



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

** = Approval Item*

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative & Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	Kate Ferguson*	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Derek Fredrickson	MnDOT District 1
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT District 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Chris Lee*	City of Duluth
	Mae Sommerfeld	WisDOT NW Region
	Skip Williams*	Active Transportation
	Vacant	Economic Development
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Justin Johnson	WisDOT Central Office - MPO Coordinator
	Kristi Kane	ARDC Executive Director
	Jeremy Kroke	Duluth Transit Authority
	Bryan McCoy	MnDOT Central Office – State Program Administrator
	Eli Norlander	MIC Transportation Planner
	Dean Ryan	WSB
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenholtz	MIC Principal Planner
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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. A "roll call" attendance was taken. When completed, Director Chicka gave a brief statement regarding the following:

ARDC and the MIC are reviewing Open Meeting Laws and looking at our method of operation for meetings of the TAC and MIC Board. As we work through our procedures, we ask that when attending the meeting virtually, members turn on their cameras when speaking and voting. Additionally, votes will be cast by roll call vote for all approval items when members participate by virtual means. We appreciate your patience as we work through these items.

Also to note, the MIC does not record any of our committee or Board meetings. If a guest wishes to record the meeting, we ask that they announce themselves, their affiliation and the committee chair will direct guests where their recording devices may be placed.

Kristi Kane, Executive Director for ARDC, then made a brief statement that as the host agency, ARDC is reviewing the Open Meeting Laws and determining our best practices for holding committee and Board meetings. We are also reviewing how the MIC operates as a bi-state organization with respect to the federal regulations for MPOs.

Director Chicka then announced that there was a request to change the agenda, under item #3. WisDOT has requested that its Project # 113-25-042 be removed from the agenda. Director Chicka asked for a motion.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Todd Janigo / Jim Foldesi moved to remove WisDOT Project #113-25-042 (<i>listed as Amendment #25 to the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP in the meeting materials</i>) from the agenda. Committee Discussion: None Voting Aye: Belden, Carlson, Ferguson, Foldesi, Fredrickson, Gittemeier, Jackman, Janigo, Pederson, Rich, Voigt, Webb, Werner Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Bolf, Lee, Sommerfeld, Williams Motion Carried: Aye: 13, Nay: 0.
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2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 9.16.25***

Director Chicka then asked if there were any questions or changes to the September meeting summary.



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Jim Foldesi / Maren Webb moved to approve the 9.16.25 meeting summary.
	Committee Discussion:
	None
	Voting Aye: Belden, Carlson, Ferguson, Foldesi, Fredrickson, Gittemeier, Jackman, Janigo, Pederson, Rich, Voigt, Webb, Werner
	Voting Nay: None
	Abstain: None
	Absent: Bolf, Lee, Sommerfeld, Williams
	Motion Carried: Aye: 13, Nay: 0.

- Director's Report**

Ron Chicka gave a brief update on the following items:

Though the federal shutdown is in effect, it is anticipated that the approval of the 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP won't be delayed, however there is potential for some projects to be affected with delays.

The federal transportation bill is less than a year out from sunseting. AMPO is well set going into the next bill formation.

3. 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendment #19-29 28*

Director Chicka gave a detailed overview of the Superior Area TIP Amendments, as listed below:

TIP AMENDMENT #19

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for preliminary engineering work associated with bridge deck sealing at various locations at B-16-0012 and B-16-0024. Total project cost is estimated at \$730. Work related to the project amendment is scheduled for 2026.

Please refer to the table on the next page.

2026 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-036 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1190-03-08	USH 53 NW Region, USH 53 Bridge Deck Sealing Various Locations B-16-0012 & B-16-0024 miles 0.0 NHPP Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$)	PE ROW CONST	0.584	0.146		0.730
	\$786,205	TOTAL	0.584	0.146		0.730



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A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with water main work due to the Blatnik Bridge replacement project and roadway realignment. Total project cost is estimated at \$830,000. 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 113-25-037 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-80	IH535 Superior - Duluth	PE				
	St Louis River Br B16-0005-0001 to 0005	ROW				
	Water Main miles 0.0	CONST			830	830
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL			830	830

TIP AMENDMENT #21

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a sidewalk extension at UP rail crossing 186174L due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$30,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-038 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-52	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth	PE				
	Ogden Ave, UP RR XING 186174L	ROW				
	Sidewalk Extension miles 0.0	CONST		30		30
		TOTAL		30		30



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Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125					

TIP AMENDMENT #22

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a surface/sidewalk at UP rail crossing 186165M due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$242,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535 – Detour	PE				
113-25-039	Superior-Duluth	ROW				
Amended to TIP in October 2025	Winter Street, UP RR XING	CONST		24	218	242
1199-00-53	186165M					
	Surface/Sidewalk miles 0.0					
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$)	TOTAL		24	218	242
	\$410,096,125					

TIP AMENDMENT #23

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a surface/sidewalk at CP rail crossing 691665B due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$131,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.



