



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

1Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative/Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Jake Benson	City of Proctor - Alternate
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mark Johnson	City of Superior
	Yauhen Karatai	City of Duluth – Citizen Representative
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	John Lohse	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Mayou	Duluth City Council
	Adam McGill	Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Board
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Jenny Van Sickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward*	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker*	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Annie Harala*	St. Louis County
	Janet Kennedy*	Duluth City Council
	Sam Pomush*	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Randy Skowlund*	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Others Present		
	Isabelle Cervantes	City of Duluth – AmeriCorps Vista
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth Senior Transportation Planner
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director, NWRPC
	Alex Popp	City of Duluth Project Engineer (Presenter)
	Elinor Rosenberg	City of Duluth – AmeriCorps Vista
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Mike Wenholtz	MIC Principal Planner



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Wayne Boucher, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. A “Roll Call” attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Boucher announced a change to the agenda under the Project Updates to remove the Administration Modification #1 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP. Chair Boucher then moved on to item# 2 on the agenda.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 12.11.24*

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

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Lohse / Ed Anderson moved to approve the 12.11.24 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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Open Public Comment Period:

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

3. West Superior Street Reconstruction Project

Alex Popp, Project Engineer for the City of Duluth, presented an update on the West Superior Street Reconstruction Project, which includes a 1 ½ mile section from Carlton Street to M&H Gas Station. A cohesive design was developed utilizing four “character districts” that represent the needs of each characterized section of roadway. To help inform this process, open houses were held in which the public was encouraged to give feedback on their top priorities for the corridor. Some of these priorities included parking and green space, as well as many safety improvements, such as lighting, improved bike and pedestrian crossings, and accessible bus stops.

A typical section of roadway will contain seven-foot pedestrian sidewalks, along with thirteen-foot buffers that include a tree-scape and bike lane. Other accommodations include modernized shelters for DTA Bus Rapid Transit stops, and bump outs for curbside management. Needs were assessed for the movement of freight through the area and taken into consideration for curb design.

This project is primarily funded by a Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (Raise) grant from FHWA, along with an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Match Program grant from MnDOT. Project construction is scheduled to begin sometime in 2025, after the bidding process is completed this spring and will continue through 2028. Programmed detours are planned throughout the project.

Members McGill, Karatai, and Mayou commented that the project should include raised crosswalks for added safety.

4. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1-7*

Sheldon Johnson gave a detailed overview of the Superior TIP amendments, as listed below:

TIP AMENDMENT #1

This project enables IndiGO (North Country Independent Living Center) the ability to continue their transportation voucher and volunteer driver program to eligible clients throughout (eight county area



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

including Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer, and Washburn) northern Wisconsin. The project provides individuals with disabilities and residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing a transportation barrier, a means of traveling to work, school, shopping, and other events. The vouchers are used to reimburse friends, neighbors and other volunteers who use their own vehicle for transporting disabled individuals. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
IndiGO - North Country Independent Living Center 113-25-020 Amended to TIP in January 2025	Funding a Voucher Program for individuals with disabilities and others experiencing transportation barriers in 8 NW Counties.	Voucher Program	172,863		172,863	345,726
		TOTAL	172,863		172,863	345,726

TIP AMENDMENT #2

This project enables IndiGO (North Country Independent Living Center) the ability to operate a mobility management program funding staff members who coordinate rides for the region’s population seniors and individuals with disabilities, and also work to expand their service, provide outreach and information of transportation options to residents, and work to coordinate rides with other providers. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
IndiGO - North Country Independent Living Center 113-25-021 Amended to TIP in January 2025	Funding a mobility manager within NCIL	Mobility Manager	28,368		7,092	35,460
		TOTAL	28,368		7,092	35,460

TIP AMENDMENT #3

This project enables the Center for Independent Living to provide a transportation voucher and volunteer driver program to eligible clients throughout a 42-county area (including Douglas County). The project provides individuals with disabilities and residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing a



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

transportation barrier, a means of traveling to work, school, shopping, and other events. The vouchers are used to reimburse friends, neighbors and other volunteers who use their own vehicle for transporting disabled individuals. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Center for Independent Living 113-25-022	Funding a Voucher Program for individuals with disabilities and others experiencing transportation barriers in 42 Central and NW Wisconsin Counties.	Voucher Program	229,589		229,589	459,178
Amended to TIP in January 2025		TOTAL	229,589		229,589	459,178

TIP AMENDMENT #4

This project enables the Center for Independent Living to operate a mobility management program funding staff members who coordinate rides for a 42-county area (including Douglas County) for a population of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and also work to expand their service, provide outreach and information of transportation options to residents, and work to coordinate rides with other providers. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Center for Independent Living 113-25-023	Funding a mobility manager within the Center for Independent Living	Mobility Manager	86,096		21,524	107,620
Amended to TIP in January 2025		TOTAL	86,096		21,524	107,620

TIP AMENDMENT #5

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with the Blatnik Bridge replacement project with amendment funding totaling \$1,400. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2025.



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Please refer to the table on the next page.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535	PE				
113-25-024	St. Louis River Bridge	ROW		1,400		1,400
Amended to TIP in January 2025	B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 (0.0 miles)	CONST				
	Sanitary Sewer	TOTAL		1,400		1,400
	1199-00-41					

TIP AMENDMENT #6

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a repaving project of STH 35 from CTH B South to 69th Street. Total project cost is estimated at \$9,000. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2028.

2028 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	STH 35	PE				
113-25-025	CTH B S to 69 th St. (9.0 miles)	ROW	7,200	1,800		9,000
Amended to TIP in January 2025	Cold in place recycling paving	CONST				
	STBG	TOTAL	7,200	1,800		9,000
	8010-00-77					

TIP AMENDMENT #7

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for work associated with repainting of the Bong Bridge which is currently listed in the 2025-2028 TIP as project ID 113-24-020. An amendment is required as project funding has increased and federal funds are now obligated to the project. Work remains on schedule for 2025. Local funding is provided by MnDOT. Total project cost is estimated at \$5,577,000.

Please refer to the table on the next page.



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	USH 2	PE				
113-24-020	Bong Bridge Painting (0.0 miles)	ROW CONST	1,601	1,031	2,945	5,577
Amended to TIP in January 2025	Local Share MnDOT NHPP 8680-00-74	TOTAL	1,601	1,031	2,945	5,577

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

No Public Comments were issued or received.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Ed Anderson / Bob Quade moved to recommend the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #1-7 for adoption. Member McGill asked which bridge is included in Amendment #7. Sheldon Johnson stated it was for the Bong Bridge. Member Anderson asked if the costs for program managers were for salaries. Sheldon Johnson stated that the amounts listed are for the full program costs, including salaries. Member Anderson asked if it had been determined yet where the roundabout will be in relation to the Blatnik Bridge project. Sheldon Johnson stated that he believed it had been determined, but that the lift station has caused some design difficulties. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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5. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #2*

Richard Sarran gave a detailed overview of the Duluth Area TIP Amendment as listed below:

TIP AMENDMENT #2

Project Scope Revision for MN 61 at Jct of McQuade Rd (069-070-074, 6926-58/58N) and Type of Work and Cost change to 6926-58N.

MnDOT/St. Louis County is requesting changes to a single construction project which was separated into 3 state project ID's. Project is located on MN 61 at Jct of McQuade Rd and is planned for FY 2026. Scope change is to remove the Talmadge River Culvert Repair and remove RWIS (Road and Weather Information System) from 069-070-074, this is now MnDOT Only.

