

## **Administrative Modification #1 to the 2026-2029 Duluth Area TIP\***

**Posted December 2, 2025**

MIC staff approved the City of Duluth’s request to add information about the city’s awarded Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) grant to the current Duluth Area TIP document. As part of finalizing the grant agreement between the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) the City of Duluth was advised to request that this grant for the Duluth I-35 Community Access Revitalization Study be added to the current Duluth Area TIP.

The added information includes the project name, award amount, non-federal fund amount, estimated total project cost, a general project description, statement of work, and an overview on the RCP grant program.

Pages 100-101 have been added in the appendix section of the TIP document to provide this information. See below:

### **City of Duluth Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>	<b>Estimated Total Project Cost</b>
Duluth I-35 Community Access Revitalization Study	City of Duluth, Minnesota	Reconnecting Communities Pilot	\$1,800,000	\$450,000	\$2,250,000

#### **General Project Description**

The City of Duluth, Minnesota, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council, will develop a comprehensive and community-led vision for transportation and other public right-of-way improvements along the Interstate 35 corridor in West Duluth and Downtown Duluth. A long-term plan is needed to improve connectivity across the interstate corridor, better integrate existing and future land uses, and remove barriers to economic development. The surrounding community will lead the creation of this vision with support from city staff.

#### **Statement of Work**

The City of Duluth will lead this planning study with the formation of a project management team, including, but not limited to, representatives from key partners, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council. In addition, the City will create a Community Advisory Board to represent the study area. Public outreach activities will include public meetings, outreach to community and stakeholder organizations, and online engagement.

The planning study will evaluate existing issues, needs, and opportunities, including land uses and how they interact with the transportation network, including freight, regional and area traffic analysis, multimodal transportation system, market analysis, and assessments of impact on the community.

Once the issues, existing conditions, and community priorities have been identified and vetted, the study will then develop a comprehensive series of high-level improvement alternatives. The

range of options and alternatives will be vetted based on feasibility and community acceptance, particularly those most impacted by the existing conditions.

The study will develop an implementation plan to prioritize proposed transportation improvements and the next steps necessary to bring this plan to fruition. The implementation plan will offer a logical and sequential path to implement improvements over time. This will allow the City of Duluth and study partners to work together towards realizing the study area vision. In addition to identifying the vision and locally preferred concept for Duluth, implementation will also include taking community priority projects that are short-term in nature and could be interim improvements through conceptual design. Following the acceptance of the plan by the Community Advisory Board, the plan will be brought forward to the Duluth City Council to solidify the vision and plan for Duluth.

### **Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program Overview**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act established the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program to advance community-centered transportation connection projects, with a priority for projects that benefit low-capacity communities. RCP focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster development and restoration, and provide technical assistance to further these goals. The primary goal of the RCP Program is to reconnect communities harmed by past transportation infrastructure decisions, through community-supported planning activities and capital construction projects that are championed by those communities.

*\*Based on the criteria adopted in the [2021 MIC Public Involvement Plan](#), this project change does not require a formal TIP Amendment. The TIP will remain fiscally constrained within the revenues that can reasonably be expected to be available.*