



# MIC Policy Board Meeting Summary

June 16th, 2021

Virtual MS Teams Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Note Taker	Barb Peterson	
	<b>Members Present</b>	
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Warren Bender	Superior Common Council
	Pete Clark	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Earl Elde	St. Louis County Suburban Townships
	Zack Filipovich	Duluth City Council
	Adam Fulton	City of Duluth
	Ashley Grimm	St Louis County
	Janet Kennedy	Duluth City Council
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Tom Szukis	DTA
	Jenny VanSickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	<b>Members Absent</b>	* Excused Absence
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
	Nick Ledin*	Superior City Council
<b>Others Present</b>		<b>Others Present</b>
	Chris Belden	DTA
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Andrea Crouse	Zietgliest
	Krysten Foster	MnDOT Dist 1
	James Gittemeier	MIC Principal Planner
	Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist 1
	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT NW Region
	Ricky Sarran	MIC/GIS Specialist
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Coordinator
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Sr Planner



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## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

Co-Chair Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm. A roll call of attendees was done with attendees confirming their presence and the entity they represent.

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 5.19.21 (for Approval)**

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Sam Pomush/Earl Elde moved to approve the 5.19.21 meeting summary. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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- **Meeting Survey Results**

Rondi Watson reviewed the survey results which showed that most were ready to go back to meeting in person.

- **MIC Director's Report** (For more details see the meeting materials.)

Ron Chicka briefly discussed that a small operational study on Tower Ave from Belknap to 21<sup>st</sup> may be a potential project to be included in the 2022-2023 Work Program.

Ron also discussed the need for a "Special" meeting to held on June 24<sup>th</sup> for a 2021-2024 Superior Area TIP Amendment.

- **Opportunity for Public Comment**

*none*

## 3. BETTER BUS BLUEPRINT: CHRIS BELDEN, DTA

Chris Belden opened his presentation discussing the upgraded and new technology being used which includes fareboxes, ticketing and text option "Where's My Bus?". There is also many improvements and replacement of bus shelters to make them more comfortable. Chris added that the DTA is reviewing and consolidating bus stops.

Chris recognized Connetics Transportation Group as the consultant the DTA has hired to provide:

- Deep-dive into current conditions and performance
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities
- Gather community input
- Make recommendations for an improved transit network

Chris then described what goes into route planning; tradeoffs and potential outcomes; guiding principles; an assessment of the existing service and aservice summary. He then delved into demographic and market analysis showing a population density and major job distribution maps for the service area along with other maps showing travel propensity, latent demand and trip patterns.



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He shared the results of the survey and stakeholder polling and the route workshops that were held. Chris began to wrap up the presentation discussing network concepts then into evaluation points that lead into recommendations and next steps.

## 4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREAT TIP AMENDMENT #5

James Gittemeier reviewed this Bridge Bundling project. Since there were no questions or comments, James asked for approval.

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Zack Filipovich/Bob Quade moved to approve Amendment #5 to the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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## 5. DRAFT – 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP

James reviewed the current project for each of the years; 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. After asked for any questions or comments and hearing none he asked for approval to release the TIP for the 30 day public comment period.

<b>Motion Discussion and Vote</b>	Chad Ward/Earl Elde moved to approve opening the 30 day Public Comment Period for the 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP beginning July 1, 2021 to July 30, 2021. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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## 6. BLATNIK CROSGING POLICY BOARD RESOLUTION

Mike Wenzholz described the proposition of the MIC bringing a resolution generally supporting the I-535 Blatnik Crossing (“Bridge”) project to the MIC Policy Board. The resolution would not include any specific option, design, or location. A key component that would be expressed is that the Blatnik Crossing is an important freight and commercial connection between the Twin Ports that supports economic development. The resolution will be at the August meeting.

## 7. HTAC UPDATE

Mike Wenzholz reviewed the agenda items on the June meeting agenda. These items included:

- The Blatnik Crossing Resolution to be presented to the MIC Policy Board in August and then sent on to MnDOT.
- St Louis River Habitat Workgroup – Kari Hedin, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa shared the purpose of the group and who participates.
- Duluth Entry Acoustic Velocity Current Indicator – Steve Brossart, USACE described what the indicator identities and that it assists with navigation and research projects.



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- Harbor Maintenance & Minnisota Point Beach Nourishment – Melissa Bosman, USACE shared the dredging schedule for 2021. She also noted that there will be active mitigation of the 2020 debris.

Mike also shared the PaddleSafeTwinPorts.org website which includes:

- Dashboard of conditions
- Interactive map of launch sites
- Safety information
- Downloadable float plan

### 8. FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ron Chicka shared some of the work being done on the “hill”. This includes:

- The American Jobs Plan - \$2.5 Trillion to create millions of good jobs, rebuild our country’s infrastructure.
- Senate EPW counter to Administration -Senate – Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021 (STRA) A Framework to Improve the Nation’s Infrastructure - \$300.5 Billion over 5 years
- House Transportation & Infrastructure -Invest in America Act - \$547 B; 5 yr bill

Ron then concluded describing the “LOT Coalition” (Local Officials in Trtansportation) and how AMPO continues to work to work with the coalition as Congress and the Administration develops infrastructure policy and provides input on these policy.

### 9. ROUND TABLE

**PUBLIC COMMENT** NONE

### 10. PROJECT UPDATES (details can be found in the meeting materials)

- Central Entrance Transportation Plan Update

James and Mike shared an an overview of the “Better Central Entrance” events on June 4th & 5<sup>th</sup>. They reported that there were somewhere between 400 – 500 attendees. WSB gathered alot of community comments and answered numerous questions.

11. Adjourn: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Boucher adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm.



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## ATTACHMENTS:

### 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #5

5	8821-336 MnDOT	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace 21 bridges, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294.	2022	<del>1,328,960</del> FFM 1,065,200	<del>332,240</del> 266,300		<del>1,661,200</del> 1,331,500
5	8821-336P (New Project)	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace 21 bridges, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294 .	2022	774,800 STBGP <5K	193,700		968,500
5	069-070-055AC (New Project)	MnDOT D1/St. Louis County Bridge Bundle Partnership to replace bridges & box culverts, includes MNDOT bridges along MN 210 #6290, 6292, 6293 & 6294.	2023	2,024,550 (AC Payback) BROS			0

Any questions contact James Gittemeier, [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org)