Additionally for project 6926-58N type of work and cost changes are being requested. Type of work is changing from "Drainage" to "Pavement Resurface and Rehabilitation" with a related cost decrease;

- Total project cost = \$1,000,000 down to \$188,890
 - Federal funding = \$800,000 down to \$153,794
 - State funding = \$200,000 down to \$35,096



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

This change has been made as an Amendment* to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP, as detailed in the table below:

1/15/2025	State Project ID	Agency	Route	Est. Length (Miles)	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
	069-070-074	St. Louis County	MN-61	0.4	TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**SEC 164**: MN 61 ATJCT CSAH33/MCQUADE RD. CONSTRUCT REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION, TALMADGE RIVER CULVERT REPAIR AND INSTALL RWIS. (ASSOC 6926-58) MNDOT LEAD	HSIP	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 55,555	\$ 555,555	2026
Amendment 2	069-070-074	St. Louis County	MN-61	0.4	TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**SEC 164**: MN 61 ATJCT CSAH33/MCQUADE RD. CONSTRUCT REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION, TALMADGE RIVER CULVERT REPAIR AND INSTALL RWIS. (ASSOC 6926-58) MNDOT LEAD	HSIP	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 55,555	\$ 555,555	2026
	6926-58	MnDOT	MN 61	0.4	TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**SEC 164**: MN 61 ATJCT CSAH33/MCQUADE RD. CONSTRUCT REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION, TALMADGE RIVER CULVERT REPAIR AND INSTAL RWIS. (ASSOC 069-070-074) MNDOT LEAD	HSIP	\$ 500,000	\$ 55,555	\$ -	\$ 555,555	2026
Amendment 2	6926-58	MnDOT	MN 61	0.4	TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**SEC 164**: MN 61 ATJCT CSAH33/MCQUADE RD. CONSTRUCT REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION, TALMADGE RIVER CULVERT REPAIR AND INSTAL RWIS. (ASSOC 069-070-074) MNDOT LEAD	HSIP	\$ 500,000	\$ 55,555	\$ -	\$ 555,555	2026
	6926-58N	MnDOT	MN 61	0.4	DRAINAGE	MN 61 ATJCT CSAH33/MCQUADE RD. CONSTRUCT REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION, TALMADGE RIVER CULVERT REPAIR AND INSTAL RWIS. (ASSOC 069-070-074) MNDOT LEAD	NHPP	\$ 800,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	2026
Amendment 2	6926-58N	MnDOT	MN 61	0.4	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION	MN 61 ATJCT CSAH33/MCQUADE RD. CONSTRUCT REDUCED CONFLICT INTERSECTION, TALMADGE RIVER CULVERT REPAIR AND INSTAL RWIS. (ASSOC 069-070-074) MNDOT LEAD	NHPP	\$ 153,794	\$ 35,096	\$ -	\$ 188,890	2026

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Mike Wenholz at 218-529-7573 or by email at mwenholz@ardc.org or Richard Sarran at 529-7502 or by email at rsarran@ardc.org.

No Public Comments were issued or received:

Motion Discussion and Vote	Adam McGill / Chad Ward moved to approve the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #2 for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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6. 2025 Minnesota Performance Measure (PM1) Targets

Mike Wenholz gave a detailed overview of the 2025 MN Performance Measure (PM1) Targets as listed below.

In accordance with the USDOT/FHWA strategy to achieve national transportation performance goals, every state DOT and MPO must annually adopt five Safety Performance Measure (PM1) targets to support the Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP). MPOs have the option to either adopt the targets established by the state or develop their own.

For 2025, MIC staff recommends that MnDOT's statewide Safety Performance Measure targets be adopted for the Minnesota portion of the MIC Planning Area. (WisDOT sets its own targets, which the MIC adopts separately for the Wisconsin portion of the MIC Planning Area). By doing so, the MIC agrees to plan and program projects so that they contribute to the accomplishment of MnDOT's 2025 Safety PM1 targets. These performance measures are also incorporated into the Duluth Area TIP and our long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (*Sustainable Choices 2050*).

