



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Policy Board**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 6:00 pm

MEETING NOTICE

This meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting – join us in person at the location listed below OR participate virtually via Microsoft Teams (login info, below).

Meeting materials can be viewed on the [meeting web page](#) as well as on the attached pages.

Items for Approval

- Meeting Summary of 2.19.25
- 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #5
- 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project
- Final MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Central Entrance Vision Plan 2021

Project Updates

- MIC Area Safety Action Plan

In-Person Meeting Location:

Holiday Inn
Lyric Conference Room
200 W 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

OR

OR

Join virtually via TEAMS below:

[Click here to join Teams Meeting](#)

Join by phone (audio only)

+1 218-210-0525

Conference ID: 817 137 42#

Attendance / Meeting Quorum

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please notify Tari Aanonsen at taanonsen@ardc.org or 218-529-7541 to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Complaint instructions and forms can be found in the Title VI Non-Discrimination Program and Limited-English Proficiency Plan online at dsmic.org/titlevi-policy. We are committed to accessibility. If you have an accommodation request that will allow you to participate more fully, please contact the MIC office at least three days prior to the meeting, and we will do our best, within the resources available to us, to accommodate your request.

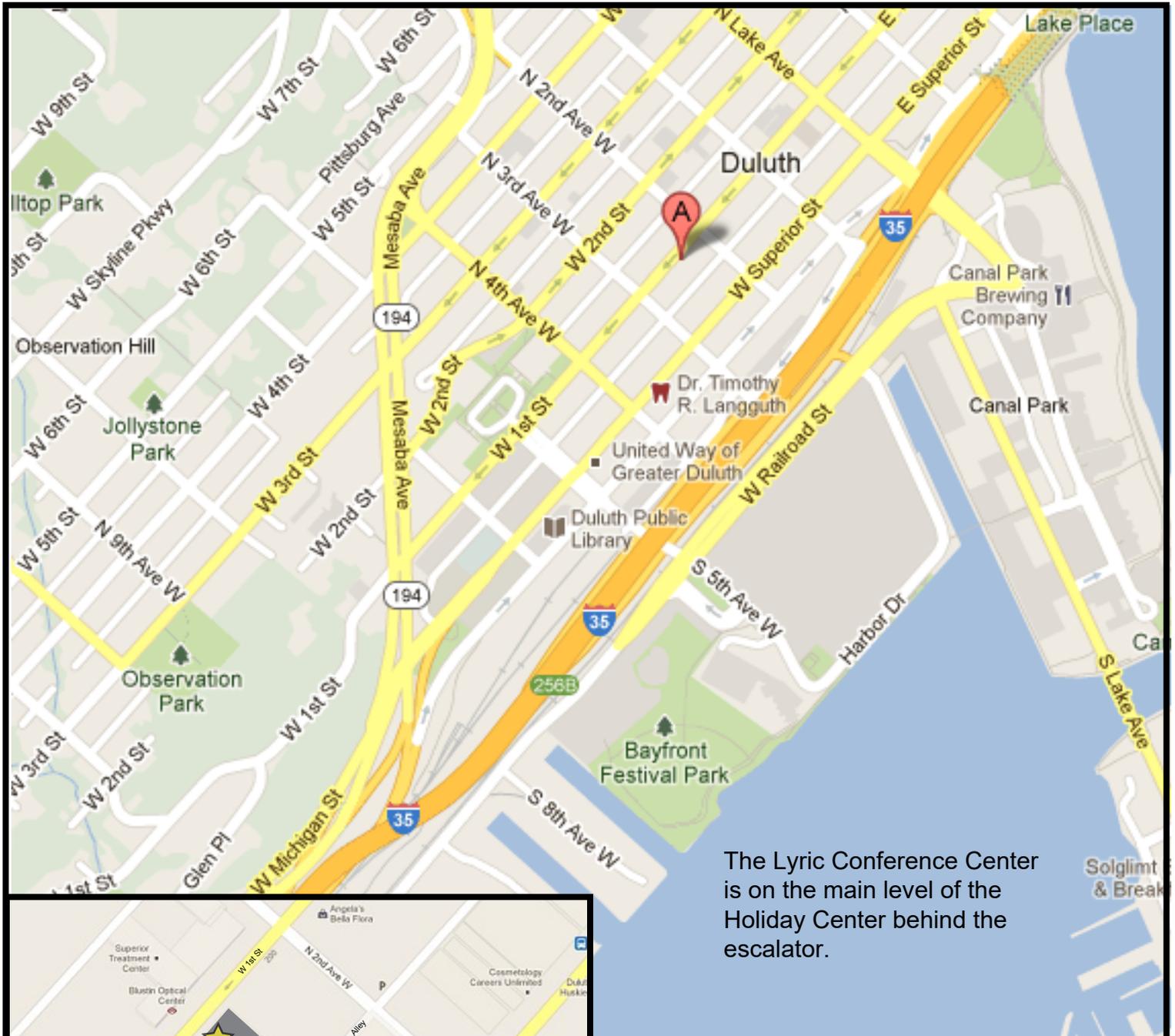
Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission

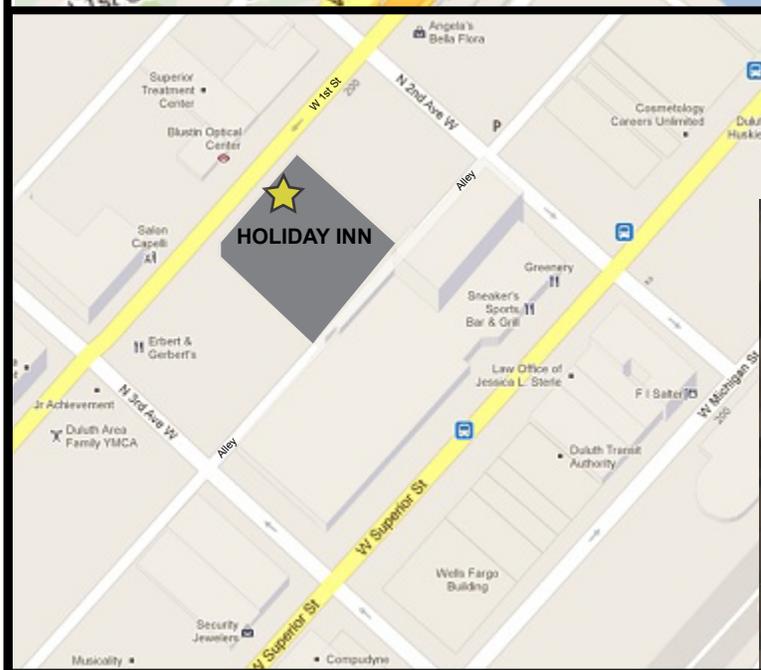
221 West First Street · Duluth, MN 55802 · 218/529-7541 · www.dsmic.org

Holiday Inn - Lyric Conference Room

200 West 1st Street, Duluth, MN



The Lyric Conference Center is on the main level of the Holiday Center behind the escalator.



Policy Board Members

Minnesota Members

City of Duluth

Janet Kennedy

Mike Mayou

City of Duluth

Citizen Rep

Yauhen Karatai

City of Hermantown

Wayne Boucher (Co-Chair)

City of Proctor

Chad Ward

City of Rice Lake

Bob Quade

Duluth Transit Authority Board

Adam McGill

St. Louis County

Annie Harala

St. Louis County

Suburban Townships

Scott Welsh

Wisconsin Members

City of Superior

Jenny VanSickle

Nick Ledin

Mark Johnson

City of Superior

Citizen Rep

Ed Anderson

Douglas County

Nick Baker (Co-Chair)