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Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth	PE ROW CONST		17	114	131
113-25-040 Amended to TIP in October 2025	Ogden Ave, CP RR XING 691665B Surface/Sidewalk miles 0.0					
1199-00-54	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL		17	114	131

TIP AMENDMENT #24

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a surface at CP rail crossing 691660S due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$164,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth	PE ROW CONST		16	148	164
113-25-041 Amended to TIP in October 2025	Grand Ave, CP RR XING 691660S Surface miles 0.0					
1199-00-55	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL		16	148	164

TIP AMENDMENT #25

~~A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a surface at CP rail crossing 691656 due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project~~



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cost is estimated at \$278,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-042 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-56	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth Winter St, CP RR XING 691656 Surface miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		97	181	278
				97	181	278

At the request of WisDOT, and by Committee action, Project #113-25-042 was removed from the agenda.

TIP AMENDMENT #26-#25

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with a surface at BNSF rail crossings 061462H, 086562J, 085931A, due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$202,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-043 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-57	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth Winter St, BNSF RR XING 061462H, 086562J, 085931A Surface miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		50	152	202
				50	152	202

TIP AMENDMENT #27-#26

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with surface work at BNSF rail crossings 082644C due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total



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project cost is estimated at \$252,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-044 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-58	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth NP Railroad Rd, BNSF RR XING 082644C Surface miles 0.0	PE ROW CONST		126	126	252
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL		126	126	252

TIP AMENDMENT #28 #27

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with signal work at BNSF rail crossings 082644C due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$350,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-045 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-59	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth NP Railroad Rd, BNSF RR XING 082644C Signals miles 0.0	PE ROW CONST		350		350
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL		350		350

TIP AMENDMENT #29 #28



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A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction work associated with signal work at CP rail crossings 691657J due to pending detours associated with the closure of the Blatnik Bridge. Total project cost is estimated at \$278,000. Work activities related to the project amendment are scheduled to start in 2025.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-046 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-01-50	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth Catlin Ave, CP RR XING 691657J Surface miles 0.0	PE ROW CONST		28	250	278
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	TOTAL		28	250	278

Motion Discussion and Vote	Todd Janigo / Maren Webb moved to recommend the 2025-2028 Superior Area TIP Amendments #19-28 to the Policy Board for approval. Committee Discussion: Todd Janigo commented that when federal funds are utilized for a project within so many feet of a railroad crossing, it is required to make needed updates to the crossing at that time. The updates to several crossings will be done in phases going into late next year. Voting Aye: Belden, Carlson, Ferguson, Foldesi, Fredrickson, Gittemeier, Jackman, Janigo, Pederson, Rich, Voigt, Webb, Werner Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Bolf, Lee, Sommerfeld, Williams Motion Carried: Aye: 13, Nay: 0.
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4. Final 2026-2027 MIC Work Program*

Ron Chicka reviewed the components of the 2026-2027 MIC Work Program, stating that nothing significant had changed from the reporting he gave at last month's meeting. Final edits have been made to the document, and he asked for a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board.



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Tom Werner / James Gittermeier moved to recommend the 2026-2027 MIC Work Program to the Policy Board for approval. Committee Discussion: None Voting Aye: Belden, Carlson, Ferguson, Foldesi, Fredrickson, Gittermeier, Jackman, Janigo, Pederson, Rich, Voigt, Webb, Werner Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Bolf, Lee, Sommerfeld, Williams Motion Carried: Aye: 13, Nay: 0
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5. Sustainable Choices 2050 Implementation

Mike Wenholz presented on the next steps towards the implementation of the MIC's Long Range MTP, *Sustainable Choices 2050*. He began by reviewing the first steps that were taken last year during the STBGP application process. Last year more goals and objectives were added to the application, along with asking the applicant to give a short description of how each project would meet them. This inquiry will continue to be part of the application. Additionally, an emphasis will be placed on selecting Priority Identified Projects.

Additional Steps that could be implemented include:

- Add a component to the Obligated Project List to report progress: "How did we do?"
- Regular Reporting (report card) that is updated annually that would show basic data
- Jurisdictions would complete a form for each completed project which would include Performance Based Planning to be reported out on the report card
- Jurisdictions may be asked to submit highlights on any non-TIP projects annually to show additional progress being made.
- The only required reporting would be for those STBGP projects that are dropping out of the TIP in that reporting year.

