



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, August 25th, 2021 at 6:00 pm

**In-Person Location: Douglas County Gov't Ctr Rm 270, Superior, WI
with Virtual Meeting Access via MS TEAMS**

This "hybrid" format meeting will be held both in-person at the location noted above and can also be accessed online or by phone. **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.

Public access will be provided as permitted by Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 of the Open Meetings Law, allowing the use of interactive technology for virtual meetings, and public comment opportunities will be offered in accordance with the MIC's Public Involvement Plan and committee bylaws.

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 6.16 & 24.21 (for Approval)

Items for Approval w/Opportunity for Public Comment

- 2022-2025 Superior Area TIP/Open 30 day public comment period
- 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #6
- Final - 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP
- MIC Area Pedestrian Plan

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Draft 2022-2023 Work Program
- 2023-2026 Duluth Area TIP Development Initial Discussion
- Blatnik Crossing Resolution
- 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.

To Join Virtually via TEAMS:

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 218-302-4275 United States, Duluth (Toll)

Conference ID: 918 471 858#



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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Douglas County
Suburban Townships
Broc Allen



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with Virtual Meeting Access via MS Teams

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 6.16 & 24.21 (for Approval) Director's Report <p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	10 min
3. DRAFT - 2022-2025 SUPERIOR AREA TIP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval to open 30 day public comment period, Sheldon Johnson 	10 min
4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment , James Gittemeier 	10 min
5. Final - 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment , James Gittemeier 	10 min
6. MIC AREA PEDESTRIAN PLAN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval w/opportunity for Public Comment , James Gittemeier 	10 min
7. DRAFT – 2022-2023 DS MIC WORK PROGRAM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka 	15 min
8. BLATNIK CROSSING POLICY BOARD RESOLUTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chicka & Mike Wenholtz 	10 min
9. ROUND TABLE	
<p>*** Opportunity for Public Comment***</p>	5 min
10. PROJECT UPDATES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Entrance Transportation Plan Update 2021-24 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modification #19 BPAC Update 	10 min

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

In Person @ Hermantown Training Rm or Online via Microsoft Teams

6:00 – 8:00 pm



MIC Policy Board Agenda Topics and Project Updates

August 25th, 2021 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

* = *Approval Item*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 6.16 & 24.21**

- **MIC Director's Report**

- Duluth Transit Authority – Better Bus Blueprint Letter of Support – In a separate email to the Board, you will see a letter of support from the Board Chairs that endorses the recent planning effort by the DTA aimed at a new service approach that favors frequency of service in high volume areas over widespread geographic coverage. As staff, we believe it is important that the leaders at the DTA see that the MIC Policy Board is supportive of this landmark study. I have served on the steering committee from the start (James has also participated) and I can certainly attest to the thorough analysis done by the consultant that has resulted in a completely different (and more effective) service proposal. Essentially, those areas/populations that most need the bus service, will receive more service, and therefore have greater transportation mobility. This plan gets at the best use of limited dollars; it is very expensive and not cost effective to serve the “corners” of the metropolitan area that provide little or no ridership. These areas of town can best be served in a different manner; possibly via a dial-a-ride type of service. More will be explained at our meeting.
- Duluth – I-35 Corridor Planning and 5th Avenue West overpass (by Depot) – Over the last number of months, more and more has been out in the press regarding the ‘61 Revisited Initiative’, via the Duluth Waterfront Collective group with Jordan van der Hagen (employed with a local landscape firm) as their primary spokesperson. We will have Jordan present their corridor vision for the downtown core portion of I-35 at our September TAC and MIC Board meetings. He has presented this work to the Duluth Planning Commission, and very recently, before the City Council that passed a resolution supporting the initiative that mentions the possible role of the MIC numerous times (along with MNDOT). Councilor Filipovich (and others) authored this resolution and checked with both Duane Hill (DOT District Eng) and I in finalizing the text and getting our overall viewpoints on the total vision. Furthermore, the MIC has had a number of meetings with City staff, DOT staff, elected officials and others in relation to this project. To date, I can state that we are trying to figure out where some aspects of the 61 Revisited work may fit into current or upcoming projects. Also, a potential resolution of support may be an action that the MIC Board could consider after hearing the full presentation.

3. DRAFT – 2022-2025 SUPERIOR AREA TIP – APPROVE START OF 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

See attached. Any questions contact Sheldon Johnson at sjohnson@nwrpc.com

4. 2021-2024 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #6

The City of Duluth and St. Louis County have requested that their FY 2022 federal-aid projects be modified, including a scope change to the project, reducing the length of the Woodland Avenue resurfacing project. The project details, with changes in RED, are summarized below:



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Amdmt #	Project # Agency	Description	Year	Federal \$	State TH or Bond \$	Local \$	Total\$
6	118-160-024 St. Louis County (Lead agency) City of Duluth (Scope change and new project #)	In Duluth, Arrowhead Rd from Dodge Ave to Woodland Ave. Resurfacing and pedestrian improvements. Note: Traffic signals have been removed from Duluth portion of project and added to St. Louis County project (# 069-609-047).	2022	593,288	0	331,712	925,000
6	069-637-025 St. Louis County	In Duluth, construct roundabout, JCT Snively Rd (CSAH 37) and Glenwood St.	2022	550,000 1,200,462	0	950,000 647,114	1,500,000 1,847,576
6	069-609-047 St. Louis County (Scope change)	In Duluth, Woodland Ave from Anoka St to Arrowhead Rd. resurface from Snively Rd to Arrowhead Rd, and Snively Rd (CSAH 37) resurfacing from Woodland Ave (CSAH 9) to Glenwood St. Traffic Signals, and add turn lanes on northbound Woodland Ave to eastbound Snively Rd. Note: the Woodland Ave from Anoka St to Snively Rd resurfacing work will take place as a separate project in 2023.	2022	650,000 886,250	0	1,350,000 828,750	2,000,000 1,715,000

If you have any questions please contact James Gittmeier, jgittmeier@ardc.org.

5. FINAL – 2022-2025 DULUTH AREA TIP

The 2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP is being presented for review and approval. Based on comments received, MIC staff has made updates to the TIP including the inclusion of two FY 2023 projects that were approved and included in prior TIPs but were mistakenly left out of this Draft TIP. The two projects are:

- Boundary Ave Sidewalk Project – Anchor St to Orchard St.



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- Piedmont Ave Resurface Project – Haines Rd to Chambersburg Ave.

The final project lists and financial analysis has been updated. As well as the Performance Targets, including adding in the Public Transportation Safety Plan targets and anticipated effects.

To review: [2022-2025 Duluth Area TIP](#)

6. MIC AREA PEDESTRIAN PLAN

MIC staff is releasing the final Pedestrian Plan for review and approval. After reviewing the comments received on the Draft Pedestrian Plan, the MIC refined the priority analysis and overhauled the recommendations in the Plan. The revised focus is on the MPO-level role and providing guidance to the MIC area on pedestrian priorities. An online map depicting the priorities is available and focuses on the corridor priorities for making improvements, as well as where key gaps, barriers and walkways are located for consideration when undertaking a transportation project.

Plan can be found here: [Pedestrian Plan 2021](#)

7. DRAFT 2022-2023 DULUTH SUPERIOR MIC WORK PROGRAM

A very loose Draft is attached. The basics will be covered at the meeting.

8. BLATNIK CROSSING POLICY BOARD RESOLUTION

MnDOT and WisDOT have begun early discussion and planning to consider options for addressing the aging Blatnik Bridge. Due to the significance of the proposed Blatnik Crossing project – including the likely replacement of the Blatnik Bridge – to the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area, the MIC is bringing a resolution generally supporting the I-535 Blatnik Crossing (“Bridge”) project to the MIC Policy Board for their approval. The resolution is not about any specific option, design, or location. Key components of the resolution were shared with each of the MIC’s three advisory committees for discussion and suggestions.

9. ROUND TABLE

10. PROJECT UPDATES

- *Central Entrance Transportation Plan Update*

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.



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Virtual weekly meetings between MIC staff and WSB continue. The fourth and fifth Steering Committee (SC) meetings of key partners have been held. A broader Community Advisory Committee (CAC) of corridor stakeholders had its first meeting. The plan's logo/branding has been set and the interactive website is live. Work towards a significant public engagement process for the plan is ongoing. Initial draft concepts for five zones across the Central Entrance corridor have been drafted and shared with the SC and CAC. We are continually open to receiving comments on and ideas for the corridor, and to answer questions.

- **2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP Administrative Modification #19**

MnDOT requested changes to the project year and cost for the CN/DMIR Railroad Crossing Safety Improvement Project (#69-00212) in the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. The project year change is to swap years with another railroad crossing project outside of the MIC Area (Project #69-00214) which had an issue and called for moving that project up a year. The CN railroad crossing on N. Cloquet Road would then move back one year from 2022 to 2023. The cost increase is due to an updated estimate. There are no changes to the scope with this project.

This project change has been administratively made to the 2021-2024 Duluth Area TIP. The changes are detailed in the following table:

Admin Mod #	Project #	Description	Year	Federal \$	State \$	Other \$	Total \$
19	69-00212	CN/DMIR RR, install gates and flashing lights at N. Cloquet Rd (CSAH 45) in Midway Township. .	2022 2023	214,200 250,000 (RRS)	0	23,800 25,000	238,000 275,000

Based on the criteria adopted in the MIC Public Involvement Plan (2018) a project that is advanced or deferred within the TIP years and that has an original total project cost of under \$1 million does not require a formal amendment and can be modified to the TIP administratively.

For more information contact James Gittemeier at jgittemeier@ardc.org.

- **BPAC Update**

The BPAC discussed the Blatnik Crossing Resolution of Support, the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan, received updates on the Central Entrance Transportation Plan and upcoming roadway projects and the BPAC review process. The BPAC had a discussion about the Blatnik Crossing resolution of support and provide input on the overall project as well as the resolution. The focus on the discussion on the level of need, viewing it more of a necessity than a desire, for a walking and cycling connection at the Blatnik Crossing location, one that does not exist now. The Pedestrian Plan discussion focused on the document being overhauled since the draft was released due to the considerable amount of comments received. The Ped Plan more clearly now focuses on



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the MPO-level role and provides guidance on priorities for the community overall. Lastly, discussion took place over the upcoming transportation projects and which ones could use a BPAC review, which would include site visit opportunities and a feedback report. The discussion included that it takes time to pull together the review and report and that this should take place early on in the project development process for both time to properly conduct the review and pull together the report as well as time for the jurisdictions to fully consider the feedback in the scoping of their projects.