



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 1:30 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 4.15.25
- 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #8 -12

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- MnDOT Functional Classification Schedule

Project Updates

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update

In-Person Meeting Location:

MnDOT
1123 Mesaba Avenue
Lake Superior Room
Duluth, MN 55811

OR

OR

Join virtually via TEAMS below:

[Click here to join teams meeting](#)

Join by Phone (audio only)

1 218-210-0525

Conference ID: 379 483 285#

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.

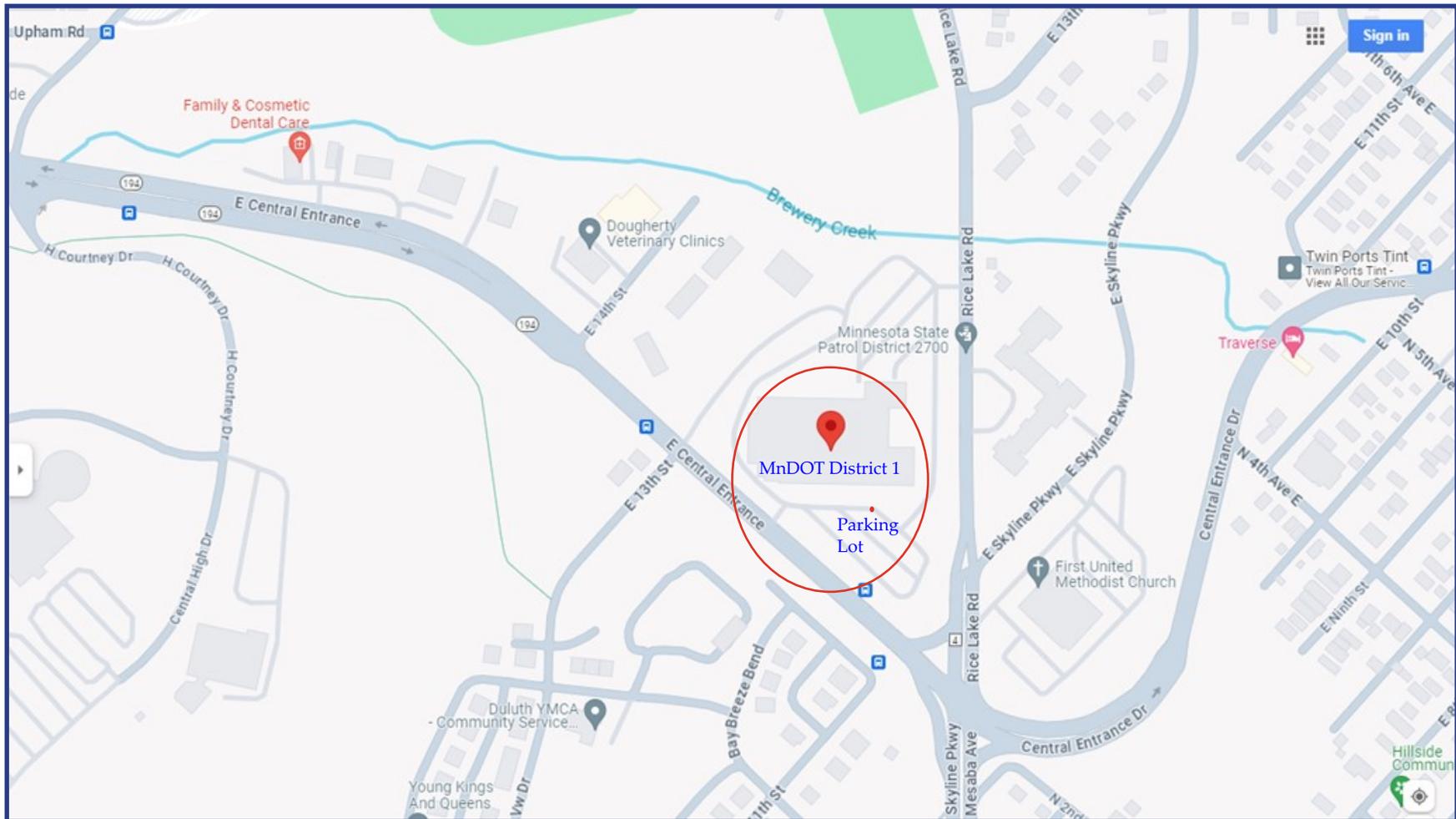
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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