Proposed basic data and information to be included in the reporting from jurisdictions could include the following (proposed) items:

- Jurisdiction & MIC Area Populations
- DTA & STRIDE Ridership
- AADT of 7 Listed Major Roads
- # Traffic Fatalities and # Serious Injuries (PM 1)
- # Non-Motorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries (PM 1)
- Pavement & Bridge Condition Data to compare with PM 2 Measures & Targets
- Pavement & Bridge Condition Data to update MTP Figures 5.3 – 5.11
- System Performance Data to compare with PM 3 Measures & Targets
- Existing Sidewalk Miles (Jurisdictions and/or MIC Area)



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- Existing Dedicated Bike Lane/Path Miles (Jurisdictions and/or MIC Area)
- Key Port Tonnages & Vessel Visits (???)
- Commercial Passenger & Freight Airplane Arrivals (???)

Questions that came forward in the discussion:

Q: Is the MIC going to provide feedback to the jurisdictions with relation to the reporting?

A: The MIC will prepare a standard form for jurisdictions to complete for each project.

Q: This could amount to a fair amount of work. Jurisdictions already prepare an annual report. Perhaps each could carve out the MIC area from their reports to provide to the MIC. This would be easier to do annually.

A: The MIC wants to provide something that is helpful in the end to jurisdictions to use in reporting to government oversight. The MIC could provide the forms for completion.

Q: If the result could provide an overall report that reflected, as an example, how many major roads have been repaired in the past four years, this would be a way to share this data with the public.

Q: Other data that would be good to show would be multi-use improvements, ADA improvements, truncated domes, etc.

A: The MIC could set up a way to present this data, possibly by way of charts, graphs, etc.

Key takeaway, Mike Wenzholz will set up a work session with the jurisdictions to create a report card. The meeting will be before Thanksgiving. This component will be added to the Obligated Projects List.

6. Protect, Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), & Transportation Alternatives (TA) Project Solicitation & TIP Timeline

Eli Norlander gave an overview of these federal funding opportunities, which include multiple funding years. The Letter of Intent Period is now open until October 31, 2025. If jurisdictions are interested in applying, one combined letter of intent may be written for all the funding sources. ARDC is facilitating the solicitation of these funds.

All programs will follow the same timeline:

- **TBD soon** – Pre-application meeting
- **Wednesday, November 26, 2025** – Recommendation to apply for eligible programs
- **Monday, December 1, 2025** – Official start of full application period.
- **Friday, January 9, 2026** – Deadline for applicants to submit full applications.
- **Tuesday-Wednesday, February 17-18, 2026** – Presented to the TAC and MIC Board for inclusion in the Draft TIP
- **Monday, March 30, 2026** – Deadline for ATPs to Submit Award Recommendations.

For questions, please contact ARDC Senior Transportation Planner, Travis Houle, thoule@ardc.org

7. Round Table Discussion

- Ron Chicka mentioned the public meeting for the Blatnik Bridge taking place at the Superior



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Public Library on Monday, October 20th at 5:00 pm.

- Eli Norlander mentioned the opening of 6th Avenue East celebration on October 20th at noon, at JS Print.
- Chris Belden stated that the Bus Stop Improvement Project began in Superior, WI. The project calls for replacing old shelters and new concrete work, which began this fall. The shelters will be replaced next spring. This is a \$1.1M project.

8. Project Updates

- **MIC Safety Action Plan**

MIC staff, in collaboration with lead consultant Zan Associates and subcontractor Alliant Engineering, has begun work on the second phase of our [Safety Action Plan](#). This month, the team will host a workshop to gather input that will help shape the project's Community Action Plan. This foundational document will outline strategies, identify primary stakeholder groups, and serve as a guiding framework for the planning process from November 2025 through October 2026.

- **Safe Routes to School**

On October 6th, ARDC and the MIC held a kick-off meeting for the Duluth Public Schools Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Planning initiative. School principals, state & county staff, and members of DPD completed a visioning exercise to help develop a vision statement for the initiative. They also discussed current initiatives around the Duluth Public Schools district that have been successes related to biking & walking to school. During October, ARDC & MIC staff are working with the Duluth Public School District's Safe Routes to School Coordinator to perform drop off/pickup observations at school sites, a key data collection activity for the SRTS planning process.

- **MIC Public Engagement Plan**

The MIC will be 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.

Initial steps in its development include conducting a thorough review of related regulations, Title VI and Language Access Plan requirements with MIC staff, surveying other MPO plans for best practices and other content, and working with partner agencies and TAC and MIC members to update the processes we will follow to develop, amend, and administratively modify the Duluth and Superior TIPs, the long range Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the UPWP..

We plan to present the draft Plan for release for a 45-day public comment period in January, conduct formal consultations with state and federal agencies, and hold at least one public meeting during that time. Staff will incorporate feedback received and prepare the final document for approval by the MIC Policy Board in March.

9. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Chicka adjourned the



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meeting at 2:43 pm.