

# Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) Working Definitions of “consistent with” and “reflect the investment priorities established in”

## **Background**

The MIC is responsible for developing long-range transportation plans and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) through a performance-driven, outcome-based approach to planning in the established and defined Duluth, Minnesota – Superior, Wisconsin metropolitan planning area (MIC area). The transportation planning process the MIC is to follow shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address ten required planning factors. *23 CFR 450.306(a) and (b)*

The MIC’s planning process must include the development of a long-range (minimum 20-year outlook) transportation plan, known as a Metropolitan Transportation Plan, or MTP. *23 CFR 450.324(a)*

The MIC, in cooperation with both the State of Minnesota and the State of Wisconsin, as well as the Duluth Transit Authority, must develop a TIP for the portions of the MIC area in each State. *23 CFR 450.326(a)* Thus, the MIC develops two TIPs.

Two important specific requirements the MIC must adhere to in developing and implementing its TIP are:

- “Each project or project phase included in the TIP shall be **consistent with** the approved metropolitan transportation plan.” *23 CFR 450.326(i)*
- “The TIP shall **reflect the investment priorities established in** the current metropolitan transportation plan ...” *23 CFR 450.326(a)*

Neither “consistent with” nor “reflect the investment priorities established in” are defined in 23 CFR 450. As these are important TIP requirements the MIC is providing a working definition for each below.

## **Definitions**

### **Consistent With**

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.

### **Reflect the Investment Priorities Established In**

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.

These definitions will be included in appropriate documents and plans, such as the annual TIP document and the MTP.

### **Other Considerations**

Required performance measures and targets are included within the MIC’s MTP and are an important part of the MIC’s overall transportation planning process. However, performance measures and targets do not need to be directly included within the above definitions as:

- All required performance measures and targets identified in the MTP are integrated within two different MTP objectives, which are included within the definitions; and
- As per 23 CFR 450.326(c) the TIP shall be designed such that once implemented it makes progress toward achieving the performance targets established in the MTP.