



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Policy Board**

October 15, 2025 Meeting

Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative/Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Tylor Elm	Superior City Council
	Annie Harala	St. Louis County
	Yauhen Karatai	City of Duluth – Citizen Representative
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	John Lohse	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Adam McGill	Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Board
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Randy Skowlund	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Tara Swenson	Duluth City Council
	Jenny Van Sickle	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Mark Johnson	Superior City Council
Others Present		
	Mike Casey	Community Member
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Hadrian DeMairoibus	Vibrant Streets
	Sheldon Johnson	NWRPC Deputy MIC Director
	Kristi Kane	ARDC Executive Director
	John Ramos	Duluth Monitor
	Richard Saran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist



Meeting Summary

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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Nick Baker, called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Then a "Roll Call" attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Baker called upon ARDC Executive Director, Kristi Kane, who wished to address the Board.

Director Kane began by thanking the Board for their public service as members of the MIC Policy Board. She went on to say that Board members should have received an email from her regarding the events that took place at the September Policy Board meeting. She went on to say ARDC is reviewing the recent events, along with legal counsel, and taking the matter seriously. ARDC is also reviewing how the MIC operates as a bi-state operation, with respect to the federal regulations for MPOs, to understand the flexibility with how we can receive public input, along with Open Meeting Laws. Director Kane encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to please reach out to her. She is open to discussion and will take all feedback into consideration.

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

Motion Discussion and Vote	John Lohse / Nick Boucher 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. Board Discussion: None Voting Aye: Allen, Baker, Boucher, Elm, Harala, Karatai, Kennedy, Lear, Ledin, Lohse, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, Swensen, Van Sickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Johnson Motion Carried: Aye: 17, Nay: 0.
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Broc Allen asked for a Point of Order, asking why the Opportunity for Public Comment was at the end of the agenda. He stated that the Board will have already voted on the approval items on the agenda with the current placement of this item.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Annie Harala / Broc Allen moved to place the Opportunity for Public Comment at the beginning of the agenda. Board Discussion: None Voting Aye: Allen, Boucher, Elm, Harala, Karatai, Kennedy, Lear, Ledin, Lohse, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, Swensen, Van Sickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: Baker Abstain: None Absent: Johnson Motion Carried: Aye: 16, Nay: 1.
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Meeting Summary

** = Approval Item*

Chair Baker then moved on to item #2 on the agenda.

2. Committee Business

- **Meeting Summary of 9.17.25***

Chair Baker then asked if there were any questions or changes to the September meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Adam McGill / Annie Harala moved to approve the 9.17.25 meeting summary as amended. Board Discussion: Member Allen commented that the meeting summary showed the most glowing reflection of the events occurring on item #4. Member Harala commented that she had been in contact with ARDC after the event took place to get assurance that training would follow to ensure the Board is aware of protocol for Board meetings. Voting Aye: Allen, Baker, Boucher, Elm, Harala, Karatai, Kennedy, Lear, Ledin, Lohse, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, Swensen, Van Sickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Johnson Motion Carried: Aye: 17, Nay: 0.
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- **Director's Report**

Director Chicka briefly updated the Board on the Federal Shutdown, stating that we have been through a few of these over the years, and generally there is little to no impact. Should it be extended over a longer period of time, the shutdown could have impact on the timelines of some projects. However, our planning funds are encumbered and so should not be affected.

Director Chicka went on to say that some may have noticed that the middle row of lighting has been removed on the Bong Bridge. This is due to plans to replace them at the end of the year, ahead of the Blatnik Bridge Replacement project.

- **Open Public Comment Period**

Hadrian DeMairoibus of Vibrant Streets shared his concerns over media access to public meetings of the MIC regarding the event at the last Board meeting.

John Ramos of the Duluth Monitor shared his concerns that reporters should have full access to faces and voices at public meetings of the MIC. He stated that Member Boucher should be censored or removed for his actions at the last Board meeting.

Mike Casey, Duluth citizen, shared his concerns on the treatment of some past and present Board members by the MIC director. He also shared concerns that federal funded projects are approved as a whole, instead of individually, on MIC Policy Board agendas.



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

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

Sheldon Johnson gave an 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.

