



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

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm**

**MEETING NOTICE**

This meeting will be conducted as a virtual meeting only – join us 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 4.16.25
- Meeting Summary of 4.28.25
- 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #8-12

**Items for Presentation and Discussion**

- No items this month

**Project Updates**

- Title VI and Language Access Plan – 2025 Update
- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update

**Join virtually via TEAMS below:**

[Click here to join Teams Meeting](#)

**Join by phone (audio only)**

**+1 218-210-0525**

**Conference ID: 535 907 632#**

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.dsmic.org)**

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**City of Proctor**

Chad Ward

**City of Rice Lake**

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**Duluth Transit Authority Board**

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Annie Harala

**St. Louis County**

**Suburban Townships**

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John Lohse

Vacant

**Douglas County**

**Suburban Townships**

Broc Allen



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**

**Policy Board**

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 6:00 pm**

**MEETING AGENDA**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b></li> <li><b>2. Committee Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 4.16.25 (for Approval)</li> <li>Meeting Summary of 4.28.25 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director’s Report</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">“Open Public Comment Period”</p> </li> </ol>	<i>10 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #8-12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for Approval, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<i>10 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>4. Round Table</b></li> </ol>	<i>5 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>5. Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Title VI and Language Access Plan – 2025 Update</li> <li>Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<i>5 min</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>6. Adjourn</b></li> </ol>	

**Next Meeting**  
 Wednesday, June 18, 2025  
 Northwood Technical College  
 6:00 pm



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## Agenda Item Descriptions

\* = Presented for Approval or Adoption

### 1. Introductions / Agenda Review

### 2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 4.16.25\*
- Meeting Summary of 4.28.25\*
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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				
		ROW		9,650		9,650
		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				
		ROW		30,900		30,900
		CONST				
		TOTAL		30,900		30,900



**Agenda Item Descriptions**

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**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**

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**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 1199-00-13	PE		125		125
		ROW CONST				
		TOTAL		125		125

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).

**4. Round Table Discussion**

**5. Project Updates**

- Title VI and Language Access Plan - Update 2025**

The MIC’s Title VI Plan is being updated with 2020 Census information and will be presented for Board approval in June.

This Plan is the framework for the MIC’s efforts to ensure compliance with federal statutes regarding nondiscrimination (to assure that no person or group of persons shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in activities administered by the MIC). In addition, the Language Access Plan, which describes the measures we take to provide meaningful access to our planning processes to persons with limited English proficiency.

Changes from the 2021 to the 2025 versions of these Plans are minimal and will be reviewed at the meeting.

- 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



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**Agenda Item Descriptions**

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bike and ped concerns related to the 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue East/London Road roundabout projects, and a brief update of the upcoming Mayors' Bike Event.

**6. 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

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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](mailto: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