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

Duluth MnDOT District Office



MnDOT/Lake Superior Room
1123 Mesaba Ave
Duluth MN

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (TAC)
MEMBERS**

Airport

Tom Werner

Active Transportation

Skip Williams

City of Duluth

Cari Pedersen

Cindy Voigt

Chris Lee

James Gittemeier

City of Hermantown

David Bolf

Trish Crego (alternate)

City of Proctor

Jess Rich

City of Superior

Todd Janigo

Chris Carlson

Jason Serck (alternate)

Douglas County

Jason Jackman

Duluth Transit Authority

Chris Belden

Rod Fournier (alternate)

Economic Development

Vacant

MnDOT

Maren Webb

Derek Fredrickson

Bryan Anderson

(alternate)

Mobility Challenged

Vacant

Port/Harbor

Kate Ferguson

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi

Matt Hemmila (alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Mae Sommerfeld



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 1:30 pm

MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary 4.15.25 (for Approval) Director's Report 	
3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #8-12	<i>5 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Policy Board for Approval, Sheldon Johnson or Ron Chicka 	
4. MnDOT Functional Classification Greater MN Update	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka and Travis Houle 	
5. Round Table Discussion	<i>5 min</i>
6. Project Updates	<i>5 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update 	
7. Adjourn	

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

WisDOT

1:30 pm



Agenda Item Descriptions

* = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption

1. Introductions / Agenda Review

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 4.15.25*
- MIC Director's Report

MIC Staffing – Eli Norlander, has been hired to fill the open position within the MIC as Transportation Planner. He is completing his master's work at UW-Milwaukee this month. For the past two years, he has been employed at a private sector firm in Milwaukee that provided a great deal of experience in the actual transportation field. This is what set him apart from the other candidates. Eli will work with the TIP, oversee the BPAC, get connected with our Safe Routes to School work, and other projects. He will likely start in early July, but possibly late June.

MN Director's Quarterly – Presented a number of items relating to the upcoming federal reauthorization of the transportation bill. (Expires at the end of the federal fiscal year '26.) The national association, AMPO, is at work this year conducting meetings with all authors of the federal bill as it relates to MPO functions/duties. Also covered, some further background as to where FHWA is at staffing-wise for the MPOs, federal dollar carryover policy and the upcoming larger task for the MIC, roadway Functional Classification review.

Superior – Tower Avenue (south of Belknap) – Project work is scheduled for this year, based on the analysis conducted over the past year with the MICs modeling staff and the City of Superior. This includes the addition of pedestrian islands and bump-outs to aid movements across this corridor. No lane reduction at the current time; this potential will be considered in future projects for this section of roadway.

St Louis County – Rice Lake Road Plan (Lowell School) – A public meeting will be held at St. Scholastica on June 5th at 6 pm to review the plan status discussed with the steering committee to date. (All should have received a separate notice as to location at Scholastica.) Incorporation of prior MIC plans for the corridor have been provided including our work on Safe Routes and the recently completed Bike Plan. In the next few months, we'll get this item before the TAC and MIC board for comment.

3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #8-12

Sheldon Johnson will give an overview of the Superior Area TIP Amendments, as listed below:

TIP AMENDMENT #8

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for a real estate acquisition project associated with the Interstate Highway 535 St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik) replacement project. Total right of way acquisition project cost is estimated at \$9,650,000. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2027.

Please see the table on the next page



Agenda Item Descriptions

** = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption*

2027 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-026 Amended to TIP in May 2025	IH 535 St. Louis RV BR B16-0005-0001 TO 0005 miles 0.0 Real Estate Acquisition 1199-00-21	PE		9,650		9,650
		ROW CONST TOTAL		9,650		9,650

TIP AMENDMENT #9

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for relocation programming associated with the Interstate Highway 535 St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik) replacement project. Total acquisition programming cost is estimated at \$30,900,000. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-027 Amended to TIP in May 2025	IH 535 St. Louis RV BR B16-0005-0001 TO 0005 miles 0.0 Real Estate Acquisition 1199-00-20	PE		30,900		30,900
		ROW CONST TOTAL		30,900		30,900



Agenda Item Descriptions

** = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption*

TIP AMENDMENT #10

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for relocation programming associated with the Interstate Highway 535 St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik) replacement project. Total relocation programming cost is estimated at \$15,570,000. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2026.

2026 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-028 Amended to TIP in May 2025	IH 535 St. Louis RV BR B16- 0005-0001 TO 0005 miles 0.0 Relocation/Admin 1199-00-20	PE				
		ROW		15,570		15,570
		CONST				
		TOTAL		15,570		15,570

TIP AMENDMENT #11

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for relocation programming associated with the Interstate Highway 535 St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik) replacement project. Total relocation programming cost is estimated at \$364,000. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2027.

