



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

1Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative/Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Tylor Elm	Superior City Council
	Mark Johnson	Superior City Council
	Yauhen Karatai	City of Duluth – Citizen Representative
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	John Lohse	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
In at 6:10 pm	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
	Jenny Van Sickle	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Annie Harala*	St. Louis County
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	Vacant	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Others Present		
	Mike Casey	Community Member
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth, Senior Transportation Planner
	Sheldon Johnson	NWRPC Deputy MIC Director
	Eli Norlander	Future MIC Transportation Planner
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Principal Planner



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Nick Baker, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. A "Roll Call" attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Baker announced that item #6 on the agenda would need to be stricken from the agenda.

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Lohse / Tylor Elm moved to strike item # 6, Duluth-Superior Title VI Plan and Language Access Plan 2025, from the agenda. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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Chair Baker then moved on to item# 2 on the agenda.

2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 5.21.25***

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

Motion Discussion and Vote	Randy Skowlund / John Lohse moved to approve the 5.21.25 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Appointment of a Policy Board representative to the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC)**

Director Chica stated that an opening existed on the HTAC for a MIC Policy Board representative. In talking with a few of the representatives, he found that Chad Ward was interested and able to fill the vacancy.

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Lohse / Randy Skowlund moved to appoint Chad Ward as the Policy Board representative to the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC). 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.

- Mike Mayou stated that June would be his last month serving on the MIC Policy Board, as he is stepping down from his seat on the city council, due to a move outside of his District. He has enjoyed serving on the Board and hoped to have an opportunity to serve in some capacity in the future.
- James Gittemeier thanked Mike for his work for the city council and as representative to the MIC Policy Board.

Chair Baker then continued to item #3 on the agenda.



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3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 101 – Things to Consider

Mike Wenholz and Richard Sarraan gave a brief overview of the cyclical TIP process, explaining the importance of its timeline. Below is an outline of the four-year cycle as it pertains to any given project.

Four Years from Construction: New projects are first introduced to the TIP during the Under-Development phase of new TIP, which includes a public comment period during the month of July. This is the most ideal time to offer public comment on these projects. Comments are forwarded to the appropriate jurisdictions. The planning process is in its early phase and recommendations may be considered.

Three Years from Construction: Changes to projects may occur during the annual Under-Development phase of the new TIP and planning is still in its early phase. A public comment period will occur during the month of July and provides an avenue to submit comments or recommendations. Planning is still in its early phase and recommendations may be considered.

Pre- Construction Year: Changes to projects may occur either during the Under-Development phase of the new TIP, or through the Amendment or Administrative Modification process. Comments may be made during the public comment period for the new TIP, occurring in July.

Construction Year: Projects have gone through extensive public comment and planning phases. There is limited potential at this stage to make recommendations that lead to substantive alterations to project design. Comments made during the public comment period are forwarded to the appropriate jurisdictions. TIP Administrative Modifications and Amendments that occur between April and June are critical to get done in a timely manner to prevent issues in project funding.

4. 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #7*

Richard Sarraan gave a detailed overview of the Duluth Area TIP Amendment as listed below:

TIP AMENDMENT #7

Re-allocation of Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds from the City of Duluth's FY2025 West Superior Street Reconstruction Project to the City of Duluth's FY2025 Railroad Street Rehabilitation Project

State Project ID #118-109-021CRP (FY2025), #118-118-005 (FY2025), and #118-118-005CRP (FY2025)

Due to uncertainties in state funding for the City of Duluth's 2025 West Superior Street Reconstruction Project, the City has requested that the MIC's 2025 CRP funds in the amount of \$370,000 be re-allocated to the City's 2025 Railroad Street project, reducing the amount of the City's contribution to that project. **There will be no change to the scope of work or the total funding amount of \$2,500,000 for the project.**

CRP funds are intended to be used for projects that reduce transportation emissions, specifically carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from on-road highway sources. MnDOT guidance indicates that these funds are eligible to be applied to the Railroad Street project. The \$370,000 to be replaced by the CRP funds will be used to replace traffic signals, sidewalks, ADA improvements and streetlights.



