



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MS TEAMS MEETING

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.

Items for Approval:

- Meeting Summary of 2.16.22 (for Approval)
- 2022-2025 Superior Area TIP Amendment #4
- 2026 Duluth Area TIP Projects Approval

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- HTAC Meeting Review
- 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 218-461-2666** to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

Join via TEAMS Information:

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

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

Conference ID: **746 545 374#**



The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) operates its programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Complaint instructions and forms can be found in the Title VI Non-Discrimination Program and Limited-English Proficiency Plan online at dsmic.org/titlevi-policy. If you require ADA accommodations to be able to participate in this meeting, or if language translation services are needed, please contact the MIC office at least three days prior to the meeting, and we will do our best, within the resources available to us, to accommodate your request.

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

Policy Board Members

Minnesota Members

City of Duluth

Janet Kennedy
Mike Mayou

City of Duluth

Citizen Rep
Adam Fulton

City of Hermantown

Wayne Boucher
MN Co-Chair

City of Proctor

Chad Ward

City of Rice Lake

Bob Quade

Duluth Transit Authority Board

Tom Szukis

St. Louis County

Ashley Grimm

St. Louis County

Suburban Townships

Earl Elde

Wisconsin Members

City of Superior

Warren Bender
Jenny VanSickle
Nick Ledin

City of Superior

Citizen Rep
Ed Anderson

Douglas County

Nick Baker
WI Co-Chair
Rosemary L. Lear

Sam Pomush
Pete Clark

Douglas County

Suburban Townships

Broc Allen



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Policy Board

Wednesday, March 16th, 2022, 6:00 pm

VIRTUAL MS TEAMS MEETING

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 2.16.22 (for Approval) Director's Report 	15 min
3. 2022-2025 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend for approval-Opportunity for Public Comment, Dena Ryan 	5 min
4. 2026 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend for approval-Opportunity for Public Comment, Rondi Watson/Ricky Sarran 	10 min
5. HTAC MEETING REVIEW	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Ron Chickal/Kris Liljebblad 	10 min
6. ROUND TABLE	
	5 min
7. PROJECT UPDATES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-35 Project RFP FY 2026 Duluth Area TIP Projects Not for Review or Approval Autonomous Mobility On-Demand Project 	5 min
8. ADJOURN	

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022

VIRTUAL VIA TEAMS

6:00 pm



Agenda Item Descriptions

* = Approval Item

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 2.16.22
- MIC Director’s Report
- Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Movement in the Twin Ports – Staff is tabulating the results of the participant survey taken during the meeting last month. We’ll review those at an upcoming meeting including the suggestions moving forward and the issues most important to consider for a possible future study. Also, together with MNDOT, we’re working to have a guest speaker or two over the coming months to address our groups to better inform all on data availability for such a plan and one to talk to existing emergency response plans in Duluth. We’re also doing some research on precedent for such planning efforts in other MPOs across the country.
- Northern Lights Express (NLX) Status Presentation – Recently, Ken Buehler of the Duluth Depot/Museum (and other speakers) provided an overview of where this project stands locally, within the state and nationally. It is certainly very “shovel-ready” and awaits federal dollars – possibly via the new infrastructure bill – and state matching dollars via both Minnesota and Wisconsin. There have been some shifts on the NLX board including the addition of Superior Mayor Jim Paine. One item of local interest along the line that was discussed concerns improvements to the Grassy Point swing bridge connecting Duluth and Superior. This is a “pinch-point” along the course that requires trains to move very slowly and is a detriment to timeliness. There are discussions with the rail line and NLX representatives to pursue funding to upgrade the 100+ year old bridge and bring it to standards that would allow faster movements thereby aiding the attractiveness for the customer.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

3. 2022-2025 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #4

Superior Area TIP Amendment #4

A TIP amendment has been requested for rehabilitation work associated with four culvert replacements along a segment of STH 35 between the intersections of Kansy Road and Manitou Valley Road in the Town of Superior. Culvert replacement is scheduled for 2022.

2022 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT 113-22-010 Amended to TIP in March 2022	STH 35 Kansy Rd to Manitou Valley Rd 4.67 miles	PE ROW CONST		\$77.7		\$77.7
	Replace 4 Culverts 8010-00-66	TOTAL		\$77.7		\$77.7



Agenda Item Descriptions

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

4. 2026 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECTS

The MIC received two (2) project application proposals for FY 2026 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funding. An overview of the projects and public comments received will be presented at the March TAC and MIC meetings for approval. The projects that are approved will then be forwarded to the Northeast MN Area Transportation Partnership (NEMNATP) for funding consideration.

Proposed FY 2026 Roadway Projects for STBG federal funding in the Duluth Area included in the project are in the following table:

Agency	Description	Project Length (in miles)	Federal \$	State \$	Other \$	Total \$
Duluth	London Rd (Hwy 61) Resurface Project – Resurface NB and SB London Rd (Hwy 61) from 28th Ave E to 60th Ave E in Duluth; add roundabouts at 26th Ave E and 40th Ave E. (Assoc. to 6925-145)	2.98	1,483,846	--	516,154	2,000,000
St Louis County	Canosia Rd (CSAH 98) Resurface – Reclaim & Overlay of Canosia Rd (CASH 98) from St. Louis River Road to Trunk Highway 53.	7	1,480,000	--	2,020,000	3,500,000
TOTAL		9.98	2,963,864	--	2,536,154	5,500,000

If you have any questions please contact Ron Chicka, rchicka@ardc.org

5. HTAC MEETING REVIEW

These are the agenda items from the 3.2.22 HTAC Meeting:

- Lake Superior Coastal Resilience Mitigation Study
City of Duluth/St. Louis County/FEMA
- Erie Pier Management Plan Update
Duluth-Superior Port Authority
- Introduction to Great Lakes Oil Transport Team
Minnesota Sea Grant
- St. Louis River Area of Concern – 2022 Projects
Minnesota PCA
- St. Louis River Habitat Workshop – April 14th

6. ROUND TABLE

7. PROJECT UPDATES



Agenda Item Descriptions

Duluth Area I-35 Corridor Plan

The RFP was posted on Monday, February 7 on the MIC’s website at www.dsmic.org/rfp and proposals are due by Thursday, March 17. We are anticipating a strong response and a very competitive selection process. After the Consultant has been selected and a contract finalized, the planning process should begin in May and will run through 2023. We will keep you up to date as the project progresses.

FY 2026 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECT NOT FOR REVIEW OR APPROVAL

The MIC has received information on a list of projects that will be added to the 2023-2026 TIP but are not part of the March approval process. The projects below are for your information only and may not look the same when they are added to the Draft TIP 2023-2026.

HSIP Projects 2025/2026

Project Number	Length	Description	HSIP Funds	Sec 164 Federal Funds	Program Year
000-000-000	0 Miles	Reduced Conflict Intersection on MN-61 at CSAH 33	\$ 500,000	\$ -	2026
069-070-070	68.3 Miles	6-inch wet-reflective epoxy edgelines on various county roads.	\$ 488,700	\$ -	2026
069-070-069	51.8 Miles	6-inch edgelines on various county roads.	\$ 61,200	\$ -	2026
069-070-074	0 Miles	Reduced Conflict Intersections on MN-61 at CSAH 33	\$ -	\$ 500,000	2026
069-070-072	22.4 Miles	6-inch wet-reflective edgelines on various county roads.	\$ 176,400	\$ -	2025
118-070-004	15.8 Miles	6-inch wet-reflective edgelines on various rural city roads.	\$ 135,000	\$ -	2026

DTA Projects 2026

State Project ID	Agency	Route	Est. Length (Miles)	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Fed AC \$*	Fed AC Payback**	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Current Planned Year
TRF-0016-26A	DTA	Transit	0	TRANSIT OPERATIONS	SECT 5307: DULUTH OPERATING ASSISTANCE - REGULAR ROUTE	FTA	\$ 1,613,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,374,462	\$ 23,987,599	2026
TRF-0016-26B	DTA	Transit	0	TRANSIT OPERATIONS	DULUTH DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSIT OPERATING ASSISTANCE	LF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,340,588	\$ 1,340,588	2026
TRF-0016-26C	DTA	Transit	0	TRANSIT GRANT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (NON-VEHICLE)	SECT 5307: RAPID TRANSIT STATION IMPROVEMENTS	FTA	\$ 1,613,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 403,284	\$ 2,016,421	2026
Total							\$ 3,226,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,118,334	\$ 27,344,608	

NHPP Projects 2026

State Project ID	Agency	Route	Est. Length (Miles)	Type of Work	Project Description	Type of Funds	Fed \$ (Non-AC)	Fed AC \$*	Fed AC Payback**	State T.H. or Bond \$	Other \$	Project Total \$	Current Planned Year
--	MnDOT	US Hwy 2	12.9	Resurface	Resurface Hwy 2 from Hwy 194 to just east of Boundary Ave in Proctor	NHPP	\$ 8,640,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,160,000	\$ -	\$ 10,800,000	2026
--	MnDOT	MN Hwy 194	N/A	Bridge Resurface	Resurface the deck and repair Hwy 194 NB bridge and repair Michigan St bridge over Hwy 194 SB	NHPP	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	2026
--	MnDOT	MN Hwy 23	N/A	Landscaping	Highway 23 in Duluth at Junction Highway 210, construct ceremonial structure and gathering space for Historic Fond Du Lac Cemetery	SF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	2026
--	MnDOT	Central Entrance	2.4	Reconstruction	Reconstruct NB and SB Hwy 194 from Trinity Rd (Hwy 53) to 200 feet north of Mesaba Ave in Duluth	NHPP	\$ 11,449,600	\$ 6,812,000	\$ -	\$ 2,862,400	\$ -	\$ 21,124,000	2026
AC Payback	MnDOT	Central Entrance	2.4	Reconstruction	Reconstruct NB and SB Hwy 194 from Trinity Rd (Hwy 53) to 200 feet north of Mesaba Ave in Duluth	AC Payback	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,812,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	2027
Total							\$ 10,240,000	\$ 6,812,000	\$ 6,812,000	\$ 2,560,000	\$ -	\$ 33,924,000	

Cost is unknown at this time as it will be State funded completely

Autonomous Mobility On-Demand Project

This project was funded by the MN Local Road Research Board (LRRB) for \$100,000 in 2021 and is currently underway. The local champions are the MIC and DTA. The principal investigator is Assistant Professor Alireza Khani, PhD, of the University of MN. His team is conducting research on designing a transit system to serve the low-density Miller Hill Mall Area. It will compare a traditional fixed-route circulator bus service with an online demand-response system using autonomous vehicles to solve the difficult “last mile” problem that is typical of suburban shopping districts.