



HTAC Voting Members Present

Name	Organization	Sector Representing
Ed Anderson (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	MIC Policy Board	Regional
Dan Belden	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District	Regional
Cameron Bertsch	Douglas County	County
Steve Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal
Natalie Chin	WI Sea Grant	State
Kyle Deming	City of Duluth	City
Cheri Hagen	WI Department of Natural Resources	State
Anna Hess	MN Department of Natural Resources	State
Barb Huberty	MN Pollution Control Agency	State
Joel Johnson		Industry – Recreation
Jason Laumann	Northwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional
LCDR Abbie Lyons (<i>alternate</i>)	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Federal
Ed Montgomery		Industry – Harbor Services
Patrick Phenow	MN Department of Transportation	State
Dena Ryan	WI Department of Transportation	State
Jason Serck (<i>Chair</i>)	City of Superior	City
Jeff Stollenwerk	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Regional

HTAC Voting Members Absent

Name	Organization	Sector Representing
Brian Boder	St. Louis County	County
John Downing	MN Sea Grant	State
Marshall Elder	Midwest Energy Resources	Industry - Coal
Gary Glass	Izaak Walton League	Citizen Group
Chad Hewitt		Industry – Ore Transport
Lance Hunt (<i>alternate</i>)		Industry – Ore Transport
Pete Kramer	Duluth Cargo Connect	Industry – General Cargo
Jonathon Lamb (<i>alternate</i>)	Duluth Cargo Connect	Industry – General Cargo
Bob Libby		Industry – Vessel Operations
Mike McCoshen	Hallett Dock Company	Industry – General Bulk
Dan Rau	Save Lake Superior Association	Citizen Group
Steven Robertson (<i>alternate</i>)	City of Duluth	City
CDR Francis Smith	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Federal
Ted Smith	Marine Tech	Industry – Harbor Engineering
Vacant	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal
Vacant	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal
Vacant	St. Louis River Alliance	Citizen Group
Vacant		Industry - Grain



Others Present

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Hannah Alstead	US Senator Smith	Keith Molnau	MnDOT
Marc Bowker	WisDOT	Guy Partch	Barr Engineering
Dan Breneman	MPCA	Marsha Patelke	NRRI
Lynette Carney		Nick Patterson	J.F. Brennan
Ron Chicka	MIC	Ida Rukavina	US Senator Klobuchar
Pat Collins	MN DNR	Dan Rust	UW-Superior
Deb DeLuca	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Ricky Sarran	MIC
Jessica Felix	WisDOT	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Boat Club
Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Matt Steiger	WI DNR
Patricia Fowler	MN DNR	Richard Stewart	UW-Superior
Vincent Gastoni	Parsons	John Stockert	Key Lakes/Great Lakes Fleet
Aaron Gustafson	WisDOT	Robert Sullivan	US DOT MARAD
Mike Halstad	WisDOT	Ian Vincent	Apex
Karina Heim	Lake Superior NERR	Maren Webb	MnDOT
Duane Hill	MnDOT	Mike Wenzholz	MIC
Patrick Huston	MnDOT	Natalie White	SEH
John Krysiak	MnDOT	Kathleen Williams	US EPA - ORD
Beth Kunkel	Kimley-Horn	Hans Wronka	Burns & McDonnell
Michael Mahon	J.F.Brennan	Marie Zhuikov	WI Sea Grant

In addition to the above, there were 7 people who called into the meeting. We do not have the names of those participants. One participant was listed as news@businessnorth.com. Another participant was listed only as Heidi.

Introductions / Agenda Review / Committee Business

HTAC Chair Jason Serck called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 AM. Ron Chicka and Mike Wenzholz welcomed everyone to the virtual HTAC quarterly meeting. There was a role call for HTAC voting members. All in attendance introduced themselves virtually.

Chair Serck asked if there were requested changes to the September 2, 2020 Meeting Summary. Hearing no requests, Chair Serck asked for a motion to approve.

- Joel Johnson moved to approve the 9/2/2020 HTAC Meeting Summary. Dan Belden seconded the motion.
- There was no discussion.
- **The motion to approve carried unanimously.**

HTAC Subcommittee Updates, Mike Wenzholz, MIC

- See the presentation
- Mike W provided short updates on topics and work of the various HTAC Subcommittees.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
December 2, 2020
Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

- The Navigation SC met on October 26 and covered three topics: Completion of the Paddle Safe Twin Ports project, Waterways Management System Analysis (WAMS), and Dockside Safety Exams.
- Paddle Safe Twin Ports, a project of the Harbor Safety Workgroup of the Navigation SC, is complete. Mike W showed several slides depicting the final graphics and signs and where they are located, as well as a screen shot of the PaddleSafeTwinPorts.org website dashboard. Mike W encouraged people to see the signs and visit the website.
- We will begin filling the newly established HTAC voting member list that was established under the updated HTAC Bylaws earlier this year. Will be finalizing the process for doing so. This work is to begin early in 2021 with a goal to have a full list of voting members to announce by the March HTAC meeting.
- The Dredging SC has not met in over a year, but most of the same people participate in the regular USACE Duluth-Superior Harbor Dredge Material Management Work Group that discusses the status of current and future dredge material placement options. Mike W will send out an email by early January asking SC members if they would like to hold a meeting, and if so, what topics they would like to discuss/feel are pertinent.
- The Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP) rewrite is still in progress. 2 chapters have been reviewed by the EPMP Committee, 2 more are drafted waiting for review, and 1-2 more are beginning to be drafted. The goal remains to have the EPMP rewrite completed in the first quarter of 2021.

