



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Tuesday, September 16, 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 8.19.25
- 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #14-18
- Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program
- Definitions Related to TIP Projects

Project Updates

- Administrative Modification #1-16 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP
- MIC Area Safety Action Plan
- Safe Routes to School
- MIC Public Engagement Plan

In-Person Meeting Location:

WisDOT
Lake Superior Room
1701 4th Street
Superior, WI 54880

OR

OR

Join virtually via TEAMS below:

[Click here to join teams meeting](#)
Join by Phone (audio only)
1 218-210-0525
Conference ID: 276 984 216#

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.

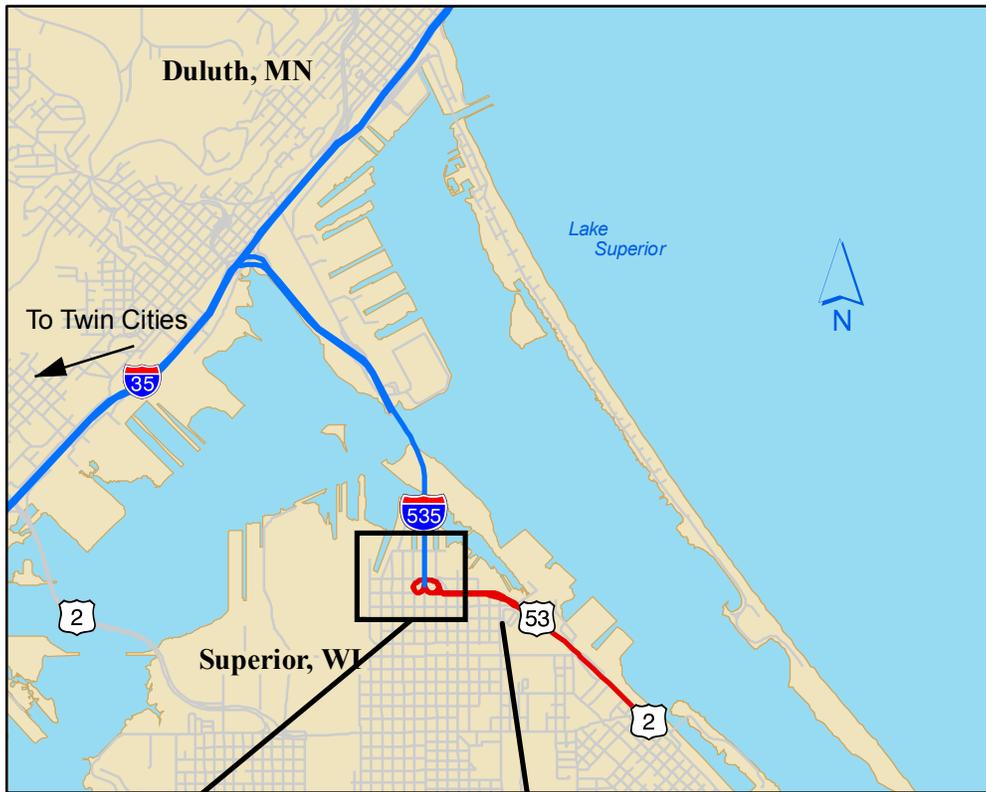
The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Complaint instructions and forms can be found in the Title VI Non-Discrimination Program and Limited-English 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

221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • www.dsmic.org

WisDOT Northwest Region - Superior Office
1701 N 4th St
Superior, WI



From Minnesota on either I-35 N or S:
 Take 535 / 53 (Blatnik Bridge) to Superior, WI
Bear RIGHT off bridge, then straight following signs for South 35
 At stop, turn LEFT onto 3rd St
 Bear LEFT as road curves (Tower Ave)
 Turn LEFT at 4th St (1st left)
 WisDOT will be on the left

From Wisconsin: Follow 53/2 from the south
 Bear RIGHT at signs for **Superior Business District/ South 35 / Vehicle Registration Driver Licensing**
 this becomes N 3rd St
 Bear LEFT as road curves (Tower Ave / South 35)
 Turn LEFT at 1st left (4th St)
 WisDOT will be on the left

- Parking lot in front of building
- Meeting held in Lake Superior Conference Room

**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

Jeremy Kroke (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, September 16, 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 8.19.25 (for Approval) Director's Report 	
3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #14-18	<i>15 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Policy Board for Approval, Sheldon Johnson 	
4. Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP	<i>20 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Policy Board for Approval, Mike Wenholtz & Eli Norlander 	
5. Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program	<i>15 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka 	
6. Definitions Related to TIP Projects	<i>15 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholtz 	
7. Round Table Discussion	<i>5 min</i>
8. Project Updates	<i>10 min</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Modification #1-16 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP MIC Area Safety Action Plan Safe Routes to School MIC Public Engagement Plan 	
9. Adjourn	

