



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at 4:00pm

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

For the protection of the community, all MIC committee meetings will be held online and by telephone during the current Minnesota COVID-19 State of Emergency. Public access and public comment opportunities will be provided as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 for local government meetings, allowing the use of communications media technology such as telephone and video conferencing.

Login and call-in information and meeting materials can be viewed on the [meeting web page](#) as well as at the bottom of this page.

Items for Approval:

Items for Approval with opportunity for public comment:

- Release for 30-day Public Comment Period: **Draft** 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP
- 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendment #4

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Proctor Transportation Plan
- Erie Pier Management Plan
- Project Updates

Attendance / Meeting Quorum

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, **please contact Barb Peterson at bpeterson@ardc.org or 218-529-7541** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

Virtual Meeting Log-In/Call-In Information:

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

[+1 218-302-4275](tel:+12183024275) United States, Duluth (Toll)

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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission

221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • www.dsmic.org

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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at 4:00 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 3.31.20 (for Approval) Director's Report <p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	5 min
3. Draft – 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for Approval to Release Draft for 30 Day Public Comment Period w/opportunity for public comment, James Gittemeier 	10 min
4. 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Amendment #4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review for approval w/opportunity for Public Comment, Sheldon Johnson 	10 min
5. Erie Pier Management Plan Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	10 min
6. Proctor Transportation Plan Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation and Discussion, James Gittemeier 	5 min
7. Round Table	
*** Opportunity for Public Comment***	5 min
8. Project Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications (#12-15) 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Administrative Modifications (#2 & 3) Metro Area Pedestrian Plan Update Bike & Ped Planning Update 	

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 24th, 2020
Duluth International Airport
Duluth, MN
6:30 pm



Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

May 20th, 2020 Meeting

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* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 3.31.20

- MIC Director's Report

➤ AMPO, COVID and Federal Legislation - Quite a bit of activity occurring with our national agencies in DC and possible bills being introduced to Congress over the coming months. The MPOs national association (AMPO) along with two other national organizations that work with regional councils has sent two recent letters (attached) to leaders in the House and Senate concerning future COVID response legislation. The main point focuses on aid to local governments (municipal – county) as they are facing significant budget shortfalls due to less revenue coming in and unanticipated expenses. An amount of \$20 billion was noted in the letter. These dollars would go toward vital scheduled transportation projects across the country to avoid delays – coming from MPOs TIPs and state STIPs. A number of other points in the recent letter are highlighted below:

- Utilize existing funding distribution mechanisms available to MPOs to distribute dollars; funds would serve to the non-federal match thereby allowing a 100% federal share.
- Urge Congress to support passage of the next long-term transportation bill; current bill expires the end of the 3rd quarter of this year.
- Extensions to MPOs (if needed) for approval of key documents such as the Long Range Plan, the MPOs TIP and Work Program and Budget.
- Allow any unspent funds from 2020 to be carried over directly into 2021 budgets.
- Easing requirements for proper public involvement to give maximum flexibility to the MPOs in meeting standards.
- Allow Policy Boards to meet electronically to conduct business (as if meeting in person).

➤ MNDOT Budget Projections – In the news recently (the MPO Director's received a briefing recently as well), the DOT is facing an estimated \$2.4B deficient for the current FY 2020-21 biennium. As expected revenues are down – in varying degrees – across the main sources including gas taxes, motor vehicle sales taxes and registration taxes. The loss in just these items is forecasted at nearly \$400M. Therefore, appropriations to County and Municipal State Aid Funds will also be impacted. Currently, it was noted that allocations for CY 2020 will not change. The projected impact for 2021, however, notes an overall impact of \$132M to the CSAH system and \$33M to the MSA system. The Transit Assistance fund and State Airport fund would also be impacted. The third federal COVID-19 piece of legislation came of aid here with (in MN) \$54M targeted at greater MN transit systems.

➤ MNDOT TIP and STIP Coordination Update – The DOT, in conjunction with federal highway staff, is in the middle of examining the coordination of a number of items related to the MPOs drafting of the TIP and the States' drafting of their STIP. This has been an extensive look – covering all aspects of



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development from solicitation to timing to consultation between the Districts and the MPO. The goal is to arrive at an improved process that fully recognizes the role of the MPO in programming all projects within an urbanized area.

3. DRAFT - 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP (APPROVAL TO RELEASE FOR 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD)

The Draft Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Duluth Urban Area has been prepared. The Draft TIP lists all transportation projects on the Minnesota-side of Duluth-Superior urban area that are recommended by the MIC Board to receive federal transportation funds, as well as regionally significant projects for FY 2021-2024.

The TAC and MIC will be asked to approve the draft TIP for release for the 30-day public comment period which will run from May 21 to June 19, 2020. A series of public information sessions will be held on Thursday June 11, 2020 from 9am-10am, Noon to 1pm and 4pm to 6pm. Staff will provide an overview of the projects, answer questions and take comments.

4. 2020-2023 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #4

**PROPOSED 2020-2023
SUPERIOR URBANIZED AREA
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
PROJECT(S) AMENDMENT**

TIP AMENDMENT #4

A TIP amendment has been requested for preliminary design work for future rehabilitation of Hammond Avenue from N 21st Street to N 28th Street. Anticipated future roadway rehabilitation will include removal of all pavement surfaces, placement of base and subbase materials, installation of subbase drainage, and installation of hot mix asphalt surface. Preliminary design is scheduled to begin in 2023. Construction is scheduled outside the current TIP program for 2024.

2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
City of Superior	Hammond Avenue	PE			\$313	\$313
113-20-009	N 21 st St. to N 28 th St.	ROW				
Amended to	Preliminary Design	CONST			\$313	\$313
TIP in May		TOTAL				
2020						

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.



Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

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5. ~~ERIE PIER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE~~

This update will be given at a future mtg. Mike is not available.

The Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP) is being revised. It was decided at a kick-off meeting of the EPMP Committee in January that this effort would be more of a rewrite than an update of the 2007 EPMP. The primary author will be Jeff Stollenwerk of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, but Mike Wenzholz of the MIC and likely a couple of others will be contributing, as well. A "Background" chapter has been drafted by Mike and sent to Jeff for initial review prior to distribution to the EPMP Committee. Jeff is currently drafting a "Beneficial Reuse" chapter.

The 2007 EPMP called for a shift from a disposal mindset to a mindset of beneficial use of dredged material. Data indicates this shift has occurred and continues. Data also indicates the cost of dredging has significantly increased. Finally, EP has long outlived its original estimated lifetime, and has accepted over 3 times the original design capacity of the facility. This is due to both changes in the processing and handling at EP and the increase in beneficial use eliminating the need for significant volumes of dredged material to be brought to EP.

6. PROCTOR TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Bolton & Menk, the consulting firm selected to conduct the Proctor Transportation Plan, began its work in late March. Initial tasks included reviewing recent planning initiatives and summarizing the public input in a Plan review technical memo, designing a website for the Plan, reviewing existing conditions and developing planning-level maps of the existing transportation system, and identifying potential members of the Plan steering committee.

Upcoming tasks include obtaining aerial imagery of selected corridors as the foundation for animated visualizations of the corridor, and holding the initial steering committee meeting.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2020-2023 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modifications (#12-15)**

Administrative Modification #12 – 13

The MIC has approved the \$75,000 increase in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) federal funding for two (2) programmed 2020 projects in the Duluth Area TIP. The federal funding increase is due to the dropping of a 2020 Carlton County TAP project.

- 118-090-024 – increasing the federal funding by an amount by \$75,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.
- 069-060-002 – increasing the federal funding by an amount of \$75,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.

See table below for additional project details. Project changes and/or additions are in **RED**.



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Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Project Description	Year	Federal	State	Local	Total
12	118-090-024 Duluth	Multi-use trail constructed from Brighton Beach Blvd/end of the Lakewalk to Congdon Blvd (North Shore Scenic Drive).	2020	\$300,000 \$375,000 (TAP) \$43,964 (STP)	\$0	\$350,283	\$694,247 \$769,247
13	069-060-002 St. Louis County	French River Wayside Rehabilitation	2020	\$480,000 \$555,000	\$0	\$2,985,433	\$3,465,433 \$3,540,433

Administrative Modification #14 – 15

The MIC has approved an increase in HSIP funding for two (2) programmed 2020 projects in the Duluth Area TIP. The HSIP funding increase is due to the dropping of a St. Louis County HSIP centerline rumbling striping project due to concerns with water pooling on the centerlines and causing pavement deterioration prematurely. The funding for this project will be redistributed towards two High Friction Surface Treatment projects already programmed and will allow for one additional high-risk curve to be treated.

- 069-070-035 – increasing the HSIP funding by an amount by \$67,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.
- 069-070-036 – increasing the HSIP funding by an amount of \$185,000. The scope of the project has remained the same.

Admin Mod #	Project # Jurisdiction	Description	Year	Federal \$	Local \$	Total \$
14	069-070-035 St. Louis County	St Louis Countywide, various locations, install high friction surface treatment for high risk, low volume curves	2020	333,000 400,000	139,479 72,479	472,479 479,479
15	069-070-036 St. Louis County	St Louis Countywide, various locations, install high friction surface treatment for high risk, low volume curves	2020	288,000 473,000	142,519 70,671	430,519 543,671

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact James Gittemeier by email at jgittemeier@ardc.org or by phone at (218) 529-7556.



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- 2020-2023 Superior Area TIP Administrative Modification #2 & 3

Administrative Modification #2

WisDOT has requested an Administrative Modification to project 113-19-013 found in the 2020-2023 Superior Urbanized Area TIP. The proposed modification provides for WisDOT staff review and administration associated with project preliminary design of the St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik). Funds associated with this project are state dollars. Based on the adopted MIC Public Involvement Plan, the proposed modification conforms to administrative modification guidelines.

WisDOT 113-19-013: Add funding to provide for WisDOT staff review and administration associated with project preliminary design of the St. Louis River Bridge (Blatnik Bridge). WisDOT to provide an additional \$200,000 in state funds as identified in 1199-00-08. As a result, the project was originally programed at \$4,500,000 and with this modification will be programed at \$4,700,000.

2020 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-19-013	Superior-Duluth Blatnik Bridge (B16-001-005) PE	PE ROW CONST		4,700		4,700
Administrative Modification #2	1199-00-07 (WisDOT share to MnDOT \$4,500,000) 1199-00-08 (WisDOT \$200,000)	TOTAL		4,700		4,700

Administrative Modification #3

WisDOT has requested an Administrative Modification to project 113-17-018 found in the 2020-2023 Superior Urbanized Area TIP. The proposed modification provides mitigation payments to the Duluth Transit Authority for additional transit services during reconstruction work along East Second Street between 29th Avenue East to 53rd Avenue East. Funds associated with this project are state dollars. Based on the adopted MIC Public Involvement Plan, the proposed modification conforms to administrative modification guidelines.

WisDOT 113-17-018: Add funding to supplement the Duluth Transit Authority for additional transit services resulting from the reconstruction project. WisDOT to provide an additional \$255,000 in state funds. As a result, the project was originally programed at \$6,100,000 and with this modification will be programed at \$6,355,000.



2021 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources (Thousands)			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	USH 2/USH 53	PE ROW	4,880	1,475		6,355
113-17-018	29 th Ave E – 53 rd Ave E	CONST				
	1198-03-78 (Const)	TOTAL	4,880	1,475		6,355

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

- ***Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan Update***

The advisory committee was formed and has begun meeting. MIC staff collected background data, including sidewalk condition and crash data. A map of missing pedestrian connections including key sidewalk gaps has been created. A review of local, state and federal guidance is on-going and a summary document is being put together.

In addition, the issue identification portion of the planning process is well-underway through a combination of research on common pedestrian issues and asking MIC committees to identify what they see are the major pedestrians issues facing the Duluth-Superior Metro Area.

Vision development and value setting for the pedestrian plan is beginning. One-on-one outreach to individual residents, groups, and organizations will begin in May as well as the development of the general public survey is underway.

- ***Bike and Ped Planning***

The BPAC met on May 7 and discussed, the Pedestrian Plan, Bikeways Plan and various bike and ped project updates, including the latest on the Superior Active Transportation Plan, the Cross City Trail River Route and Lincoln Park Detour, the Lake Ave Bridge Project and the bike and ped counts being conducted during the COVID 19 Stay at Home order. The BPAC chair set up a subcommittee to focus on the prioritization of the plan recommendations and to develop a report to track progress and provide support to local agencies working to implement the bikeways plan.