



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

*\* = Approval Item*

<b>Note Taker(s)</b>	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative & Finance Assistant	
<b>Members Present</b>		
	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	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
	Mae Sommerfeld	WisDOT NW Region
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
<b>Members Absent</b>		* Excused Absence
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Skip Williams*	Active Transportation
	Vacant	Economic Development
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
<b>Others Present</b>		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Jason Gottfried	MnDOT Central Office – MPO Coordinator
	Duane Hill	MnDOT District One Engineer
	Justin Johnson	WisDOT Central Office - MPO Coordinator
	Yauhen Karatai	MIC Policy Board – Duluth Citizen Representative
	William Keenan	FHWA - WI
	Bryan McCoy	MnDOT Central Office State Program Administrator
	Elinor Rosenberg	City of Duluth – AmeriCorps Vista
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Robert Sullivan	MARAD
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Principal Planner
	Ben Tomhave	MnDOT Greater MN Coordinator



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**1. Introductions / Agenda Review**

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:36 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 2.18.25\***

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

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Tom Werner / Maren Webb moved to approve the 2.18.25 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 his recent trip to Washington D.C. While there, time was spent with colleagues of AMPO for visits on Capitol Hill, meeting with key staff from Senator Tina Smith’s and Congressman Pete Stauber’s offices to discuss the work the MIC is doing as the designated MPO for the Duluth-Superior area. ARDC was also represented in D.C. by the Executive Director, Kristi Kane, as well as the new Planning Director, Beth Ann Teskey.

AMPO is actively working to accomplish several goals with this next renewal of the funding bill, including an increase in federal planning funds for MPOs across the nation, as well as advocating for a reduction in the local match requirement, the allowance of the carryover of federal funds, and asking that MPOs become direct recipients for certain federal funds to streamline the funding process. AMPO is also looking to see if certain discretionary programs could transition to formula-based funding for equitable distribution and more predictability. These issues will be watched closely and reported as the process unfolds.

A mid-level planner position has been posted for an opening within the MIC. This person will conduct the Duluth Area TIP activities and oversee the bike and pedestrian work as their primary duties for the MIC.

**3. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #5\***

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

**TIP AMENDMENT #5**

**New 2025 Project for the Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge Rehabilitation**

**Project ID #118-140-036 (FY 2025)**

The City of Duluth has requested the addition of a project to rehabilitate the Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge, including deck and sidewalk replacement, in FY 2025 ([click here](#) for project location).

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
118-140-036	Duluth	Lake Ave S (MSAS 140)	0	Bridge Rehabilitation	**RAISE**IN DULUTH, DULUTH AERIAL LIFT BRIDGE REHABILITATION, DECK AND SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT, BRIDGE #L6116	RAISE	\$11,200,000	\$10,562,738	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 23,262,738	2025



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The City of Duluth was awarded a federal RAISE Grant in the amount of \$11,200,000. This is being supplemented by a \$1,500,000 grant from the National Parks Service and \$10,562,738 in state funding for a total project cost of \$23,262,738.

Cindy Voigt reported that project construction would transpire over the winter season of 2025-2026, due to marine traffic dormancy.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and text describing a motion by James Gittemeier / Maren Webb regarding the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #5.

4. 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Summary\*

Mike Wenholz reported that the MIC met with MnDOT and the applicant jurisdiction to get clarification on the project eligibility. After discussion and clarification of the project details, it was determined that the project is eligible for the 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program funds.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and text describing a motion by Jim Foldesi / Maren Webb regarding the 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds project.

5. Final MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025 & Status Update

Mike Wenholz presented an overview of the finalized plan document, which has been under development for the past four months with much help from the BPAC leadership team.

The BPAC members met for a special meeting on March 6th and voted unanimously to recommend the plan to the MIC Policy Board for approval and adoption at their next meeting.

6. Round Table

- Soo Locks - Mike Wenholz reported that due to the spring weather, the locks would be opening earlier than anticipated. Kate Ferguson confirmed that they are opening four days ahead of schedule: Friday, March 21st, 2025.
• Rice Lake Road Public Meeting - Mike Wenholz also reported on the public meeting that occurred last Tuesday for Rice Lake Road.



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## 7. Project Updates

### MIC Area Safety Action Plan

As you will recall, the technical Safety Analysis and Project and Strategy Selection components of the MIC's [Safety Action Plan for the Duluth-Superior Area](#) were completed by AECOM in December 2024. Based on detailed analysis of 2017-2021 collision data, with input from MIC-area engineers and planners, the resulting [Safety Action Plan Phase 1 Project Summary](#) provides a regional safety analysis for all modes of travel, a prioritized list of high-risk locations and evidence-based mitigation strategies.

Regarding the \$250,000 planning grant we received from the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program (and \$62,500 from the MnDOT IIJA Discretionary Match Program) to complete the [remaining components](#) of the Safety Action Plan — with transportation discretionary programs (SS4A included) receiving recent increased scrutiny at the USDOT level in DC, we've chosen to await more definitive word that this grant will remain viable over the projected timeframe of the project (through 2026), as well as seeking guidance in regard to various aspects of our proposed Scope of Work.

The MIC is still very much committed to the goals of the SS4A program and to completing our Safety Action Plan. Our expectation is that the planning process will be undertaken in CY2025-2026, will be consultant-led, will build upon and incorporate the MIC's Phase 1 work, and will satisfy the requirements in the SS4A Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet.

We will let you know as soon as we can move forward with posting the RFP (which, as of now, is anticipated to be mid-April, with a target project start date of early- to mid-June).

8. **Adjourn:** With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Chicka adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm.