

## RESOLUTION 21-XX - DRAFT

### DULUTH-SUPERIOR METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COUNCIL

*Supporting the I-535 Blatnik Bridge Project  
Connecting Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin*

**WHEREAS**, the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) was created by the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) and recognized by the Governors of Wisconsin and Minnesota as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior urbanized area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) is the body responsible for making transportation policy decisions and for coordinating the transportation planning and development function among jurisdictions within the Duluth-Superior urbanized area; and

**WHEREAS**, MnDOT and WisDOT are jointly working toward a future project to address structural concerns about the John A. Blatnik Bridge, one of two bridges that connects Duluth, MN, to Superior, WI; and

**WHEREAS**, the redundancy of two bridges provides critical connectivity between Duluth, MN, Superior, WI, and the neighboring jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blatnik Bridge is an important freight and commercial connection between the Twin Ports that supports economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will address aging infrastructure, improve safety, better accommodate oversize/overweight loads, and improve multimodal transportation options; and

**WHEREAS**, an improved and more useful pedestrian, bicycle, and other micromobility connection between Duluth, MN, and Superior, WI, is desired; and

**WHEREAS**, the vision of the MIC's current Long Range Transportation Plan, *Sustainable Choices 2045*, is to develop a community-supported multimodal transportation system that not only supports the diverse needs of people and commerce, but is also fiscally, socially, and environmentally sustainable over time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blatnik Bridge project could take advantage of potential new funding opportunities at the federal level;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council supports the I-535 Blatnik Bridge Project as a critical connection within the region's future transportation system.

**ATTEST:**

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Wayne Boucher, Minnesota Co-Chair

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Nick Baker, Wisconsin Co-Chair

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Ron Chicka, MIC Director

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Date