



**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
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
	Skip Williams	Active Transportation
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Derek Fredrickson*	MnDOT District 1
	Jason Jackman*	Douglas County
	Chris Lee*	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Mae Sommerfeld*	WisDOT NW Region
	Vacant	Economic Development
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Trish Crego	City of Hermantown
	Duane Hill	MnDOT District One Engineer
	Travis Jensen	UMD Dept of Civil Engineering
	Justin Johnson	WisDOT Central Office - MPO Coordinator
	Yauhen Karatai	MIC Policy Board Representative
	Bryan McCoy	MnDOT Central Office State Program Administrator
	Chris Michaels	WisDOT Northwest Region
	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

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 3.18.25*

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

Motion Discussion and Vote	Skip Williams / James Gittemeier moved to approve the 3.18.25 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- Director’s Report

Director Chicka began by introducing Travis Jensen, a professor at UMD, who joined the meeting virtually, along with his civil engineering class. The group is currently covering transportation planning as part of their curriculum and Travis had wanted the class to have the opportunity to experience a TAC meeting and the topics and various items that we cover.

Director Chicka then touched on some of the items listed in the agenda packet, including a brief update on MnDOT’s Central Entrance project, which has been moved back to 2031 or 2032. The MIC will look to offer support for a design in the future, once design options have been released.

3. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #6*

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

TIP AMENDMENT #6

Cost Increase and Scope Change for Railroad Street Project

Project ID #118-118-005 (2025)

The City of Duluth has requested a cost increase and scope change for a 2025 pavement resurface and rehabilitation project (repaving, curb and gutter, sidewalk ADA upgrades) on [Railroad Street](#) from 5th Avenue West to Canal Park Drive.

The cost increase is due to updated project estimates as well as additions to the scope of work. These include replacement traffic signals at two intersections on Railroad Street (at S. Lake Ave and at N. Lake Ave/Canal Park Drive) and streetlights. Storm sewer work is not needed and was removed from the project.

The total project cost has increased from \$2,100,000 to \$2,500,000, a cost increase of \$400,000.

State Project ID	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
118-118-005	Railroad St (MSAS 118)	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION	RAILROAD ST (MSAS 118) IN DULUTH FROM 5TH AVE W TO CANAL PARK DRIVE BITUMINOUS RESURFACING, STORM SEWER, CURB AND GUTTER, SIDEWALK AS NECESSARY, AND ADA UPGRADES	STBGP	\$1,480,000	\$ 620,000	\$ 2,100,000	2025
118-118-005	Railroad St (MSAS 118)	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION	RAILROAD ST (MSAS 118) IN DULUTH FROM 5TH AVE W TO CANAL PARK DRIVE BITUMINOUS RESURFACING, STORM SEWER , CURB AND GUTTER, SIDEWALK AS NECESSARY , AND ADA UPGRADES, TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT	STBGP	\$1,480,000	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 2,500,000	2025



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James Gittemeier commented that the Railroad Street Project was originally programmed for 2019 but was deferred to allow for the completion of the Twin Ports Interchange (TPI). In the interim, the City of Duluth has been awarded the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) federal grant that will fund a study for I-35 and its relationship to downtown. It is anticipated that the life expectancy of the pavement resurfacing in the Railroad Street project will hold until forthcoming projects are programmed as results of the study.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Tom Werner / Skip Williams moved to recommend the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #6 to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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4. 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP Project List

Mike Wenzholz and Richard Sarran gave a presentation to report on the new projects proposed for the Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP.

Mike reviewed the purpose of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the general timeline involved in its development. Mike also explained that the project descriptions listed in the presentation had been simplified for public consumption and the full detailed list will be provided to the TAC closer to when the draft TIP is ready to be released.

Richard Sarran presented highlights for current projects in the 2026-2029 TIP as well as projects that will be programmed for 2029. Among those presented were: Blatnik Bridge, STBGP and CRP projects as recently approved by the MIC Policy Board, Transportation Alternative Funded projects, London Road, Rice Lake Road, and several Transit projects.

Four new projects added for 2029 include: the replacement of Mission Creek Bridge on MN 23, the reconstruction of a stone wall on Skyline Parkway, a resurfacing project on MN 61, and the resurfacing of I-35 at Thompson Hill (this will utilize an Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course that will extend the life of the existing pavement).

5. MTP Process Discussion

Mike Wenzholz reviewed the vision of the Long Range MTP as a reminder of why the MTP needs to be implemented. The purpose of this discussion was to gather ideas and options for implementation, focusing on what is reasonable and viable for 2025.

Some ideas that Mike brought forward included the following:

- Emphasize selecting identified prioritized projects
- Follow Primary Action Step Suggestions from Chapter 10 of the MTP, particularly steps 1-8
- “Regular” reporting of progress (Report Cards)

Some ideas brought forward by the TAC members:

- Identify the anticipated effect of the MTP, the TIP should help to implement the MTP
- A reminder that not all projects that occur in the MPO Planning Area are included in the STIP, but can still be captured by Step #2 - Improve Safety



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- Safety measures and targets should be considered when designing, constructing & maintaining
- Safe Streets for All planning grant work will help to inform and improve safety (Action Step #2)
- Pavement Condition reporting on arterials might be helpful to create an archive that can be referenced to measure progress in the MPO Planning Area
- Include the MTP goal(s) that are being addressed by a particular project when it is being rolled out to the public (what boxes does this project check?)
- MnDOT Performance Measures could be a helpful resource

Mike Wenzholz wrapped up by stating that he will schedule an outside meeting with TAC members to work through determining what items should be programmed for implementation in 2025. Discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

6. Round Table Discussion

- Ron thanked Travis Jensen and his class for attending the TAC meeting and gave the opportunity for questions from the group.
- Skip mentioned that Mayor Jim Payne, City of Superior, is helping to organize, in conjunction with AARP, the sharing of information across cities involving pedestrian safety.
- Federal funding news update: keep moving projects forward until we hear differently.
- Cindy mentioned that the MIC Area Bicycle Transportation Plan 2025 will be presented to the Duluth City Council at their next meeting for adoption. She added that the zoning code relies on the most recently adopted bike plan.
- Chris Beldon stated that the Duluth Transit Authority will be ramping up its service in June and hopes to be back to full service, after having experienced a period of abbreviated service due to driver shortages.

7. Project Updates

- **Administrative Modification #3 to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP
Clerical Error Correction
(Project ID #6910-114, 2026)**

The MIC has approved an administrative modification to correct a clerical error to amendment #4 as approved on Feb 19, 2025. The project year was mistakenly shown as 2025 and should have shown 2026.

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	State T.H. or Bond \$	Project 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	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000	2026



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- **Administrative Modification #4 to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP**

Clerical Error Correction

(Project ID #069-070-079, 2025)

The MIC has approved an administrative modification to correct a clerical error to administrative modification #2 as approved on Feb 20, 2025. The project year was mistakenly shown as 2026 and should have shown 2025.

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	\$ 697,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 775,000	2025

8. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Chicka adjourned the meeting at 2:51 pm.