



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

Tuesday, August 19, 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 6.17.25
- 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #13

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Airport Infrastructure Renewal Update
- Twin Ports Interchange and Blatnik Bridge Update
- MnDOT London Road Project Discussion
- Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP Update
- Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program Discussion
- New Definition of “Regionally Significant”

Project Updates

- Administrative Modification #5 to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP
- Administrative Modification #1 to the 2025-2026 UPWP
- DSMIC.org Website Redesign
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update
- MPO Area Functional Classification Update
- MIC Area Safety Action Plan
- 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Update

In-Person Meeting Location:

Duluth International Airport
3rd Floor Conference Room
4701 Grindon Drive
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: 427 264 364#

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.

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. 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

Directions to Duluth Airport Conference Room



-The Conference Room is located on the 3rd floor of the airport terminal. Take the elevator, located toward the back of the building (near the restrooms on the 2nd (skywalk) level, or between the baggage claim carousels on the ground floor).

**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, August 19, 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 6.17.25 (for Approval) Director's Report 	
3. Airport Infrastructure Renewal Update	<i>25 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Tom Werner 	
4. Twin Ports Interchange and Blatnik Bridge Update	<i>25 Min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Pat Huston, MnDOT Project Director & Peter Marthaler, MnDOT Construction Manager 	
5. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #13	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Policy Board for Approval, Sheldon Johnson 	
6. MnDOT London Road Project Discussion	<i>15 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion, Jim Foldesi, St. Louis County Public Works Director & Ron Chicka 	
7. Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP Update	<i>15 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	
8. Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program Discussion	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka 	
9. New Definition of "Regionally Significant"	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	
10. Round Table Discussion	<i>5 min</i>
11. Project Updates	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Modification #5 to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modification #1 to the 2025-2026 UPWP DSMIC.org Website Redesign Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update MPO Area Functional Classification Update MIC Area Safety Action Plan 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Update 	
12. Adjourn	

Next Meeting
 Tuesday, September 16, 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 6.17.25*
- MIC Director's Report
 - DOT-FHWA MPO Program Review – Our annual meeting with the MICs oversight agencies took place this month. This amounts to a status report on all items of the MPO including: budget and work program project status, review of the TIPs and their current status within each state, tasks within our Long Range Plan plus traffic demand modeling tasks, and an update from the DOT and FHWA on policies key to MPOs. This meeting aids in setting the course for the 2026 budget and work program to be finalized this Fall.
 - MN MPO-DOT Annual Conference – MPOs of the state and DOT representatives gathered in Mankato last month to share best practices and gain input on polices/guidance key to our operations. Some key interactive sessions were focused on peer-to-peer conversations on MPO tasks and learning of different approaches by all, and a session where AMPO (national association in DC) presented on the status of the federal transportation bill in Congress plus the various points of the recent Executive Orders out of the Administration and their pertinence to the MPOs. Most of the MPOs also highlighted a key project within their area.

3. Airport Infrastructure Renewal Update

Tom Werner will give a presentation that will include a five-year look back at infrastructure and economic development progress that coincides with the conclusion of the five-year strategic plan for the airport. There will be a look ahead to projects in the next couple of years, as well.

4. Twin Ports Interchange and Blatnik Bridge Update

Pat Huston and Peter Marthaler from MnDOT will be here to give an update on the schedules for Blatnik Bridge and Twin Ports Interchange projects, along with traffic mitigation plans.

5. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #13*

TIP AMENDMENT #13

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT to include a future Electric Vehicle Fast Charger investment within one mile of US-53 from the MN-WI border to where US-2 & US-53 split off. Total investment is estimated at \$900,000. The local match will be provided by the business receiving the WEVI grant award. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2026.

Please refer to the table on the following page.



Agenda Item Descriptions

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2026 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-031 Amended to TIP in August 2025	US-53 within one mile of US-53 from the MN-WI border to where US-2 & US- 53 split off miles 0.0 NEVI Funding	PE	20	0	5	25
		ROW				
		CONST	700	0	175	875
		TOTAL	720	0	180	900

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

6. MnDOT London Road Project Discussion

Jim Foldesi and Ron Chicka will discuss the recent meetings of the BPAC and their recommendations to the MIC Policy Board for the London Road Project.

7. Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP Update

The Draft 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP 30-day public comment period ended August 13. Three virtual 1-hour public meetings were held in July. Staff will provide a short summary of the comments received during the virtual public meetings and comment period. Staff will also discuss the remaining timeline before recommending approval of the final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP in September.

8. Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program Discussion

For the meetings this month, please consider optional/discretionary projects that the MIC staff might conduct. This is in addition to the usual and ongoing items: TIP, Metro Long Range Plan and our modal elements (Bike/Ped, Harbor, Freight, Roadway and Transit). Examples might be jurisdictional projects identified in the MTP that could use a multimodal study or further technical analysis. Or planning assistance needed to further a comprehensive plan or other long-range vision via your jurisdiction/organization.

9. New Definition of “Regionally Significant”

Revising the definition of “Regionally Significant” was discussed during the June TAC meeting. Staff noted that throughout the first half of 2025 they had become aware of two issues regarding our definition of “Regionally Significant”. One, our definition is broader than it needs to be. Staff have



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discussed this with other Minnesota MPOs and FHWA and learned it would be beneficial to have a narrower, more focused definition. Two, staff realized we have inconsistent definitions in key documents, so now is the time to address this with one, improved definition. A revised definition was proposed and discussed.

The definition of “Regionally Significant” is important to MIC work and the new definition will be included in the final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP document.

Following discussion during the June TAC meeting the following definition was agreed upon:

MIC area “regionally significant” projects are roadway, transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and other active transportation projects (other than a grouped or exempt project or a project solely for preventative maintenance or landscaping), regardless of how they are funded, that occur on facilities that serve regional transportation needs and/or connect to major transportation assets (including transit, seaport, airport, and passenger rail terminals). These facilities include all principal and minor arterial highways and all fixed guideway transit facilities that offer an alternative to regional highway travel. Other non-federally funded projects consistent with the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) may be considered regionally significant at the MIC’s discretion.*

* = Projects grouped in the STIP/TIP pursuant to 23 CFR 450.216 and 23 CFR 450.324 or exempt per US EPA’s transportation conformity regulations (40 CFR part 93, subpart A)

This agenda item is to remind TAC members of the June discussion, formally present the final definition, and note possible guidance topics associated with this definition and its use.

10. Round Table Discussion

11. Project Updates

- **Administrative Modification #5 to the 2025-2028 Duluth Area TIP**

- **Cost Adjustments to the FY 2026 London Road Reconstruction Project**

- (State Project ID #118-166-004, #118-193-003, #118-191-003, #6925-145, #6925-145AC)*

- In response to a request from the City of Duluth and MnDOT, the MIC approved cost adjustments to the London Road Reconstruction project in the 2026 program year as an Administrative Modification* to the 2025–2028 Duluth Area TIP. These changes pertain to the project’s multiple components, which are listed under separate State Project ID numbers, as shown:

- These requested cost reductions and associated funding adjustments are based on revised estimates for the City of Duluth’s portion of the intersection improvements along London Road:*

- **#118-166-004 and #118-193-003**

- The cost for each project decreases by \$300,000, for revised Project Totals of \$700,000;

- Federal (“Non-AC”) funding increases by \$66,667
 - Local (“Other”) funding decreases by \$366,667



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Transportation Advisory Committee

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#118-191-003

The cost for this project decreases by \$550,001, for a revised Project Total of \$449,999;

- Federal (“Non-AC”) funding decreases by \$133,334
- Local (“Other”) funding decreases by \$416,667

This requested cost increase and associated funding adjustments are based on a change to the final bid amount and MnDOT's decision to advance an additional \$2,000,000 in federal AC funding from 2027:

#6925-145 and #6925-145AC

The cost for this project increases by \$50,000, for a revised Project Total of \$19,175,000;

- Federal (“Non-AC”) funding decreases by \$2,757,582
- Federal Advance Construction (“AC”) funding increases by \$2,000,000
- State (“TH or Bond”) funding decreases by \$182,418
- Local (“Other”) funding increases by \$990,000.