Randy Skowlund

John Lohse

Sam Pomush

Douglas County

Suburban Townships

Broc Allen



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Policy Board

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

MEETING AGENDA

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions/Agenda Review 2. Committee Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Summary of 2.19.25 (for Approval) • Director’s Report <p style="text-align: center;">“Open Public Comment Period”</p> 	<i>10 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend for Approval, Richard Sarran 	<i>5 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 2027 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend for Approval, Ron Chicka 	<i>10 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend for Approval, Ron Chicka 	<i>10 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Central Entrance Vision Plan 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka 	<i>20 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Round Table 	<i>5 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIC Area Safety Action Plan 	<i>5 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Adjourn 	

Next Meeting
 Wednesday, April 16, 2025
 Douglas County
 6:00 pm



Agenda Item Descriptions

* = Presented for Approval or Adoption

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 2.19.25*
- MIC Director's Report

MIC Staffing – Our Transportation Planner position is posted and ready to fill as soon as we can get a qualified person in the door. This is our mid-level planner; likely to conduct TIP activities, transit connection, oversee our bike/pedestrian work and safe routes to school as well. It is open until April 7th. In addition, the MIC and ARDC staff attended a Job Fair at UW-Superior to advertise for internship positions within the agency. There was good turnout – a lot of interest. We typically get great candidates from the Transportation and Logistics program at UWS.

MIC 2025 Budget – Preliminary talks with MnDOT Central Office to ascertain amending our budget to the tune of around \$20K that was left over from unspent federal dollars of 2024. Though not a substantial amount, it would help greatly with new hiring, added review of the key documents of the MPO per new USDOT orders and added tasks in upgrading the MICs website. ARDC would be able to provide the few thousand dollars required in matching funds. Possibly April, or May for this amendment.

Federal Legislation Update – AMPO meetings the week prior to the TAC and MIC this month. Will be attending with colleagues across the country at a critical juncture of building consensus in DC. With the Minnesota connection, I'll be involved with AMPO staff speaking and others, in set meetings with Congressman Stauber (House T&I) and Senator Smith (Senate EPW). These are key committees with a major role each in forming and approving the federal transportation bill. AMPO has several legislative points they are actively advocating for on behalf of all MPOs in the next bill. Can highlight these, once again, at our meetings. Among them is to possibly shift our planning funds directly to the nation's MPOs, bypassing the state for administrative functions. This pathway is antiquated; comes with unanticipated problems and essentially doesn't work efficiently for MPOs across the country any longer.

3. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #5*

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).

Please refer to the table on the next page.



Agenda Item Descriptions

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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

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.

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 218-529-7502 or by email at rsarran@ardc.org.

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

The MIC received one Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) application from the City of Duluth prior to the January 10 deadline. As reported in February, questions arose at the February TAC meeting as to the project’s eligibility. The MIC participated in a meeting with the City of Duluth and MnDOT during which the questions of eligibility were put to rest. The project is eligible to receive CRP funding. MIC staff reviewed and summarized the received CRP application and prepared a summary to aid in Board member review. MIC staff will highlight the primary aspects of the project. See materials in the meeting packet.

Questions regarding the Minnesota CRP Funds Project should be directed to Mike Wenholz at 218-529-7573 or by email at mwenholz@ardc.org.

5. Final MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025*

Development of the updated Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan (2025) has been completed, following the re-focused work plan discussed in December. The BPAC members voted unanimously on March 6 to recommend the MIC Policy approve and adopt the plan. MIC staff will recommend the Policy Board adopt the final Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan (2025). See materials in the meeting packet.

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

6. Central Entrance Vision Plan 2021

As Board member Mike Mayou requested, I’ll be reviewing our Central Entrance Plan at the March meeting. I will give a brief presentation of the slides from our December meeting (City slides too) and then start the conversation off with some key points that the MIC Board could support when/if a resolution is decided upon. This is just a discussion at this time; no action is proposed.

7. Round Table Discussion



Agenda Item Descriptions

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8. 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 IIIA 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).

9. Adjourn