



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary**

** = Approval Item*

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative & Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Trish Crego	City of Hermantown (Alternate)
	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	Derek Fredrickson	MnDOT District 1
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Mae Sommerfeld	WisDOT NW Region
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
	Skip Williams	Active Transportation
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	David Bolf*	City of Hermantown
	Chris Lee*	City of Duluth
	Vacant	Economic Development
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Duane Hill	MnDOT District One Engineer
	Justin Johnson	WisDOT Central Office MPO Coordinator
	William Keenan	FHWA - WI
	Bryan McCoy	MnDOT Central Office State Program Administrator
	Jason Nordberg	FHWA - WI
	Elinor Rosenberg	City of Duluth – AmeriCorps Vista
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Robert Sullivan	MARAD
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenzholz	MIC Principal Planner



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When completed, Director Chicka then asked if there were any questions or other changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 1.14.25***

Director Chicka then asked if there were any questions or changes to the January meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jim Foldesi / Tom Werner moved to approve the 1.14.25 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Director’s Report**

Director Chicka touched on some of the items listed in the agenda packet, including a brief update on current federal legislation. Currently the highway and transit planning funds that support MPO’s do not appear to be in jeopardy of funding cuts. However, projects supported by other federal funding sources could be at risk, particularly energy-based funding. Projects that have signed agreements in place may have a less likelihood of being cut. However, it is still too early to tell. The MIC will be watching a few significant local projects that have been awarded funds, but those agreements are not yet in place.

Director Chicka invited jurisdictions to share any updates of how they have or may be affected by possible federal cuts. Some shared that they are watching closely as projects are in different stages of planning.

3. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #3-4*

Richard Sarran gave a detailed overview of the Duluth TIP Amendments, as listed below:

TIP AMENDMENT #3

New 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation Project (#6982-368)

MnDOT has requested adding a new 2025 project (#6982-368) to the 2025-2028 TIP, to replace the deck and beams and redeck the north bound lanes of the I-35 Ore Dock Bridge (BR#69866) due to fire damage. This bridge is [located in Duluth between 40th and 27th Ave W.](#)

This project is 100% state funded, in the amount of \$1,650,000.

State Project ID	Agency	Route	Est. Length (Miles)	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	State T.H. or Bond \$	Project Total \$	Year
6982-368	MNDOT	I-35	0.1	BRRH - BRIDGE REHABILITATION	I-35 NB IN DULUTH 0.33 MI. SOUTH 27TH AVE W. REPLACE DECK, BEAMS AND REDECK ORE DOCK BRIDGE, BR#69866 DUE TO FIRE DAMAGE.	STATE TH NON-PAR	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,650,000	2025

TIP AMENDMENT #4

Cost Decrease for Fond Du Lac Cemetery Ceremonial Structure Project ID #6910-114 (2025)

MnDOT has requested a cost reduction for a 2025 project to construct a ceremonial structure and gathering space for the Fond Du Lac cemetery, located in Duluth on [MN Hwy 23 at the junction of Hwy 210](#). MnDOT initially overestimated the cost of the project until final design could be determined in



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary

consultation with the Fond Du Lac tribe. After consultation and final design, the estimated cost of the project decreased from \$1,500,000 to \$750,000.

This project is 100% state funded, in the amount of \$750,000.

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	State T.H. or Bond \$	Project Total \$ (STIP Total)	Year
6910-114	MnDOT	MN 23	APPURTENANCE	MN 23 IN DULUTH AT JCT MN 210, CONSTRUCT CEREMONIAL STRUCTURE AND GATHERING SPACE FOR HISTORIC FOND DU LAC CEMETERY.	SF	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	2025
6910-114	MnDOT	MN 23	APPURTENANCE	MN 23 IN DULUTH AT JCT MN 210, CONSTRUCT CEREMONIAL STRUCTURE AND GATHERING SPACE FOR HISTORIC FOND DU LAC CEMETERY.	SF	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	2025

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jim Foldesi / Cindy Voigt moved to recommend the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #3-4 to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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4. 2029 Duluth Area Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Project Evaluation & Summaries*

Mike Wenholz gave a detailed overview of the two applications that were received by the deadline for the 2029 STBGP funding.