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

MnDOT

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 8.19.25*
- MIC Director's Report
 - St Louis County – Rice Lake Road Plan (Lowell School) – County is in the final phases of this Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) study targeted to improve the safety for ingress/egress into the school for all movements – vehicular and pedestrian. A main piece of infrastructure proposed is a “Continuous T” layout along Rice Lake Road that will channel through traffic southbound while also providing a median separated lane for both northbound and southbound vehicles to access Barnes Road and the school. Both Rice Lake and Barnes will require property acquisition (for widening) to accomplish this schematic. A shared use path is to be constructed on the west side of the roadway along with a relocated bus stop including crosswalks and rapid flashing beacons to cross Rice Lake. Access improvements to the residents of the multifamily units are also being incorporated into recommendations. This is a planning only study. Funds have yet to be acquired for the project.
 - St Louis County and City of Rice Lake – Rice Lake and Martin Intersection – An Open House is to be held at North Star Academy ([attached postcard](#)) at 6 pm on October 23rd to detail this project. The proposed design includes many features including: a single lane roundabout along Rice Lake at both Martin and Calvary; reconstruction of Rice Lake itself from Ridgeview to 2/3 of a mile north of Martin; improvements to an access road between Calvary and Rice Lake; and shared use paths along both Rice Lake and Martin within the scoped project area. The County received a federal BUILD grant, plus matching funds for this study.
 - [Port Authority Letter of Support – MARAD Grant – Letter](#) provided to Port staff aimed at gaining \$30M in federal dollars to further the Port Multimodal Expansion project; matched by secured state and local funding. The proposal has two main components: taking down former grain elevators at the Lake Port dock to build appropriate cargo laydown space, and reconstructing over 1000 feet of this dock wall to allow for further commercial expansion for the port.

3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #14-18*

TIP AMENDMENT #14

A TIP amendment to an existing project listed in the 2025-2028 TIP has been requested by WisDOT to increase the funding amount from \$11,116,000 to \$19,420,000 and move the project construction date from 2027 to 2028.

Please see table on the next page.



Agenda Item Descriptions

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

2028 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-24-001 Amended to TIP in September 2025 1180-00-60	USH-2 Superior-Wentworth 53 rd Ave E to CTH C Pavement Resurfacing miles 6.52 STPG-U Multi-Year Project Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$19,841,093	PE				
		ROW				
		CONST	15,536	3,884		19,420
		TOTAL	15,536	3,884		19,420

TIP AMENDMENT #15

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for preliminary engineering work associated with a new maintenance garage at Safety Rest Area 23 south of Superior. Total project cost is estimated at \$100,000. 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 113-25-032 Amended to TIP in September 2025 1180-00-17	USH-2 Off Roadway Superior-Wentworth Safety Rest Area 23 New Maintenance Garage miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$750,000	PE		100		100
		ROW				
		CONST				
		TOTAL		100		100



Agenda Item Descriptions

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

TIP AMENDMENT #16

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a new maintenance garage at Safety Rest Area 23 south of Superior. Total project cost is estimated at \$650,000. 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 113-25-033 Amended to TIP in September 2025 1180-00-87	USH-2 Off Roadway Superior-Wentworth Safety Rest Area 23 New Maintenance Garage miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$750,000	PE ROW CONST		650		650
		TOTAL		650		650

TIP AMENDMENT #17

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with sanitary sewer work associated with Blatnik Bridge work. Total project cost is estimated at \$4,347,000. 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 113-25-034 Amended to TIP in September 2025 1199-00-78 ID to bill City of Superior for their portion of sanitary sewer	IH535 Superior - Duluth St Louis River Br B16- 0005-0001 to 0005 Reimbursement to MN miles 0.0 State Bond Funds Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST		3,912	435	4,347
		TOTAL		3,912	435	4,347



Agenda Item Descriptions

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TIP AMENDMENT #18

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with lighting associated with Blatnik Bridge work. Total project cost is estimated at \$522,000. 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 113-25-035 Amended to TIP in September 2025 1199-00-79 ID to bill City of Superior for lighting	IH535 Superior - Duluth St Louis River Br B16-0005- 0001 to 0005 Reimbursement to MN miles 0.0	PE ROW CONST			522	522
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL			522	522

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

4. Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP*

The [Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP](#) has been posted on the MIC website for review by the TAC. Staff will provide an overview of changes made since the draft stage. Included in the overview will be a description of how comments from the 30-day public comment period were incorporated into the document and the responses that the MIC provided to comments. Staff will also inform the TAC about the next steps for the Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP when it moves on to the MIC board for approval. The TAC members will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments and then staff will ask the TAC to recommend approval of the Final TIP document by the MIC board.

5. Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program

The [Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program and Budget](#) document has been drafted and is under review by our State and Federal oversight personnel. A copy of the draft is attached to the agenda notification as well, and a brief review will be presented for discussion. Please return any comments regarding the draft by Wednesday, September 24, 2025.

6. Definitions Related to TIP Projects

The MIC has become aware that two key terms related to TIP projects are vague in federal code and that it is in the best interest of the MIC to provide better clarity by defining each of these key



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terms. The two terms are “consistent with” and “reflect the investment priorities established in”, both of which are important specific requirements the MIC must adhere to in developing and implementing its TIP.

Moving forward as it applies to 23 CFR 450.326(i) “**consistent with**” means:

- The project or project phase, once completed, is anticipated to make progress towards meeting one or more of the MTP’s goals and objectives;
- It is expected the anticipated progress will be measurable and/or positively noticed by users; and
- In achieving the above the project or project phase, once completed, will help bring the MTP’s vision to reality.

As it applies to 23 CFR 450.326(i) “consistent with” does not mean the project or project phase must make progress towards meeting all of the MTP’s goals and objectives.

Moving forward as it applies to 23 CFR 450.326(a) “**reflect the investment priorities established in**” means:

- The project or project phase is listed in the MTP’s priority projects list, full project list, and/or is determined to be regionally significant, and is fiscally constrained;
- The project or project phase, once completed, is anticipated to make progress towards meeting one or more of the MTP’s goals and objectives;
- The project or project phase, once completed, is anticipated to make progress towards implementing Action Steps identified in the MTP; and
- In achieving the above the project or project phase, once completed, will help bring the MTP’s vision to reality.

As it applies to 23 CFR 450.326(a) “reflect the investment priorities established in” does not mean the project or project phase must make progress towards meeting all of the MTP’s goals and objectives

An additional handout related to this topic is available in the materials provided on the meeting webpage titled: [MIC Working Definitions](#).

7. Round Table Discussion

8. Project Updates

- **Administrative Modification #1-16 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has requested 16 administrative modifications to the 2025-2028 Superior TIP. The modifications add narrative to selected projects to show the full project costs associated with the improvement project(s).



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Transportation Advisory Committee

September 16, 2025

Agenda Item Descriptions

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Adding the full associated project costs reflects current practices for calculating year of expenditure in WisDOT's Environmental Documents. There are no changes to project description/activity, length, or funding or year of implementation.*

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

Please refer to the tables on the next page for further details.

Administrative Modifications #1-16 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP

Administrative Modifications: Narrative additions to project descriptions to include *Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$)\$xxx,xxx*

No changes to project description/activity, length, or funding

		Estimated Cost (\$1,000)					Funding Source and Cost Share			
		2025	2026	2027	2028	Illustrative	Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-23-011 Local Street - Marina Drive Marina Drive N to Barkers Island 0.14 miles STBG-U 8998-00-62 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$2,227,929	PE									
	ROW									
	CONST			2,209			1,236		973	2,209
	TOTAL			2,209			1,236		973	2,209
WisDOT 113-23-016 STH 105 Culvert Replacement on unnamed tributary to Pokegama River- Construction 0.0 miles Protect 8760-00-72 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$3,480,447	PE									
	ROW									
	CONST		3,433				2,746	687		3,433
	TOTAL		3,433				2,746	687		3,433
WisDOT 113-24-021 IH 535–Blatnik Bridge Replacement/Construction B16-0005 to 0001 Reimbursement to MnDOT 0.0 miles 100% Wisconsin Bond Funding 1199-00-77 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE									
	ROW									
	CONST		346,200					346,200		346,200
	TOTAL		346,200					346,200		346,200
WisDOT 113-24-024 IH 535–Blatnik Bridge Replacement Preliminary Engineering B16-0005-0001 to 0005 0.0 miles 53% WisDOT Bond and 47% MnDOT 1199-00-12 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE		4,700				2,491	2,209	4,700	
	ROW									
	CONST									
	TOTAL		4,700					2,491	2,209	4,700