Based on the trend expressed in the baseline data, which shows a statewide increase rather than a decrease in all five Safety performance measures, MnDOT's 2025 targets are unchanged from 2024, as follows:



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

MnDOT 2025 Statewide Safety Performance Measure Targets

Performance Measure	Baseline (2018-2022 average)	Baseline (2019-2023 average)	2025 Targets*
Number of fatalities	414.2	420.8	352.4
Fatality rate (per 100M VMT**)	0.725	0.742	0.582
Number of serious injuries	1676.2	1,745.6	1,463.4
Serious injury rate (per 100M VMT)	2.930	3.075	2.470
Number of non-motorist fatalities and serious injuries	282.4	285.4	258.4

*Targets are based on five-year rolling averages to address year-to-year variations and anomalies.

**VMT = Vehicle Miles Traveled

Questions regarding the MnDOT PM1 Targets should be directed to Mike Wenzholz at 218-529-7573 or by email at mwenzholz@ardc.org.

Members discussed how the MnDOT PM1 Targets are interpreted in the Duluth/Superior area, as well as what the consequences are for not meeting the set targets. Concerns were raised that the Baseline average increased over previous years, which is trending in the wrong direction, especially considering that 2024 saw a very high rate of fatalities. Mike Wenzholz stated that as part of the MIC's Long Range MTP implementation, the MnDOT PM1 Targets could become part of the "report card" that is planned for use in measuring our progress. He went on to say that a consequence of not meeting the targets is that a percentage of federal funding for projects must be allocated to safety components. James Gittemeier mentioned that the MIC has been awarded the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant that will help us to take a proactive look at our transportation network and help us to apply our Safety Action Plan to the MIC Planning Area.

No Public Comments were issued or received.

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Lohse / Adam McGill moved to approve the MnDOT 2025 Performance Measure (PM1) Targets for adoption. Member McGill stated that he was glad to hear that there is local accountability in adhering to the targets. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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7. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) Update

Mike Wenzholz gave an update on the December 2025 HTAC meeting:

- Sixty-two participants in the December HTAC meeting
- Subcommittee Updates were given, a new subcommittee for resiliency was discussed and moved forward
- A presentation was given by MnDOT on the Blatnik Bridge Project
- The City of Duluth presented on the West Superior Street Construction Project



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

- USACE presented a FY25 Dredged Material Preliminary Assessment Update
- C Reiss Dock Reconstruction Project was completed in August 2024, update was given

8. MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025 Status Update

Mike Wenzholz presented on the work that MIC Staff and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) are doing to update the MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan. Work continues as Chapters 1-5 are drafted. Chapter four will include more localized maps and will note existing key gaps in the network. The BPAC will meet again in late January to review and give input on the chapters, maps and project prioritization list.

Next steps include a review of the draft document at the February meeting of the BPAC, as well as a public informational meeting in February, approval by the BPAC in early March, and presented for approval at the TAC and MIC meetings in March.

Questions regarding the MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025 should be directed to Mike Wenzholz at 218-529-7573 or by email at mwenzholz@ardc.org.

9. Round Table

No Round Table discussion items were presented at this meeting.

10. Project Updates

- ~~Administrative Modification #1 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP~~

~~An administrative modification to project 113-23-011 will be made to advance the project from CY 2027 to CY 2026. The project will remain the same in length (0.14 miles) and budget cost (\$2,209,000), and the project and TIP remain fiscally constraint.~~

2025-2028 Superior TIP Administrative Modification Correction: Administrative Modification #1, published in the January 15, 2025 TAC and MIC Project Updates, was removed from the agenda as the City of Superior and WisDOT identified that the project in question would remain on schedule as currently listed in the 2025-2028 TIP. As of January 2025, there are no Administrative Modifications to the 2025-2028 Superior TIP.

- **2029 Minnesota Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Application**

The Minnesota Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) application has been revised for 2029 and has been distributed to local jurisdictions to use to apply for STBGP eligible funds. Applications from the jurisdictions are due January 10, 2025. A pre-application meeting was held with local jurisdictions and MnDOT staff to walk through the revised application, discuss potential projects that may be applied for, discuss pertinent timelines and deadlines, and discussed available Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds.

11. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.