursuant to the regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has established statewide targets for the federal performance measures intended to assess performance of the National Performance Management Measures: Highway Safety Improvement Program; 23 CFR Part 490. The 2025 targets (five-year rolling averages) for the five safety performance measures are identified below in Exhibit A.

Exhibit A

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Performance Measure	2019-2023 Baseline Averages	2025 Safety Targets (2% Reduction)
Number of Fatalities	591.6	579.8
Rate of Fatalities per 100 million VMT	0.922	0.904
Number of Serious Injuries	3,145.0	3,082.1
Rate of Serious Injury per 100 million VMT	4.906	4.808
Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	388.6	380.8

Questions regarding the performance measure should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-520-3886 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).

6. Final 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP\*

The public comment period for the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP concluded on September 30, 2024. No comments were received. The final document has been finished and will be presented for adoption by the MIC Policy Board.

7. Final 2025-2026 MIC Work Program\*

The Final 2025-2026 MIC Work Program and Budget is included with the meeting materials for review prior to the meeting and will be presented at the meeting for adoption.

8. Final Long Range MTP 2050\*

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



---

## Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = Presented for Approval or Adoption

its long-range MTP at least once every 5 years. As has been stated throughout this year, the next MTP update is due this month.

MIC staff have completed the MTP update and will ask the Policy Board to approve the adoption of the final MTP (*Sustainable Choices 2050*).

### 9. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) Update

The HTAC met on September 4 with a full agenda covering a variety of topics, including an introduction of the new US Coast Guard Commander Botti, a summary of a Dredging Subcommittee meeting, a Minnesota Freight Plan update, an overview of the US-Superior Transportation and Logistics Program, St. Louis River Area of Concern updates, and an update on the progress of the new Soo Lock construction. A brief summary of the meeting, including some highlights, will be presented to the MIC Board.

### 10. Round Table Discussion

### 11. Project Updates

- **MIC Area Safety Action Plan**

AECOM's work to complete two components of the MIC Area Safety Action Plan (Safety Analysis and Strategy and Project Selection) will be finished in the coming weeks. Their final report will be presented to the TAC and MIC in December, posted online, and incorporated into the final Plan.

The SS4A-funded planning work to complete the remaining six components (Leadership and Goal Setting, Planning Structure; Engagement and Collaboration, Equity, Policy and Process Changes, and Progress Reporting and Transparency) will be undertaken in CY2025-2026. It will build on, and modify, AECOM's work to produce the final, comprehensive MIC Area Safety Action Plan.

Administrative work is currently underway to finalize the agreements with FHWA for the \$250,000 SS4A grant and with MnDOT for the \$62,500 IIJA Discretionary Match program grant. The Request for Proposal for consultant assistance to prepare the final plan is in its early stages of development; we anticipate that the RFP will be posted in early January and that a consultant will be on board by next March to kick off the planning process.

### 12. Adjourn



# Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

September 30, 2024

Mr. Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Supporting Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community Pursuit of a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Discretionary Planning Grant For Reconnecting Hillside: Safer 6th Avenue East Community Planning Study

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council, I am writing to express our support for the pursuit of a Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program Discretionary Planning Grant for the Reconnecting Hillside: Safer 6th Avenue East Community Planning Study.

6th Avenue East is a former state highway that cuts Duluth's historic Hillside neighborhood in half. The neighborhood, in the central part of Duluth, has been negatively affected by historic transportation planning decisions, and the impacts along the 6th Ave E corridor offer some of the starkest examples. A planning process is needed to guide the re-design of this corridor before it comes up for reconstruction in the next 10 years.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior area, the MIC is charged with transportation planning for the urbanized area. The proposed project supports the vision and multimodal and safety goals of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing Zeitgeist's application for a Reconnecting Communities Program Discretionary Grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Chicka'.

Ron Chicka, Director  
Metropolitan Interstate Council  
[rchicka@ardc.org](mailto:rchicka@ardc.org)  
218.349.8625

cc: Wayne Boucher, MN MIC Policy Board Co-Chair  
Nick Baker, WI MIC Policy Board Co-Chair

