



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

1 Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative/Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mark Johnson	City of Superior
	Yauhen Karatai	City of Duluth – Citizen Representative
	John Lohse	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	Mike Mayou	Duluth City Council
	Adam McGill	DTA
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Randy Skowlund	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Terese Tomanek	Duluth City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Annie Harala*	St. Louis County
	Jenny Van Sickle*	Superior City Council
	Vacant	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
Others Present		
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Stakeholder
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Daryl Johnson	City of Rice Lake – Stakeholder
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director, NWRPC
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Mimi Stender	Duluth Aging Support/Duluth Age Friendly
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenholtz	MIC Principal Planner



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Wayne Boucher, called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. A “roll Call” attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Boucher moved on to item# 2 on the agenda.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 9.18.24*

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

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the 9.18.24 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- Director’s Report:

Director Chicka reported on the following:

Central Entrance – Soon to be scheduled are workshops in which MnDOT will release different design options for public review and comment. Land use is changing and growing, but the corridor has remained relatively the same for thirty years. The MIC completed a transportation study for this corridor in 2021. The MIC will draft a resolution in which the Policy Board will be asked to support and approve at an upcoming meeting, in support of the outcome of the MIC’s 2021 study for Central Entrance. We will pass along the date of any workshops MnDOT might schedule for the public, as soon as we learn of them.

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) National Policy Update – At the recent national conference, a series of meetings were held that have 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

Open Public Comment Period:

Chair Boucher then allowed for an opportunity for Public Comment. Hearing none, Chair Boucher continued to item #3 on the agenda.



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3. Be MinneSNOWta Nice

Mimi Stender, Duluth Aging Support/Duluth Age Friendly, joined us for an informative presentation about this community led group that works to communicate the importance of an accessible sidewalk network for all who rely upon it. With winter approaching and the reality that not all Duluth residents have the means or capacity to clear the snow from sidewalks, this campaign calls upon community members to make a pledge to help someone with limited snow removal capacity after snow events.

Clear, accessible sidewalks allow all community members to safely go about their daily activities, meaning safer commutes to work, school and play. Equitable access also has positive impacts on our local economy, public safety and general health and well-being for all ages. To make a pledge to help a neighbor, or to find out more, please visit: <https://beminnesnowtanice.com/>

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

Sheldon Johnson presented the following amendments to the 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP for approval by the Policy Board:

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.

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 October2024	Signals RR Signals					
	Interconnect	TOTAL		250		250
	0.0 Miles NHS					
	1199-00-50					



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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 113-24-029 Amended to TIP in October 2024	IH 535 UP RR-Xing 186169P Signals RR Signals Interconnect 0.0Miles NHS 1199-00-51	PE ROW CONST TOTAL	250			250
			250			250

Questions regarding these projects should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendments #17-18 for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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5. WisDOT 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM1) Targets*

Sheldon Johnson presented the 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM1) Targets as adopted by WisDOT and recommended them for adoption by the MIC Policy Board.

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



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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

Discussion took place around these targets and their aim to get communities to zero deaths. Targets are used in programming the projects to make them safer.

Questions regarding the WisDOT 2025 Performance Measure (PM1) Targets should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the WisDOT 2025 Safety Performance Measure (PM1) Targets for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. Final 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP*

Sheldon Johnson presented the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP for recommendation by the TAC to the Policy Board. This TIP includes the two amendments (17 & 18), as well as the PM1 Targets as discussed earlier in the meeting. He went on to say that New Project Solicitation began June 2024, and the Draft TIP was approved for public release by the MIC Policy Board on August 21, 2024. No public comments were received. Hearing no questions or discussion, Sheldon recommended the approval of the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP.

Questions regarding the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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7. Final 2025-2026 MIC Work Program*

Ron Chicka presented the Final 2025-2026 MIC Work Program for adoption. Some new items include consultant-led modeling in relation to the Blatnik Bridge reconstruction project, along with the MIC's



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participation in the DTA’s steering committee for their consultant-led Bus Rapid Transit Facility Study. Also included in the 2025-2026 UPWP is the production of a comprehensive Safety Action Plan for the entire MIC planning area. This will be mostly consultant-led but with some assistance from MIC staff. It is funded by an SS4A grant in the amount of \$250,000 that the MIC was awarded, as well as a local match for \$62,500.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Chad Ward moved to approve the 2025-2026 MIC Work Program for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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8. Final Long Range MTP 2050*

Principal Planner, Mike Wenholz reviewed the 15-month process by which the Long Range MTP 2050 was completed. This process was guided by the overall vision of the plan, which is to “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.” Public and stakeholder engagement occurred through a survey, six focus groups, eleven jurisdictional consultations, twelve presentations and discussions, as well as two public open houses.

The draft MTP was released on 8/01/24 for 30-day Public Comment, in which the MIC received 121 individual comments. The MIC responded to all comments, as well as documented all comments and responses in Appendix D of the document.

Sustainable Choices 2050 was finalized October 8th- 9th, 2024 and sent to TAC and MIC Board Members for review. Hearing no questions or discussion, Mike recommended the approval of *Sustainable Choices 2050* for adoption by the Policy Board.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Nick Baker / Sam Pomush moved to approve the Long Range MTP 2050 for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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9. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee Update

Mike Wenholz gave an update on last month’s HTAC meeting, including these highlights:

- HTAC welcomes new members representing the US Coast Guard, Commander and Captain of the Port, John Botti and new WWM Chief at MSU-Duluth, LTJG Zach Fedak.
- HTAC Dredging subcommittee met in September. Committee discussions included Erie Pier material management, City of Superior and USACE Wisconsin Point beach placement rescheduling for 2025, the Dredge Material Management Plan which includes a beneficial use (70/30 initiative).
- MnDOT gave a Freight Plan update which included a review of the Freight Action Agenda which outlines twenty-four recommended actions to be worked on over the next twenty years.
- Daniel Rust, UW Superior Associate Professor of Transportation & Logistics Management, spoke on the program offered at UWS, which prepares graduates for a variety of coordination roles in many different industries. Internships are an important requirement of the program.



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- An update of the St. Louis River Area of Concern Remediation and Restoration Sites was given. By 9/30/24, it is hoped that the Management Action Status will be 81.3% complete.
- A progress report was given about the construction of the new lock at Soo Locks, which is replacing two smaller locks. The new lock will have the same capacity as the existing Poe Lock. Estimated completion is summer 2030.

10. Round Table

There were no round table items offered at this meeting

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 IJA 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.

- **Adjourn:** With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.