



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Meeting Summary**

** = Approval Item*

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative & Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
In at 1:34 pm	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
In at 1:32 pm	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	Derek Fredrickson	MnDOT District 1
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
In at 1:35 pm	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Jeremy Kroke	Duluth Transit Authority (Alternate)
	Mae Sommerfeld	WisDOT NW Region
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
	Skip Williams	Active Transportation
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Chris Belden *	Duluth Transit Authority
	Kate Ferguson*	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Chris Lee*	City of Duluth
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Vacant	Economic Development
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Duane Hill	MnDOT District 1
	Justin Johnson	WisDOT Central Office - MPO Coordinator
	Sheldon Johnson	NWRPC
	Yauhen Karatai	MIC Policy Board
	Chris Michels	WisDOT
	Eli Norlander	MIC Transportation Planner
	Dean Ryan	WSB
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Principal Planner



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Mike Wenholz, MIC Principal Planner, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When completed, Wenholz then asked if there were any questions or other changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. Committee Business

- Meeting Summary of 8.19.25*

Wenholz then asked if there were any questions or changes to the August meeting summary.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and a text description of a motion to approve the 8.19.25 meeting summary.

- Director’s Report

Ron Chicka gave a brief update on the following items:

Lowel Elementary and Rice Lake Rd - Planning efforts continue for the movement of traffic to and from Lowel Elementary on Rice Lake Road. Changes will be coming to assist with the flow of traffic in and out of the school.

Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project – St. Louis County, in partnership with the City of Rice Lake will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2025, to discuss the final design phase of the Rice Lake Rd Corridor Project. A meeting announcement was included in the meeting materials

Additional Director’s Report items were not discussed but can be found in the meeting materials packet.

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

Sheldon Johnson gave a detailed overview of the Superior Area TIP Amendments, as listed below:

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.



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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 ROW CONST		100		100
		TOTAL		100		100



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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



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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 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST			522	522
		TOTAL			522	522

Motion Discussion and Vote	<p>James Gittemeier / Cindy Voigt moved to recommend the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #14-18 to the Policy Board for approval.</p> <p>Committee Discussion:</p> <p>Cindy Voigt commented that the slides shown for Amendment #17 and Amendment #18 contained different dollar amounts than what was reflected in the meeting materials.</p> <p>Sheldon Johnson stated that he agreed the amounts were different and he suggested that the voting on this item be postponed until later in the meeting, to allow him time to confirm which figures were correct.</p> <p>Later in the meeting, Sheldon was able to confirm that the slide deck had the incorrect dollar amounts and that the meeting materials that were distributed were correct. He stated that he would make the correction to the slide deck in time for the Policy Board presentation.</p> <p>There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.</p>
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4. Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP*

Eli Norlander gave an overview of the 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP. Items that changed included accessibility improvements, as well as language and definition changes, for added clarity, as well as alignment with Executive Orders.

Upcoming projects for 2026 include: London Road (MN 61) and the Blatnik Bridge projects, as well as



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the STBGP funded projects of 40th Avenue W, Canosia Road, and the 4th and 5th Segments of the Campus Connector, which is also being funded in part by Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funds, as well as Transportation Alternative (TA) funds. Other projects occurring in 2026 include projects being funded by the Build (formerly known as Raise) grant which are the Lift Bridge Rehabilitation, West Superior Street Reconstruction, and the Rice Lake Road Reconstruction projects.

The 30-Day Public Comment Period was held from July 14th through August 13th, 2025. All comments that were received were sent a response from the MIC and have been recorded in the Appendix of the final TIP document. Comments were also shared with the relevant jurisdiction. All document-specific changes were considered, and most were incorporated.

An additional column was added to the Performance Measure (PM 1) Safety table to aid in showing a trend for fatal and serious injury crash rates. Additions were also made to the Status Report to include timeline changes and impacts on Performance Measures.

If approved, the Final 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP will be routed to the MnDOT MPO Coordinator for review and approval, then submitted to FHWA and FTA. Once it is fully approved, it will be incorporated into the STIP and the next TIP cycle begins again.

Skip Williams noted a change is needed regarding Rice Lake. Eli noted that an edit will be made. Cindy Voigt noted that the Campus Connector map that is pictured in the presentation is not accurately displaying the location. It does not go through the middle of the UMD campus, but travels along College Street. She also stated appreciation for the TIP process but is disappointed to see that the project year of a particular project did not get adjusted to 2026 after she had requested the change. Richard Sarran stated that an amendment can be made once the TIP is fully approved. James Gittemeier asked if we anticipate a normal approval turnaround time for the TIP. Ron Chicka stated that he had not heard of any delays in the process and so does not anticipate any.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jim Foldesi / Skip Williams moved to recommend the 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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5. Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program

Director Chicka gave a review of the Draft 2026-2027 MIC Work Program. Not a lot changed from the August presentation, save for a few of the budget amounts that had been finalized in the interim. The Final 2026-2027 Work Program & Budget will be presented at the October meeting for adoption by the Policy Board and then forwarded to MnDOT, WisDOT, FHWA and FTA for final approvals.

6. Definitions Related to TIP Projects

Mike Wenzholz began by explaining that the MIC had identified three words or phrases requiring local and clarifying definition, that are key pieces of the 23 CFR 450.326, federal regulation for MPOs. These are: "regionally significant", "consistent with", and "reflect the investment priorities established in".

The MIC built its new definition of "Regionally Significant" around the minimum definition from the federal regulation, as well as tailored it to work for the MIC area. It was reviewed by TAC and then finalized based upon the TAC suggestions at the August meeting.



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The phrase “consistent with” as it applies to 23 CFR 450.326(i) means that 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 also expected that the anticipated progress will be measurable and/or positively noticed by users and will help bring the MTP’s vision to reality. It does not mean that the project, or project phase must make progress towards meeting *all* the MTP’s goals and objectives.

The phrase “reflect the investment priorities established in” as it applies to 23 CFR 450.326(a) means the following:

- that 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; and
- The project or project phase, once completed, is anticipated to make progress towards meeting one or more of the MTP’s goals and objectives; and
- 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.

After the presentation, the TAC discussed how jurisdictions can assist in helping to achieve the goals and objectives of the MTP.

7. Round Table Discussion

- James Gittemeier stated that the city has received guidance that the I-35 study may have final approval in the next 2-3 months. This project would be funded by the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program grant, once approved.
- Duane Hill mentioned that a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for October 6th for the Twin Ports Interchange, as construction is estimated to be completed by mid-November.
- Skip Williams stated that he had participated in a bike walk audit of Arrowhead Road. There was also a walk audit of 2nd Street that occurred recently as well. He feels these are good ways to build awareness.
- Cindy Voigt mentioned that 6th Avenue East is still under construction and to be aware of the detours.
- James Gittemeier mentioned that Duluth has been awarded a Safe Routes to School grant to update its SRTS plan, which was last updated in 2006. This process will include the oversight of Andi Heil, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Duluth Public Schools and this plan will be expanded to include the secondary schools.

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).



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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.

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



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- **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), which was 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:** With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Mike Wenzholz adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.