



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

April 16, 2025 Meeting

Meeting Summary

** = Approval Item*

1Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative/Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Yauhen Karatai	City of Duluth – Citizen Representative
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	John Lohse	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Mike Mayou	Duluth City Council
	Adam McGill	Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Board
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Randy Skowlund	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Annie Harala	St. Louis County
	Mark Johnson	Superior City Council
	Janet Kennedy*	Duluth City Council
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Vacant	Superior City Council
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Jenny Van Sickle	City of Superior
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Principal Planner



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Nick Baker, called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 3.19.25*

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

Motion Discussion and Vote	Chad Ward / John Lohse moved to approve the 3.19.25 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- Director’s Report

Director Chicka gave a brief overview of the items listed in the written Director’s Report, as found in the agenda packet.

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 #6*

Richard Sarraan gave a detailed overview of the Duluth Area 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, scope change, and correction to the project description for the 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 a change to the scope of work (storm sewer work is not needed and was removed from the project). The project description will be corrected to include replacement traffic signals at two intersections on Railroad Street (at S. Lake Ave and at N. Lake Ave/Canal Park Drive) and streetlights, as originally intended elements of 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

No Public Comments were provided or received.



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Moved by McGill, Seconded by Karatai, to postpone the question to approve the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #6 for adoption to the next meeting of the Policy Board. Adam McGill stated he would like more time to receive answers to questions he has posed to the City of Duluth regarding the project. Yauhen Karatai stated that the project was originally planned for 2021, was postponed and now that the Reconnecting Communities Grant was awarded last year, the city is citing that as a reason that the project doesn't include more than the repaving improvements. Director Chicka asked whose positions they were representing. McGill said that his statement represents the DTA and the City of Duluth, as the DTA is in relationship with the city. Karatai stated that he had met with the mayor of Duluth earlier in the day and he is representing the position of the City of Duluth. Voting Aye: Anderson, Baker, Karatai, Ledin, Mayou, McGill, Quade Voting Nay: Boucher, Lohse, Skowlund, Ward, Welsh Abstain: None Absent: Allen, Harala, Johnson, Kennedy, Pomush Motion Carried: Aye: 7, Nay: 5.
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4. Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP Project List

Mike Wenholz 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 included in the TIP must be consistent with the vision, goals, and objectives of the MIC's Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan ([Sustainable Choices 2050](#)).

Richard Sarran presented highlights for current projects in the draft 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 (TA) 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. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) Update

Mike Wenholz gave a brief update to the most recent quarterly meeting of the HTAC in March, and touched on the following:

2025 Harbor Work Plan – The annual Plan was presented and approved. The Work Plan includes three main components: the coordination of HTAC quarterly meetings, the coordination of two subcommittees, and program development.



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Dredging Subcommittee Report – It is mandated that 70% of dredging material must be reused by 2030. It is always a question of where should this go?

Navigation & Safety Subcommittee Report – There are flow lights on the Lift Bridge that indicate the flow of the current, that aid in the safe navigation of the canal. It is being determined who is responsible for the maintenance of those lights.

Other Business – Two presentations were given by Jason Hron of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, one on the origin of the Port Authority and the other, a summary on the shipping activity of 2024.

6. Round Table

- Jenny Van Sickle stated that at the April elections for the City of Superior, she did not gain re-election of her city council seat. She went on to say that she has served on the TAC for nine years and the MIC Policy Board for eight years. While she has served on a few different committees during her term, she has found the MIC Policy Board to be a favorite, finding the transportation issues and topics to be interesting and relevant.
- Mike Mayou stated that 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmond Fitzgerald. There will be activities surrounding the commemoration of the tragic event that occurred on November 10, 1975.
- Ed Anderson stated that there will be a flag ceremony in remembrance of Edgar Culbertson who drowned during an attempt to rescue the Halvorson boys, who also drowned that day, April 30, 1967.

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, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.