



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

**Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 at 1:30 pm**  
**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.

**Guest Speaker: Central Entrance Transportation Plan,  
Jody Martinson, WSB**

**Guest Speaker: Assessment of RCUT (Restricted Conflict U-Turn) Intersections  
on Hwy 53 Corridor, Alan Nelson, Civil Engineering, UMD**

**Items for Approval:**

- Meeting Summary of 4.20.21 (for Approval)

**Items for Presentation and Discussion**

- BPAC Update
- Federal Legislation Update
- 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](mailto:bpeterson@ardc.org) or 218-461-2666** 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** United States, Duluth (Toll)

Conference ID: **180 565 246#**



**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](http://www.dsmic.org)**

**TRANSPORTATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(TAC)**

**MEMBERS**

**Airport**

Tom Werner

**Active Transportation**

Vacant

**City of Duluth**

Cari Pedersen  
Cindy Voigt  
Chris Lee  
Kris Liljeblad

**City of Hermantown**

David Bolf  
John Mulder  
(alternate)

**City of Proctor**

Jess Rich

**City of Superior**

Todd Janigo  
Chris Carlson  
Jason Serck  
(alternate)

**Douglas County**

Jason Jackman

**Duluth Transit Authority**

Chris Belden, *Vice-Chair*  
Rod Fournier  
(alternate)

**Economic Development**

Karl Schuettler

**MnDOT**

Maren Webb  
Krysten Saatela Foster  
Bryan Anderson  
(alternate)

**Mobility Challenged**

Vacant

**Port/Harbor**

Kate Ferguson, *Chair*

**St. Louis County**

Jim Foldesi  
Matt Hemmila  
(alternate)

**WisDOT NW Region**

Dena Ryan



**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**

**Transportation Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021, 1:30 pm

**VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

<b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b>	
<b>2. Committee Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 4.20.21 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul> <p><b>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</b></p>	10 min
<b>3. Guest Speaker: Central Entrance Transportation Plan</b>	
Jody Martinson, WSB	30 min
<b>4. Guest Speaker: Assessment of RCUT (Restricted Conflict U-Turn)</b>	
Intersections on Hwy 53 Corridor – Alan Nelson, Civil Engineering, UMD Student	20 min
<b>5. BPAC Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, James Gittemeier</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>6. Federal Legislation Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Ron Chicka</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>7. Round Table</b>	
<b>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</b>	5 min
<b>8. Project Updates</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duluth-Superior Metro Pedestrian Plan</li> <li>DTA – Better Bus Blueprint</li> </ul>	5 min

**Next Meeting**  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021  
Virtual – MS TEAMS  
1:30 pm





\* = *Approval Item*

#### 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

#### 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 4.20.21**
- **MIC Director's Report**

Superior – Comprehensive Plan Survey Results – This plan is at the stage where the steering groups is identifying our draft key themes and opportunities that summarize the focus areas for future goals and plan outcomes. For example, one key plan element is a safe and efficient transportation system for all users; from multimodal to freight. Then we can chart the course for maintaining what amenities the city has in place, and also focus on those potential amenities that would make the system even better and more efficient, such as improvements to the public transit routes in town. At some point in the second half of the year, we will try to arrange a more formal presentation to the TAC and MIC on this very important plan for the City of Superior.

#### 3. GUEST SPEAKER: ENTRAL ENTRANCE TRANSPORTATION PLAN; JODY MARTINSON, WSB

MnDOT has scheduled a full reconstruction of Central Entrance from Mesaba Avenue to Trinity Road in 2026. The Central Entrance Transportation Plan will set the vision and provide direction for MnDOT's upcoming preliminary design and public involvement/engagement processes by advancing the vision of a walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented urban thoroughfare that (1) is safe and comfortable to use by both motorized and non-motorized users and (2) encourages new types of residential and commercial development. This plan will consider and incorporate the numerous past plans along this key regional corridor. The MIC has hired WSB as its consultant to conduct a Central Entrance Transportation Plan, which is to be completed by the end of 2021.