State Project ID	Agency	Roadway Name	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Fed AC \$*	Fed AC Payback**	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Year	
118-166-004	Duluth	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	MN 61 (LONDON RD), NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, CONST ROUNDABOUT AT (MSAS 166) 40TH AVE E. (ASSOC 6925-145, 118-191-003, 118-193-003)	STBGP	\$ 493,333	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 506,667	\$ 1,000,000	2026	
118-166-004	Duluth	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	IN DULUTH MSAS166(40TH AVE E.)CONST ROUNDABOUT(ASSOC6925-145, 6982-357, 118-191-003, 118-193-003)	STBGP	\$ 560,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000	\$ 700,000	2026	
118-191-003	Duluth	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	MN 61 (LONDON RD) NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, CONST ROUNDABOUT AT (MSAS 191) 26TH AVE E. (ASSOC 6925-145, 118-166-004, 118-193-003)	STBGP	\$ 493,333	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 506,667	\$ 1,000,000	2026	
118-191-003	Duluth	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	IN DULUTH MSAS191(26TH AVE E.)CONST ROUNDABOUT(ASSOC6925-145, 6982-357, 118-193-003, 118-166-004)	STBGP	\$ 359,999	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 449,999	2026	
118-193-003	Duluth	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	MN 61(LONDON RD), NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, (MSAS193) LONDON RD IMPROVEMENTS (ASSOC 6925-145, 118-166-004, 118-191-003)	STBGP	\$ 493,333	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 506,667	\$ 1,000,000	2026	
118-193-003	Duluth	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	IN DULUTH MSAS193(LONDON RD) INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (ASSOC 6925-145, 6982-357, 118-191-003, 118-166-004)	STBGP	\$ 560,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000	\$ 700,000	2026	
6925-145	MnDOT	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**AC** MN 61(LONDON RD), NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, FROM (MSAS 191) 26AVE E. TO 0.14 MI. N. (MSAS195) 60TH AVENUE EAST, MEDIUM MILL/OVERLAY, TRAIL, CONST ROUNDABOUTS AT (MSAS191)26TH AVE E. , (MSAS 166)40TH AVE. E. , AND I-35 SB JCT (MSAS 152)1AVE E & 26TH AVE E. INSTALL INTERSTATE CLOSURE GATES (ASSOC 6982-357, 118-166-004, 118-191-003, 118-193-003) (AC PROJECT PAYBACK 2027).	NHPP	\$ 7,571,575	\$ 8,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,653,425	\$ -	\$ 19,125,000	2026
6925-145	MnDOT	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**AC** MN 61(LONDON RD), NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, FROM (MSAS-191)-26AVE E. TO 0.14 MI. N. (MSAS195) 60TH AVENUE EAST, MEDIUM MILL/OVERLAY, TRAIL, CONST ROUNDABOUTS AT (MSAS191)26TH AVE E. , (MSAS 166)40TH AVE. E. , AND I-35 SB JCT (MSAS-152)1AVE E & 26TH AVE E. INSTALL INTERSTATE CLOSURE GATES (ASSOC 6982-357, 118-166-004, 118-191-003, 118-193-003) (AC PROJECT PAYBACK 1 OF 1).	NHPP	\$ 4,813,993	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,371,007	\$ 990,000	\$ 19,175,000	2026
6925-145AC	MnDOT	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**AC** MN 61, NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, FROM (MSAS 191) 26AVE E. TO 0.14 MI. N. (MSAS195) 60TH AVENUE EAST, MEDIUM MILL/OVERLAY, TRAIL, CONST ROUNDABOUTS AT (MSAS191)26TH AVE E. , (MSAS 166)40TH AVE. E. , AND I-35 SB JCT (MSAS 152)1AVE E & 26TH AVE E. INSTALL INTERSTATE CLOSURE GATES (ASSOC 6982-357, 118-166-004, 118-191-003, 118-193-003) (AC PROJECT PAYBACK1 OF 1)	NHPP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	2027	
6925-145AC	MnDOT	MN 61	PAVEMENT RESURFACE AND REHABILITATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES/SAFETY	**AC** MN 61(LONDON RD), NB AND SB, IN DULUTH, FROM (MSAS-191)-26AVE E. TO 0.14 MI. N. (MSAS195) 60TH AVENUE EAST, MEDIUM MILL/OVERLAY, TRAIL, CONST ROUNDABOUTS AT (MSAS191)26TH AVE E. , (MSAS 166)40TH AVE. E. , AND I-35 SB JCT (MSAS-152)1AVE E & 26TH AVE E. INSTALL INTERSTATE CLOSURE GATES (ASSOC 6982-357, 118-166-004, 118-191-003, 118-193-003) (AC PROJECT PAYBACK 1 OF 1).	NHPP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	2027	

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Eli Norlander at 218-529-7556 or by email at enorlander@ardc.org.