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Approval of this Amendment also signifies TAC and MIC approval of the re-allocation of CRP funds in the amount of \$370,000 from the City of Duluth's FY2025 West Superior Street Reconstruction Project to the City of Duluth's FY2025 Railroad Street Rehabilitation Project.

All changes as described are noted in red in the tables below:

6/18/2025	State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year
Original	118-109-021CRP	Duluth	W Superior St	**CRP**: IN DULUTH, MSAS 109 (W SUPERIOR ST) FROM MSAS 194 (CARLTON ST) TO MSAS 194 (W MICHIGAN ST) RECONSTRUCTION, STREETScape AND EV CHARGING STATIONS	CRP	\$ 370,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 462,500	2025
Amendment 7	118-109-021CRP	Duluth	W-Superior St	**CRP**: IN DULUTH, MSAS 109 (W SUPERIOR ST) FROM MSAS 194 (CARLTON ST) TO MSAS 194 (W MICHIGAN ST) RECONSTRUCTION, STREETScape AND EV CHARGING STATIONS	CRP	\$ 370,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 462,500	2025
Original	118-118-005	Duluth	Railroad St (MSAS 118)	RAILROAD ST (MSAS 118) IN DULUTH FROM 5TH AVE W TO CANAL PARK DRIVE BITUMINOUS RESURFACING, CURB AND GUTTER, SIDEWALK ADA UPGRADES, TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT	STBGP	\$1,480,000	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 2,500,000	2025
Amendment 7	118-118-005	Duluth	Railroad St (MSAS 118)	RAILROAD ST (MSAS 118) IN DULUTH FROM 5TH AVE W TO CANAL PARK DRIVE BITUMINOUS RESURFACING, CURB AND GUTTER, SIDEWALK ADA UPGRADES, TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT	STBGP	\$1,480,000	\$ 557,500	\$ 2,037,500	2025
New Project Amendment 7	118-118-005CRP	Duluth	Railroad St (MSAS 118)	**CRP**: RAILROAD STREET (MSAS 118) IN DULUTH FROM 5TH AVE W TO CANAL PARK DRIVE BITUMINOUS RESURFACING, CURB AND GUTTER, SIDEWALK, ADA UPGRADES, TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT	CRP	\$ 370,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 462,500	2025

Public Comments:

Mike Casey stated that the West Superior Street project is near and dear to his heart. Especially with its inclusion of the Cross City Trail and the multi-modal aspects of the Plan. His concern is that the Railroad Street Project is not reducing Carbon, in his opinion, and he is hoping that some folks will vote no to this amendment.



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Moved by Scott Welsh, seconded by Chad Ward, to approve Amendment #7 for adoption into the 2025-2028 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Board discussion: Q: What the status is of the West Superior Street Project? A: It is moving to 2026. Currently the agreement is not signed , but it needs to be in place by September 2026. Currently the State of MN is not signing agreements with the federal government, which left Railroad Street as the only eligible project for the CRP funds. Q: What is the plan to use the \$370,000 in local funds that were going towards Railroad Street? A: The local dollars will be used for contingencies and rolled over to 2026. Q: What is being cut from West Superior Street due to the loss of CRP funds? A: Nothing is being cut. The City of Duluth will backfill with local dollars to cover the loss. Q: Why was this the only eligible project? A: It was the only other eligible project slated to begin construction in 2025, thus being eligible to receive 2025 CRP funds. Q: When the TAC was looking at this, was there a way they could tie in the Railroad Street project to the spirit of the CRP program? A: The Railroad Street project already had CRP eligible items programmed: ADA accessible side walk and signal lights, etc, so this was already in alignment with the program. • Yauhen Karatai commented that since CRP funds are a use it or lose it situation, he would encourage the other members to support it. • Randy Skowlund sees this as a use it or lose it situation as well. • Adam McGill agrees that the items are eligible and that it is a use it or lose it situation, so he will support it. However, he agrees with Mike Casey that there could be a better use for these funds. • Mike Mayou stated that perhaps the City of Duluth can allocate the 2026 funds to fill in on the West Superior Street Project, if they are saving on local funding on the Railroad Street Project. Voting Aye: Baker, Boucher, Elm, Johnson, Karatai, Kennedy, Lohse, Mayou, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, VanSickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Allen, Harala, Ledin Motion Carried: Aye: 14, Nay: 0.
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5. Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP – Discussion & Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on July 14, 2025*

Mike Wenholz gave a brief overview of the Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Are TIP which is currently under development. The MIC has sought jurisdictional input into the preliminary draft and has received several comments from TAC members to make changes before the Draft TIP is released for public comment.