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 \$) \$786,205	PE ROW CONST TOTAL	0.584 0.584	0.146 0.146	 830	0.730 830

TIP AMENDMENT #20

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 St Louis River Br B16-0005-0001 to 0005 Water Main miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL	 	 	 830	 830



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

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 Ogden Ave, UP RR XING 186174L Sidewalk Extension miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		30		30
				30		30

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 113-25-039 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-53	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth Winter Street, UP RR XING 186165M Surface/Sidewalk miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		24	218	242
				24	218	242



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

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.

2025 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-25-040 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-54	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth Ogden Ave, CP RR XING 691665B Surface/Sidewalk miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		17	114	131
				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 113-25-041 Amended to TIP in October 2025 1199-00-55	IH 535 – Detour Superior-Duluth Grand Ave, CP RR XING 691660S Surface miles 0.0 Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$) \$410,096,125	PE ROW CONST TOTAL		16	148	164
				16	148	164



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

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 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	IH 535 — Detour	PE				
113-25-042	Superior-Duluth	ROW				
Amended to TIP in October 2025	Winter St, CP RR XING 691656	CONST		97	181	278
1199-00-56	Surface miles 0.0					
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$)	TOTAL		97	181	278
	\$410,096,125					

At the request of WisDOT, and by Board 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	IH 535 – Detour	PE				
113-25-043	Superior-Duluth	ROW				
Amended to TIP in October 2025	Winter St, BNSF RR XING 061462H, 086562J, 085931A	CONST		50	152	202
1199-00-57	Surface miles 0.0					
	Total Improvement Cost (nearest \$)	TOTAL		50	152	202
	\$410,096,125					



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

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 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



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

TIP AMENDMENT ~~#29~~ #28

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

Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

Please find the Board Action on the next page.



Meeting Summary

** = Approval Item*

Motion Discussion and Vote	Moved by Allen, seconded by Lear, to approve Amendments #19-28 for adoption into the 2025-2028 Superior Area Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Board discussion: Q: Member Van Sickle asked if the city is not fiscally responsible for railroad repairs, and residents must pay for light and power, who covers the local share for railroad crossings, such as these? A: Deputy Director Johnson stated that the local responsibility falls on the railroad, generally covered by local state dollars Q: Member Elm stated that he noticed that the Hammond Avenue crossing is not included in these amendments, noting that this is an important crossing with respect to the Blatnik Bridge project. Will we see an upgrade to this crossing? A: Deputy Director Johnson stated that while he doesn't know for certain, he is aware that more amendments will be coming in December, and it may be included then, or at some point in the future. Voting Aye: Allen, Baker, Boucher, Elm, Harala, Karatai, Kennedy, Lear, Ledin, Lohse, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, Swensen, Van Sickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Johnson Motion Carried: Aye: 17, 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, which was recommended for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their meeting yesterday, October 14th.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Moved by Skowlund, seconded by Ward, to approve the Final 2026-2027 MIC Work Program and budget. Board discussion: None Voting Aye: Allen, Baker, Boucher, Elm, Harala, Karatai, Kennedy, Lear, Ledin, Lohse, McGill, Quade, Skowlund, Swensen, Van Sickle, Ward, Welsh Voting Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: Johnson Motion Carried: Aye: 17, Nay: 0.
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5. Apprise from MIC Board Members

No comments were made.

6. ~~Guest Comments~~ (moved under item #2)



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

7. Project Updates

Project updates are not always formally presented at the meeting but are listed here per the MIC's Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and to inform the board members of current MIC activity.

- **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.

- **PROTECT, Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Transportation Alternatives (TA) Project**

At the TAC meeting, Eli Norlander of the MIC will have provided a presentation on the project solicitation timeline for the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Transportation Alternatives (TA) federal funding programs. The solicitation announcement for all three of these programs was sent to jurisdictions on October 6th. Jurisdictions have until October 31st to submit a letter of intent for their projects ahead of the full application period opening on December 1st. Staff will have discussed the solicitation process this year which will be conducted by ARDC, meaning projects are collected by ARDC and delivered to the MIC staff for review and project selection. These programs have had minor adjustments from prior years such as changing the co-benefits that are part of the narrative section. These changes occurred based on state and federal communication. In the MIC area, the solicitation includes multiple years of funding across the three programs. FY2028, FY2029, and FY2030 CRP funds, FY2029 and FY2030 PROTECT funds, and FY2030 TA funds are all part of the current solicitation.

8. Adjourn:

With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.