



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

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



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Nick Baker, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. A “Roll Call” attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Baker then moved on to item# 2 on the agenda.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 1.15.25***

Chair Baker then asked if there were any questions or changes to the January meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Lohse / Sam Pomush moved to approve the 1.15.25 meeting summary. Member McGill asked that the meeting summary be adjusted to reflect comments from members: Karatai, McGill and Mayou in relation to the City of Duluth’s presentation of the West Superior Street Reconstruction Project, that the project should include raised crosswalks for increased safety. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting summary will be revised.
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- Director’s Report**

Director Chicka gave a brief overview of the items that were listed in the meeting materials. Please refer to the meeting packet for more details.

Open Public Comment Period:

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

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

Richard Sarran gave a detailed overview of the Duluth Area 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 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.



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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

Janet Kennedy asked for clarification on slide #9. Richard clarified that the slide reflected a project from the January meeting, that this was an error. Mike Mayou asked what happens with the allocated funds that are reduced in Amendment #4. Richard was not sure at the time of the meeting. (It was later found that the leftover funds are reallocated to other transportation projects, per MnDOT.)

No Public Comments were issued or received:

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jake Benson / Wayne Boucher 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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4. 2029 Duluth Area Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Project Evaluation & Summaries*

Mike Wenzholz 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

Adam McGill asked how the award amounts were determined for each project. Mike replied that those were the amounts that were applied for by the jurisdictions. Janet Kennedy asked for clarification on the parameters of the 4th Street project. Mike clarified that the 4th Street project runs from Mesaba Avenue to 6th Avenue East. Adam McGill asked how the Howard Gnesen project was eligible for the funding as only a small portion appears to be within the MIC MPO Boundary. Richard stated that any project that enters into the MPO boundary, even if only 5%, is eligible for TIP funding. Adam McGill commented that he does not see how the Howard Gnesen Road project meets the goals of the MTP. He feels the assertions were not accurate and that the improved road would increase vehicular speeds, making the road more unsafe. Mike Mayou asked whether lane width was increasing, or crossings added in this project. Mike responded no to both. Yauhen Karatai stated that 13 out of 26 objectives isn't very many. Mike stated that it is a goal to meet as many goals and objectives of the MTP as possible.

No Public Comments were issued or received.



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Bob Quade / Mike Mayou moved to approve the 2029 Duluth Area Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) Projects. Discussion on the Motion: Adam McGill suggested that there should be an opportunity to vote on the two projects individually. Scott Welsh proposed a friendly amendment to the original motion to take separate votes on the two projects. There was no further discussion. The St. Louis County Howard Gnesen Road Rehabilitation project for 2029 STBGP funds was passed via roll call vote with 11 ayes and 1 nay. The City of Duluth 4 th Street Reconstruction project for 2029 STBGP funds passed unanimously via roll call vote.
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5. 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Overview

MIC Director, Ron Chicka, explained that this item was not moved forward by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as it was not clear if the project is eligible for the funding source. MIC staff will contact MnDOT to make that determination. If eligible, it will be on the March 2025 agenda.

This item was not acted upon.

6. 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.

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.

7. Round Table

- Mike Mayou asked if the MIC could bring forward general recommendations from the Policy Board to MnDOT for Central Entrance. Adam McGill was in support of this.
- Janet Kennedy asked if the City of Duluth has a staff person who serves on the MIC Policy Board, as in the past. Currently, no, there is not a staff person serving as Duluth’s Citizen Representative.
- Rondi Watson stated that she has updated the www.dsmic.org website to make the Bike Plan easier to find when searching. It is now featured on the homepage where the link can be found to the Plan page and Plan document.



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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

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, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.