Virtual weekly meetings between MIC staff and WSB continue. The second Steering Committee meeting of key partners has been held. A broader Community Advisory Committee of a wide diversity of corridor stakeholders is continuing to be established, and work towards a significant public engagement process to be conducted in the coming months is ongoing. This includes finalizing the plan's interactive website and branding. The recommendations of past plans and studies along the corridor have been summarized in both map and table formats. The purpose of the presentation at the meetings is to meet the project leader from WSB who will summarize these completed and ongoing tasks and allow for questions.

#### 4. GUEST SPEAKER: ASSISSMENT OF RCUT (RESTRICTED CONFLICT U-TURN) INTERSECTION ON HWY 53 CORRIDOR; ALAN NELSON, CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT, UMD

Alan Nelson, a student out of UMDs Civil Engineering Program (Dr. Eil Kwon supervising), has conducted some in depth microsimulation analysis of the USH 53 corridor in Hermantown for his semester project to determine the viability of a 'Restricted Crossing U-



### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

turn' design, or RCUT, concept. Alan has done this work using the MICs recent efforts in the corridor that took the modeling a few steps further than our work could do back then; due to time and budget constraints. Our own modeling team at AECOM along with the road jurisdictions provided some assistance/guidance to Alan as well. This type of roadway concept is often considered as a safety measure along higher speed corridors that have some signalization at varying intervals whereby flow for the mainline is improved and yet a possible safer measure for the cross roads is also implemented. Alan conducted some highly detailed work and we try to afford these student projects an opportunity to get vetted before peers like our TAC.

#### 5. BPAC UPDATE

The BPAC discussed the Draft Pedestrian Plan, Bus Bike, Walk Month, the Cross City Trail and project updates for the Morris Thomas Road Project, the Blatnik Bridge Project, and the Central Entrance Transportation Plan. Key discussion items at the BPAC meeting included an update on three segments of the Cross City Trail was provided by the City of Duluth, including the proposed alignment changes to the 2023 trail extension project, which is now looking at extending the trail at two end along the Lower Cross City Trail routing. The other two segments discussed included the Lincoln Park Craft District detour which is currently under-construction, and the Erie Ponds closure which will take place this Summer. A detour for that segment is currently being worked out. Additional key discussion items included two events planned as part of Bus, Bike, Walk Month, a Forum on Active Transportation with the Mayors of the City of Duluth and Superior, in lieu of the annual Mayor's Bike Ride. The other is Better Central Entrance, a public event to celebrate and re-imagine life along Central Entrance, and will include pop-up businesses, music, arts, crafts and community engagement activities for the Central Entrance Transportation Plan.

#### 6. FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Quite a bit of activity has been occurring out of DC with federal transportation at the core – where funds for all things transportation (and MPOs) reside. Through my work on the national MPO Board of Director's, I get frequent updates on where both Congress and the Administration are moving on this key point of legislation; especially now as the federal bill is to sunset at the end of September. Still undecided is the method of payment for the different bills as some call for a substantial increase in funding. I'll briefly go over the various proposals and give some comment as to where they're headed over the coming months.

#### 7. ROUND TABLE

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

#### 8. PROJECT UPDATES



## TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

April 20th, 2021 Meeting

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### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

- **DULUTH-SUPERIOR METRO PEDESTRIAN PLAN**

MIC staff is updating the Draft Ped Plan based on comments received and follow up meetings. Two public information and comment sessions will be held on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon and 5pm. The Final Ped Plan will be sent out to stakeholders the last week of May for one last review and comment. A stakeholder meeting will be held as well to answer questions and take comments. Next month, the plan will be brought before the TAC and MIC Policy Board in May for their final review and approval.

- **DTA-BETTER BUS BLUEPRINT**

The DTA's Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA), called the "Better Bus Blueprint", is a full review of the DTA fixed-route bus network. The study aims to develop recommendations for redesigning the bus network to better meet the community's needs. Two transit network design concepts have been drafted, a "High Frequency" concept and a "Frequency Balanced" concept. The draft concepts were evaluated based on a number of key factors including coverage, trip quality, and equity. The next step is to gather stakeholder and community input and continue to revise the concepts into a preferred one.