- **Administrative Modification #1 to the 2025-2026 UPWP**
To augment the tasks identified within the current work plan and budget (UPWP), the MIC is acquiring consultant assistance to redesign the dsmic.org website to improve our online presence, visitor experience, and the ease with which staff can post to the site.



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To do this, we are re-allocating existing funds in the amount of \$24,000 from both Personnel and Direct Expense budget lines-to cover the consultant cost for this task (with some added funds included to compensate for related tasks to be conducted by MIC staff). Approximately 70% of the cost will be derived from unused funds from the Personnel side of the budget; 30% derived from elements of the Direct side of the budget. Combined, this total will then be moved to the Administration code number of the MICs budget for 2025. All work on the website update is scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

- **dsmic.org Site Redesign**

The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) is charged with effectively communicating with project stakeholders and the public at large about our transportation planning activities. Our website, dsmic.org, is the MIC's primary tool for providing timely information on our current plans and studies.

The site, however, is ten years old and needs an update. The MIC issued a Request for Quotes (RFQ) in June for a qualified consultant to perform the needed updates. We received five quotes and awarded the contract to SEK Design Studio. Preliminary work is underway, with the design and development phases to follow. The project will be completed by the end of the year.

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Update**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) met on August 7th. Staff will provide a summary of the topics of discussion. These included a London Road (MN 61) project discussion which included a presentation from the Minnesota Department of Transportation's District 1 staff. A special meeting was called the following week to discuss changes to a resolution that was brought forward regarding the London Road project. Staff will be providing information about the outcome of this meeting.

At the August 7th meeting, BPAC also had several updates that staff will mention. These include the periodic review and update of the bylaws, a restructuring of subcommittees, and the scope of work for ARDC and the MIC partnering on Safe Routes to School planning with Duluth Public Schools.

- **MPO Area Functional Classification Update**

The MIC is actively working on determining the correct route we would like to go to determine where and if the MPO area roads require any Functional Classification changes. This will be completed with future coordination with the state DOT's and the local jurisdictions. We are currently in the information gathering stage and will have more information soon.

- **MIC Area Safety Action Plan**

The planning process will soon begin with Zan Associates, in partnership with Alliant Engineering, as the lead consultant team.



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As reported in June, we received six strong proposals. Because they were all high-quality and closely ranked after initial scoring, the selection committee invited each firm to give a short virtual presentation. Following this second round of evaluations, Zan Associates was selected to lead the MIC’s Safety Action Plan.

With the comprehensive, data-driven Safety Analysis of the MIC area transportation network completed in 2024, a key strength of Zan’s proposal was their approach to public engagement—working with community members, elected officials, jurisdictional decision-makers, and the media. Their presentation reflected a clear understanding of our objectives and the complementary expertise the Zan-Alliant team will bring.

Work is expected to begin later this month, with project completion remaining on schedule for September 2026.

- **2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Update**

Traditionally, a new Superior TIP is developed annually to include updates to projects currently listed in the TIP, removal of obligated/completed projects, and the addition of new projects identified by local jurisdictions. WisDOT has provided an opportunity for the upcoming Superior 2026-2029 TIP development process to deviate from past year TIP development processes. Instead of developing a new 2026-2029 Superior TIP that would normally be initiated in August and adopted by the MIC in October, the MIC will be simply amending the current 2025-2028 Superior TIP throughout 2025 and 2026 with any new projects and changes to currently listed projects.

This deviation will give WisDOT and MPO’s across Wisconsin more time to determine how recent changes at the federal level will affect planning processes and documents. The 2025-2028 Superior TIP will continue to be fiscally constrained and future Performance Measure Targets will also be amended into the 2025-2028 TIP. Looking forward, it is expected the MIC will resume the normal Superior TIP development process in August 2026 initiating the future development and adoption of the 2027-2030 Superior TIP.

12. Adjourn