WisDOT 113-25-004 STH 13 NW Region, Thin Polymer Deck Overlays Various Locations B-16-0053 T. Lakeside Bridge Preventive – STBG 8590-02-73 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$623,778 **Partially within boundary	PE								
	ROW								
	CONST			40.8		32.6	8.2		40.8
	TOTAL			40.8		32.6	8.2		40.8
WisDOT 113-25-005 USH 53 Solon Springs – Superior B-16-0012 C. Superior 0.0 miles Bridge Rehab NHPP 1195-00-12 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$1,598,000 **Partially within boundary	PE	20.6				16.5	4.1		20.6
	ROW								
	CONST								
	TOTAL		20.6			16.5	4.1		20.6
WisDOT 113-25-006 USH 53 NW Region, Deck Sealing B-16-0012 C. Superior & B-16-0024 T. Parkland 0.0 miles Bridge Rehab NHPP 1190-03-77 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$661,994 **Partially within boundary	PE								
	ROW								
	CONST			15		12	3		15
	TOTAL			15		12	3		15
WisDOT 113-25-024 IH 535 St. Louis River Bridge B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 (0.0 miles) Sanitary Sewer 1199-00-41 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE								
	ROW								
	CONST	1,400					1,400		1,400
	TOTAL	1,400					1,400		1,400
WisDOT 113-25-025 STH 35 CTH B S to 69 th St. (9.0 miles) Cold in place Recycling paving STBG 8010-00-77 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$9,878,291	PE								
	ROW	9,000				7,200	1,800		9,000
	CONST								
	TOTAL	9,000				7,200	1,800		9,000

WisDOT 113-25-026 IH 535 St. Louis River Bridge B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 0.0 miles Real Estate Acquisition 1199-00-21 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST								
				9,650			9,650		9,650
	TOTAL			9,650			9,650		9,650
WisDOT 113-25-027 IH 535 St. Louis River Bridge B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 0.0 miles Real Estate Acquisition 1199-00-20 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST								
		30,900				30,900		30,900	
	TOTAL	30,900				30,900		30,900	
WisDOT 113-25-028 IH 535 St. Louis River Bridge B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 0.0 miles Relocation/Admin 1199-00-20 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST								
			15,570			15,570		15,570	
	TOTAL		15,570			15,570		15,570	
WisDOT 113-25-029 IH 535 St. Louis River Bridge B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 0.0 miles Relocation/Admin 1199-00-20 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST								
				364			364		364
	TOTAL			364			364		364
WisDOT 113-25-030 IH 535 St. Louis River Bridge B-16-0005-0001 to 0005 0.0 miles Design/Sign Relocation 1199-00-13 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST				125		125		125
	TOTAL				125		125		125

WisDOT 113-24-028 IH 535 UP RR-Xing 186166U & 186165M Signals, RR Signals Interconnect 0.0 miles NHS 1199-00-50 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE								
	ROW								
	CONST		250				250		250
	TOTAL		250				250		250
WisDOT 113-24-029 IH 535 UP RR-Xing 186169P Signals, RR Signals Interconnect 0.0 miles NHS 1199-00-51 Total Improvement Project Costs (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE								
	ROW								
	CONST		250				250		250
	TOTAL		250				250		250



Agenda Item Descriptions

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

- **Safe Routes to School**

MIC and ARDC staff joined the Duluth Public Schools Safe Routes to School Coordinator at two open house events on August 27th and 28th. Community members also joined to help with tabling to help reach as many schools as possible on the primary open house night, Wednesday, August 27th. At schools with staff or community volunteers present, tables were set up with “dotmocracy” posters and students, parents, and school staff were asked to provide their top 3 reasons why students do not walk or bike to school and their top 3 ways to encourage and allow more students to walk or bike to school. Additionally, information was provided about the Safe Routes to School planning initiative and parents were encouraged to watch for upcoming emails about future data collection volunteer opportunities.

- **MIC Public Engagement Plan**

The MIC is updating its Public Involvement Plan (PIP), last revised in 2021. This comprehensive update fulfills federal requirements under 23 CFR 450.316 to periodically review and improve public participation procedures. The updated plan will create a more inclusive and measurable framework for community involvement in our transportation planning processes and ensure consistency with state DOT processes.

Key steps in its development include conducting a thorough review of 23 CFR 450.316 regulations with MIC staff, surveying other MPO plans for best practices and other content, and working with MIC staff and partner agencies to update the processes we will follow to develop, amend, and administratively modify the MTP, UPWP, and Duluth and Superior TIPs.

After releasing the draft plan for a 45-day public comment period in October, holding at least one public meeting and conducting formal consultations with state and federal agencies, staff will incorporate feedback received and prepare the final document for approval by the MIC Policy Board in December.

9. Adjourn