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With approval from the Policy Board, the 30-Day Public Comment Period would begin July 14, 2025, and run through August 13th. Three public meetings are planned for the week of July 21st, and exact dates are to be determined. The MIC will coordinate agency consultations with FHWA, FTA, MnDOT, and the DTA. All comments received will be listed & responded to within the final TIP document. The Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP will be presented for adoptions at the September TAC and MIC meetings.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments were received.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Moved by Randy Skowlund, seconded by Mike Mayou, to approve the release of the Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the 30-Day Public Comment Period. Board discussion: Q: Will the Board have additional time prior to the Public Comment Period? A: No, because the draft document is not yet finalized. This is due to MnDOT's deadline for the completion of the project list, which is July 7th. This gives the MIC one week to finalize the draft for its release on the 14th. The MIC will send the draft to all MIC members upon its release. Q: Do we do press releases and/or how do we get this out to the public? A: Historically, press releases have not worked as well to spread the word. The MIC will put an ad on Facebook that includes a link to the draft document, along with links to the public meetings for the draft TIP. Q: Can we get this on the City of Duluth's or City of Superior's social media sites? A: It would be up to both cities to link to our information. Both will receive notification when the draft TIP is released on the 14th of July. Voting Aye: Baker, Boucher, Elm, Johnson, Karatai, Kennedy, Lohse, Mayou, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, VanSickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Allen, Harala, Ledin Motion Carried: Aye: 14, Nay: 0.
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6. Duluth-Superior Title VI Plan and Language Access Plan 2025*

This item was stricken from the agenda at the start of the meeting.

7. MIC Area Safety Action Plan

Rondi Watson gave an update on the recent work of Phase II of the MIC Area Safety Action Plan. The MIC completed Phase I in 2024, which focused on the safety analysis of the MIC area transportation network and developed strategies and prioritized project selection.

The MIC received a Safe Streets for All federal planning grant to complete the remaining elements needed to produce a comprehensive safety action plan. The focus of Phase II will be to develop a



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sustained safety culture by employing strategies to influence how our community accepts and prioritizes traffic safety strategies over the long run. The MIC issued an RFP to hire a consultant to lead this planning work. Six proposals were received by the deadline and the selection process will take place on June 18, 2025. Consultant work would begin in July 2025 and continue through October 2026.

8. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) Update

The HTAC met on June 4 with a full agenda covering a variety of topics, including a thank you to Deb DeLuca for her partnership with HTAC over the past ten years. Updates were given from both the Dredging and Navigation & Safety Subcommittees, along with a status update of the Duluth Ship Canal Work Group.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, in partnership with the MN Dept. of Natural Resources and the WI Dept. of Natural Resources, gave an update on the remediation and restoration efforts for the St. Louis River Area of Concern, which was 81.3% complete as of March 2025.

Several presentations were given at the HTAC, including a presentation on the upcoming events honoring the memory of the Edmund Fitzgerald – Fifty Years Later, treaty rights in the St Louis River Estuary, and funding opportunities and updates from the Maritime Administration (MARAD).

And lastly, Jeff Udd (Duluth Seaway Port Authority) was introduced as the new HTAC Chair, and Jason Serck (City of Superior) was introduced as the new HTAC Vice Chair.

9. Round Table

- Adam McGill stated that recently, his representation of the Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) was questioned, and a concern was raised to the DTA Board President that Adam was manipulating his position as the DTA Board representative to the MIC Policy Board. Adam asked that if there is a concern in the future, could he please be spoken to directly about the concern, and/or be included in the conversation with the DTA Board President. Adam stated that the DTA Board President did not find the concern to be valid.

10. Project Updates

- Safe Routes to School – Duluth Public Schools**

Starting on July 1st, 2025, ARDC Regional Planning Division will begin work on a Duluth School district-wide Safe Routes to Schools planning process. This will look at improving bicycle and pedestrian access for the 13 public school sites in the Duluth area. The contract is for 18 months and will end on January 1st, 2027.

11. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.