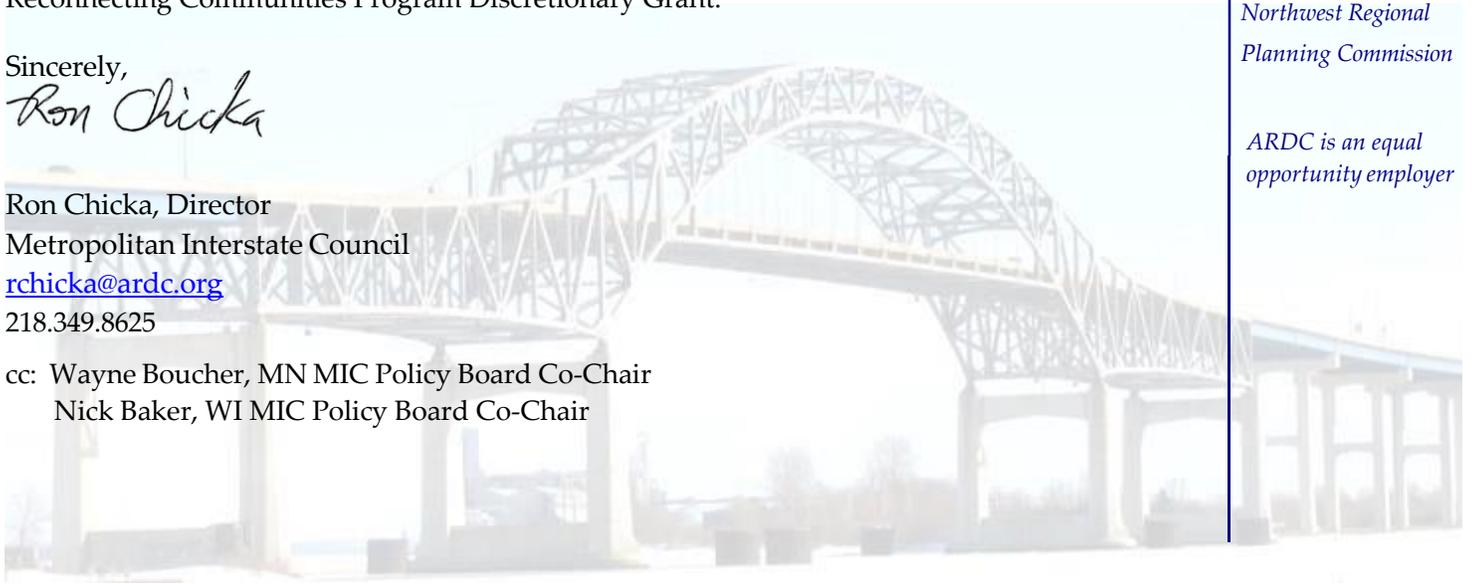
221 West  
First Street  
Duluth, MN  
55802

Tel 218-529-7541

[www.dsmic.org](http://www.dsmic.org)

*Duluth-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*

*ARDC is an equal  
opportunity employer*



# 2025 MIC, TAC, HTAC, BPAC Meeting Calendar

8.26.24

Day/Date	Time	Group	Location	Day/Date	Time	Group	Location
<b>January</b>				<b>July</b> <span style="color: green;"><i>Mid-Year Review/date subject to change</i></span>			
Tue, Jan 14	1:30 PM	TAC	ARDC	Wed, July 16			WisDOT In Person or Virtual
Wed, Jan 15	6:00 PM	MIC	Holliday Inn Ballroom	<i>No Board or committee meetings during July</i>			
<b>February</b>				<b>August</b>			
Thurs, Feb 6	2:30 PM	BPAC	MnDOT	Thurs, Aug 7	2:30 PM	BPAC	MnDOT
Tue, Feb 18	1:30 PM	TAC	WisDOT	Tue, Aug 19	1:30 PM	TAC	Duluth Airport
Wed, Feb 19	6:00 PM	MIC	Northwoods Tech	Wed, Aug 20	6:00 PM	MIC	Proctor City Hall
<b>March</b>				<b>September</b>			
Wed, Mar 5	9:00 AM	HTAC	Northwoods Tech	Wed, Sept 3	9:00 AM	HTAC	Barkers Island Inn
Tue, Mar 18	1:30 PM	TAC	MnDOT	Tue, Sept 16	1:30 PM	TAC	WisDOT
Wed, Mar 19	6:00 PM	MIC	Hampton Inn	Wed, Sept 17	6:00 PM	MIC	Douglas County
<b>April</b>				<b>October</b>			
Tue, Apr 15	1:30 PM	TAC	WisDOT	Tue, Oct 14	1:30 PM	TAC	Hampton Inn
Wed, Apr 16	6:00 PM	MIC	Douglas County	Wed, Oct 15	6:00 PM	MIC	Hampton Inn
<b>May</b>				<b>November</b>			
Thus, May 1	2:30 PM	BPAC	MnDOT	Thurs, Nov 6	2:30 PM	BPAC	MnDOT
Tue, May 20	1:30 PM	TAC	MnDOT	<i>No other Board or committee meeting during November</i>			
Wed, May 21	6:00 PM	MIC	Hermantown Training Cntr	<b>December</b>			
<b>June</b>				<b>December</b>			
Wed, June 4	9:00 AM	HTAC	Duluth Airport	Wed, Dec 3	9:00 AM	HTAC	Inn on Lake Superior or TBD
Tue, June 17	1:30 PM	TAC	WisDOT	Tue, Dec 9	1:30 PM	TAC	WisDOT
Wed, June 18	6:00 PM	MIC	Northwoods Tech	Wed, Dec 10	6:00 PM	MIC	Northwoods Tech

\*Dates and locations are occasionally subject to change - please check your meeting notice to confirm

MIC = Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board    TAC = Transportation Advisory Committee    Committee

HTAC = Harbor Technical Advisory    BPAC = Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee