



Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen	
Members Present		
	Members Present	
	Broc Allen	Douglas County Suburban Townships
WI Co-Chair	Nick Baker	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Hannah Alstead	Duluth City Council
	Ed Anderson	City of Superior – Citizen Rep
MN Co-Chair	Wayne Boucher	City of Hermantown
	Mark Johnson	City of Superior
	Rosemary Lear	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Nick Ledin	Superior City Council
	Mike Mayou	Duluth City Council
	Sam Pomush	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Bob Quade	City of Rice Lake
	Randy Skowland	Douglas County Board of Supervisors
	Tom Szukis	DTA
	Jenny Van Sickle	Superior City Council
	Chad Ward	City of Proctor
	Scott Welsh	Solway Township
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Annie Harala	St. Louis County
	vacant	City of Duluth - Citizen Representative
Others Present		
	Tari Aanonsen	MIC Admin Asst
	Mark Johnson	Superior City Council
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC
	Eli Jurewicz	MIC Intern
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Anna Pierce	MnDOT
	Ricky Sarran	MIC GIS Specialist
	Jenny Van Sickle	Superior City Council
	Rondi Watson	MIC Communications Co-ord./Planning Asst.



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

MIC Co-Chair, Nick Baker called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When completed, Chair Baker asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. Hearing none he continued.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 5.17.23

Nick then asked if there were any questions or changes to the May meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Ed Anderson/Sam Pomush moved to approve the 5.17.23 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Rondi Watson reported the following:

- The Minnesota Transportation Bill was passed in late May, which includes 1.97 million in State funding (local matching funds) for the Northern Lights Express passenger rail line. Much work still lies ahead, including securing federal funding. Also included in the bill were new transportation revenue sources, including a gas tax and motor vehicle registration fees.
- I-35 Duluth Area Corridor Plan update: The MIC’s consultant, Bolten & Menk, held a public open house on June 6th that generated a great deal of interest. The meeting was attended by more than 50 people, as well as two local news media television stations. More than 275 people have offered feedback by completing an online survey regarding the study. It is important to continue to highlight that the MIC’s plan is a 14 mile stretch of the corridor and not the 1 mile stretch that the Duluth Waterfront Collective is focused upon.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: MN CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY

- ANNA PIERCE, CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR, MNDOT

A recorded power point presentation on Minnesota’s Carbon Reduction Strategy was played for the MIC Policy Board. The State is looking for feedback from MPO districts to help develop their Carbon Reduction Strategy that is due to the Federal government in November of 2023. A Mentipoll was offered to be completed at the end of the presentation for board members to give their top three priorities in carbon reduction. Anna Pierce was available for questions.



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4. DRAFT 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on July 1, 2023

Prescott Morrill explained that Draft 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP has been crafted and sent to our constituent jurisdictions for comment. With the Board’s approval, it will be released on July 1, 2023, for a 30-Day Public Comment Period in which three public meetings will be held.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Brock Allen / Chad Ward moved to approve the Draft 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period. There was no discussion; the motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.
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5. 2024-2025 MIC WORK PROGRAM – PROJECT DISCUSSION

Sheldon Johnson explained how the 2024-2025 MIC Work Plan is a document that guides the efforts of MIC staff to develop projects that are identified as part of the overall Work Plan. Standing projects included in the UPWP are the 2024-2027 Duluth & Superior TIPs, the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, as well as ongoing program administration and coordination. Short-Range plans are also included in the annual Work Plan, including ongoing modal planning for Bicycle & Pedestrian, Harbor, Transit, Roadway, and Freight.

Discretionary funds estimated at \$50-\$75k are available for an additional short-rang project in the 2024 budget. This could possibly be consultant-led. Possible projects identified for future study include traffic signal system assessment and roadway capacity assessment. The MIC will entertain suggestions for other possible projects.

The 2024-25 Work Program draft will be presented for review and comment at the August TAC and MIC meetings. The final will be presented for adoption by the MIC Policy Board in September 2023, then forwarded on to MnDOT, WisDOT, FHWA and FTA.

6. BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) UPDATE

Prescott Morrill presented on the happenings at the recent BPAC meeting held on May 4, 2023. Members of the BPAC raised concerns that, of the three plans being presented on the Blatnik Bridge project, two of them do not include the use of multi-modal transportation modes. The group feels that the resolution passed by the MIC back in August of 2021, does reflect the MIC’s support for a multi-modal plan. Prescott went on to discuss how the BPAC creates an annual report to identify its objectives and list the ongoing work of the group. The Ped Subcommittee met on June 1st and held a discussion regarding the Snow Removal Task Force (SRTF). The group is entertaining plans for drafting a Resolution of Support for a regional coordination of snow removal. This would not be prescriptive, but rather goal setting, in support of the efforts of regional agencies in their snow removal efforts.



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7. LONG RANGE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) 2050 UPDATE

Rondi Watson presented the kickoff to the Metropolitan Interstate Council's Long Range MTP 2050. The MTP includes a federal requirement for a minimum of a 20-year planning horizon and must be updated every 5 years. It provides the framework for which all our work is completed. The 2050 MTP requires approval from the MIC Policy Board by October of 2024. The MIC's next steps include two rounds of jurisdictional consultations to zero in on transportation projects in the Duluth/Superior Metropolitan Area, as well as stakeholder engagement efforts. The plan will focus on making equitable and sustainable choices for all modes of transportation, to better serve all people of the region. There will be ongoing updates on the process, and requests for input, to both the TAC and MIC.

8. PROJECT UPDATES

- **2023 PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT – SAFETY ACTION PLAN**

Rondi spoke of the possible need to shift the Safety Action Plan from MIC staff led to consultant led work. To do this, an extra, virtual meeting may need to be held in July to approve the change.

- **ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION #11 TO THE 2023/26 DULUTH AREA TIP**

9. ROUND TABLE

Bob Quade discussed the NLX 10 mph speed limit through the Duluth-Superior rail yard limitation.

Brock Allen commented that the Duluth Depot is not the best choice for the Duluth station, but the better choice would be the DTA Transit Center two blocks away.

Nick Baker commented that there is a group who is interested in seeing a train run from Hibbing to Two Harbors to connect with the NLX in Duluth.

Jenny Van Sickle commented that the 2023-2025 state funds were approved by Wisconsin for the Blatnik Bridge project.

Brock Allen commented that municipalities cannot charge by the kilowatt for electric charging stations, possibly delaying federal dollars for electric corridors.

8. ADJOURN:

With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.