





Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
Meeting Summary

**1. Introductions / Agenda Review**

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:32 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 4.15.25\***

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

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Skip Williams / Tom Werner moved to approve the 4.15.25 meeting summary. There was no further 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.

**3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #8-12\***

Ron Chicka gave a detailed 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 refer to the table on the next page.*

**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 CONST		9,650		9,650
	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.



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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

**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.



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**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

**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 these projects should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Todd Janigo / Tom Werner moved to recommend the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #8-12 to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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**4. MnDOT Functional Classification Greater MN Update**

Travis Houle, Transportation Planner for ARDC’s Planning Division, gave an overview of the MnDOT Functional Classification update. The purpose of the statewide Functional Classification update is to ensure that Minnesota’s road classifications align with federal standards following recent census changes. Roadway classifications are tied to funding eligibility and design standards and so this process ensures that each road serves the right function for the local and regional community. MnDOT will review and update the current classifications and will send their recommended changes to the local



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jurisdictions and MPO for review. Jurisdictions can submit an appeal for any disagreements with the classifications. The estimated timeline will include a region by region review by MnDOT to be finalized by June 2<sup>nd</sup> and an overall completion of the entire state is anticipated by late 2025 or early 2026.

#### 5. Round Table Discussion

- Mike Wenholz stated that a change to the definition for “Regionally Significant” will be included in the 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP document, to be in alignment with MnDOT.

#### 6. 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 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.

- 7. **Adjourn:** With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Chicka adjourned the meeting at 2:19 pm.