Application #1: City of Duluth

- .93 mile stretch of 4th Street from Mesaba Ave to 6th Ave E
- Estimated project cost is \$3,720,000
- \$897,000 requested in STBGP funds

Application #1: St. Louis County

- 8 mile stretch of Howard Gnesen Rd from Marting Rd to Normanna Rd
- Estimated project cost is \$3,200,000
- \$897,000 request in STBGP funds

MIC Staff requested that the item be moved forward to the Policy Board for approval.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Tom Werner / Kate Ferguson moved to recommend the 2029 Duluth Area Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) projects to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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5. 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Overview*

Mike Wenholz presented an overview of the one application that was received for the Carbon Reduction Program funding. The City of Duluth applied for a micromobility parking facility project that would install parking facilities for micro-mobility devices at numerous locations within public rights of way. Several locations around Duluth would benefit from this project which would fill a key infrastructure component gap in the multimodal transportation network.

The estimated cost of this project is \$270,000 of which \$225,000 in CRP funds were requested. The project scored 20 out of a possible 20 for Cost Effectiveness and after evaluation of the application narrative, scored 11 out of a possible 20 for its cumulative Co-Benefit Score. Overall, the project received a Total Evaluation Score of 31 out of 40.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary

During the discussion for this project, Maren Webb of MnDOT District 1 mentioned that the project may not be eligible for this funding, as it does not appear to be combined with a trails project. After some discussion, Jim Foldesi of St. Louis County recommended that the MIC seek direction to see if this project is eligible. If it is not, then perhaps the group could find another project that is eligible.

It was decided that the item would be tabled and possibly brought forward to the March meeting, once the eligibility determination could be made. The MIC will reach out to jurisdictions if another project needs to be sourced.

6. Draft MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025 & Status Update

Mike Wenzholz gave a status update describing the work of the BPAC and BPAC leadership to update the MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan. Chapters 1,2, 3 & 5 have been updated, Chapters 6 & 7 have been drafted, and the maps have been created. Chapter 4 is currently in process.

The MIC held an open house at the Duluth Folk School on February 13th and was very well attended with eighteen people from the public. Good interactions were noted, with many questions being discussed, especially using the online map. Seven suggestions and comments were submitted, some of which included: bike lanes need physical barriers, secure bike parking is needed, and the consideration of alternate routes.

The next step will be to incorporate the recommendations into the final Plan and submit it to the BPAC for final review. If recommended by the BPAC in early March, the Plan will move to the Policy Board for approval at their March meeting.

7. Round Table

- **Blatnik Bridge project** - Duane Hill stated that MnDOT would be hosting a few events related to the Blatnik Bridge project, including business pop up events in Superior to discuss potential traffic impacts during construction. They will also be attending a Good Morning Superior, Chamber event.
- **London Road project** – Duane also mentioned that MnDOT had held an open house related to the London Road Construction Project which saw the largest turnout in Duane’s experience, with around 224 people in attendance. This two-year project has FHWA approval and is on schedule for construction in the summer of 2026.

8. Project Updates

- **Administrative Modification #2 to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP**

Cost Reduction for 2026 St. Louis County Edgeline Painting Project

The MIC approved St. Louis County’s request for a cost change in 2026 for state project ID #069-070-079 (installing 6-inch wet reflective epoxy edgeline in a groove on various county roads) as an Administrative Modification* to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP, as detailed in the table below:

The cost decrease is due to some of the roads included in this project being completed in 2024 and the funding no longer needed for those roadways, including:

- Federal (Non-AC) – Reduced from \$780,300 to \$697,000
- Other – Reduced from \$176,700 to \$78,000
- Total Project Cost – Reduced from \$957,000 to \$775,000



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

February 18, 2025 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Other \$	Project Total \$ (STIP Total)	Year
069-070-079	St. Louis County	Various Locations	Traffic Control Devices/Safety	COUNTY WIDE - 6-INCH WET-REFLECTIVE EPOXY EDGELINE IN A GROOVE ON VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS (2025) (assoc. 069-070-064 & 069-070-072)	HSIP	\$ 780,300	\$ 176,700	\$ 957,000	2026
069-070-079	St. Louis County	Various Locations	Traffic Control Devices/Safety	COUNTY WIDE - 6-INCH WET-REFLECTIVE EPOXY EDGELINE IN A GROOVE ON VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS (2025) (assoc. 069-070-064 & 069-070-072)	HSIP	\$ 697,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 775,000	2026

9. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Chicka adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.