2027 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-029 Amended to TIP in May 2025	IH 535 St. Louis RV BR B16- 0005-0001 TO 0005 miles 0.0 Relocation/Admin 1199-00-20	PE				
		ROW		364		364
		CONST				
		TOTAL		364		364



Agenda Item Descriptions

** = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption*

TIP AMENDMENT #12

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for work associated with design/sign relocation for the St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik) replacement project. Total preliminary engineering project cost is estimated at \$125,000. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2028.

2028 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-030 Amended to TIP in May 2025	IH 535 St. Louis RV BR B16- 0005-0001 TO 0005 Design/Sign Relocation	PE ROW CONST		125		125
	1199-00-13	TOTAL		125		125

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

4. MnDOT Functional Classification Greater MN Update

MnDOT is beginning the 2025 Statewide Functional Classification Update process, as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) following the 2020 Census urban boundary adjustments. Staff will present an overview of the process and timeline.

5. Round Table Discussion

6. Project Updates

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update**

The BPAC met on May 1 with a full agenda covering a variety of topics, including a debrief and discussion of next steps regarding implementing the recently approved 2025 Duluth-Superior Area Bicycle Transportation Plan, key take-aways from a recent bike and ped design training, updates of bike and ped concerns related to the 40th Avenue West and 26th Avenue East/London Road roundabout projects, and a brief update of the upcoming Mayors’ Bike Event.

7. Adjourn



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Pete Stauber
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Request
Gantry Crane Refurbishment Project
Duluth Seaway Port Authority

Dear Congressman Stauber:

On behalf of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) and our Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC), I am writing to express our strong support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) request for \$5M in Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending, to be matched with up to \$5M in state and local funding, for the refurbishment of the two iconic gantry cranes at the Clure Public Marine Terminal.

The funding will be used to refurbish twin 90 ton electric rail-mounted gantry cranes (130 ton tandem lift capacity) that serve as critical infrastructure for handling breakbulk, heavy-lift and dimensional cargoes at the DSPA's Clure Public Marine Terminal. The cranes were manufactured at Clyde Iron Works in the late 1950s in Duluth and have proudly served and displayed our logo to generations of visiting ships. The cranes require a comprehensive refurbishment, inclusive of the supporting rail infrastructure, to extend their service lifespan and to maintain operational safety, efficiency, and reliability.

The cranes are integral to DSPA's operations at the Clure Terminal, which serves as the only breakbulk and general cargo maritime facility in the Port of Duluth-Superior. They handle huge pieces of equipment supporting the mining, extraction, manufacturing and energy production industries. Their operation is key to the DSPA's strategic goal of expanding the variety of cargoes moving through the Port. As one of two US Great Lakes Ports to handle containers, direct monthly liner service between Western Europe and Duluth was added in 2023, and a second regular liner service between Duluth and the Mediterranean was added in 2024. The gantry cranes unload the majority of the cargo on these vessels.

An investment in maintaining the critical infrastructure in the Port of Duluth-Superior is an investment in the local and regional businesses that rely on the port. Located at the western tip of Lake Superior, at the head of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System, the port is mid-America's gateway to global trade. It serves as a hub for domestic and international cargo. As of 2023, maritime shipping within the Port generated over 7,100 direct and induced jobs and over \$1.6 billion in economic activity.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior area, the MIC is charged with transportation planning for all modes of travel within

221 West First Street
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*Duluth-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*

*ARDC is an equal
opportunity employer*

our planning area. The Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) is one of three advisory committees to the MIC. The HTAC meets quarterly and is structured as a working group for addressing challenges and opportunities in the Duluth-Superior harbor, while promoting the port's economic and environmental importance to both communities.

The HTAC has emerged as a national model for working together to address complex, often controversial and sometimes downright contentious port and estuary-centered issues, through planning, collaboration, information sharing and long-term institutional involvement. The HTAC's 34 voting members representing industry, government, academic, environmental, regulatory and citizen groups address these issues. The Duluth Seaway Port Authority has been a long-standing HTAC voting member and the current chair is a DSPA staff member.

On behalf of Duluth Seaway Port Authority, I fully support the request for \$5M in congressionally directed spending for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority crane refurbishment project. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ron Chicka, AICP
MIC Director

rchicka@ardc.org / (218) 529-7506

Cc: Sheldon Johnson, MIC Deputy Director & NWRPC Executive Director
Wayne Boucher, Minneosta Co-Chair MIC Policy Board
Nick Baker, Wisconsin Co-Chair MIC Policy Board