Overview of the USDOT Maritime Administration Great Lakes Gateway, Robert Sullivan, USDOT

- See the presentation
- Robert S introduced himself as US DOT Maritime Administration (MARAD)'s new Great Lakes Gateway Office Director.
- Robert provided an overview of MARAD and the Office of Ports and Waterways, including the Marine Highway System program (which include the Great Lakes).
- Robert provided many details of numerous grant and loan programs available to HTAC partners.
- Robert mentioned a Port Planning and Investment Tool Kit that is available.
- Robert announced a new tool that will be fully available soon – the Waterfront Asset Management Tool.
- Robert answered several questions from participants.
- Robert offered to provide webinars on any specific grant or loan program or any other MARAD Great Lakes Gateway topic. Mike W asked HTAC partners to let him know if there are topics of interest that we could include in a future HTAC meeting.

Update on the Twin Ports Interchange Project, Patrick Huston, MnDOT

- See the presentation
- Patrick H provided both a project overview and a status update on the Twin Ports Interchange (TPI) reconstruction project.
- The primary goals of the project are to improve safety, replace aging infrastructure, and improve freight mobility.
- Two important portions of the TPI project need to be deferred due to cost constraints. The Highway 53 portion uphill of the interchange is deferred until 2027 and the Garfield interchange portion is deferred until 2028.
- Work has already begun, including most notably the replacement of the 27th Avenue West bridge. Patrick noted closures and detours that are associated with this work.



- Significant work will occur in 2021 and will result in single lane operation in each direction through the interchange.
- Patrick believe the biggest issues to the Port will be the single lane operation and limited access due to reconstruction. But Patrick stressed that Port businesses will always have access to the Blatnik Bridge.
- The TPI reconstruction is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2024.

Initial Planning of the Blatnik Bridge Project, Patrick Huston (MnDOT) & Jessica Felix (WisDOT)

- See the presentation
- Patrick H and Jessica F provided an overview of the status of the Blatnik Bridge and initial planning for future considerations and options. They also identified the core project team and shared some history of the bridge.
- The primary reason for considering options for the Blatnik Bridge is structure deterioration and increasing amount and levels of maintenance. Other reasons include the importance of having two bridges (redundancy) and having consistent ability to carry permitted overweight freight loads.
- There is a lot of planning to be done, some of which has begun. General timelines for this project were also shared.
- A current focus is the NEPA environmental process. Many HTAC members and participants are participating as stakeholders in this process. Patrick noted that they also have engaged with the Lake Carriers Association in October.
- The core project team wants to both 1) inform up-front and early and 2) receive input from all potential stakeholders, which includes the HTAC.
- Patrick and Jessica fielded open questions from meeting participants:
 - Ed Anderson asked if the bridge and approaches could go down Connors Point ... if this is an option? He wonders why go down Hammond Avenue in Superior for safety reasons? Jessica said this is an option to be considered.
 - Ed Anderson asked if a tunnel instead of a bridge is an option? Patrick and Jessica said this is an option, but is not likely.
 - Kate Ferguson thanked MnDOT and WisDOT for considering freight needs and port land access.
 - Ron Chicka asked about the needs for redundancy for consistent overweight and oversize load use, and the truss-only vs other options influence on this? Patrick and Jessica said they need to consider all of this and weigh the return on investment of all options.
 - Marie Zhuikov asked to consider the timing of rare bird breeding on Interstate Island during bridge construction.
 - Joel Johnson asked how the issue of corrosion on the pilings is being addressed – similar to the corrosion of dock walls and other metal infrastructure in the harbor? There was some discussion about this topic. Patrick will contact Joel to discuss this in more detail and learn more.

Roundtable

- Abbie Lyons (US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Duluth) invited all to complete the Waterways Management System Analysis (WAMS) survey that is now open online. This survey is in regard to any issues or improvement suggestions related to navigation in the Duluth-Superior harbor. The MIC will send a link to the survey to participants.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary
December 2, 2020

Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

- Matt Steiger (WI DNR) provided an update on St Louis River AOC work in 2020 and 2021. He read a list of updates from Barb Huberty (MN PCA), which included noting several important milestones that are anticipated to be met next year.
- Richard Stewart (UW Superior) said his department received a grant to study the influences of climate change and a second large Soo lock at Sault Ste. Marie on Great Lakes shipping. One such related topic is what impact a longer shipping season could have on the shipping industry.
- Natalie Chin (WI Sea Grant) announced the dates of the 2021 St Louis River Summit will be March 1-3 and will be held virtually. Mike W noted that this year the Summit has been scheduled so that it will not overlap and conflict with the March 3 HTAC meeting. This way participants may participate in both the Summit and the HTAC meeting.
- Patrick Phenow (MnDOT) mentioned the application process for the Port Development Assistance Program is currently open. This year is the highest amount ever available in the program.

With no other items brought forward, Chair Serck adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:08 AM.