



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

**Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 1:30 pm**  
**MEETING NOTICE**

This meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting – join us in person at the location listed below OR participate virtually via Microsoft Teams (login info, below).

Meeting materials can be viewed on the [meeting web page](#) as well as on the attached pages.

### **Items for Approval:**

- Meeting Summary of 6.20.23
- 2023-2026 Superior Area TIP Amendments #13-19
- Draft 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP – Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on August 25, 2023
- Final 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP for Adoption by the Board

### **Items for Presentation and Discussion**

- Draft MIC Urban Area Boundary Adjustment
- Draft 2024-2025 MIC Work Program
- Duluth Area I-35 Corridor Study Update

### **Project Updates**

- Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)
- MTP 2050 Update

### **In-Person Meeting Location:**

**Proctor Community Center**  
100 Pionk Drive  
Proctor, MN

### **OR Join virtually via TEAMS below:**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TEAMS MEETING](#)

### **OR Join by Phone (audio only)**

**+1 218-302-4275**

**Conference ID: 649 263 226#**

### **Attendance / Meeting Quorum**

If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please contact Tari Aanonsen at [taanonsen@ardc.org](mailto:taanonsen@ardc.org) or 218-529-7541 to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

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### **Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**

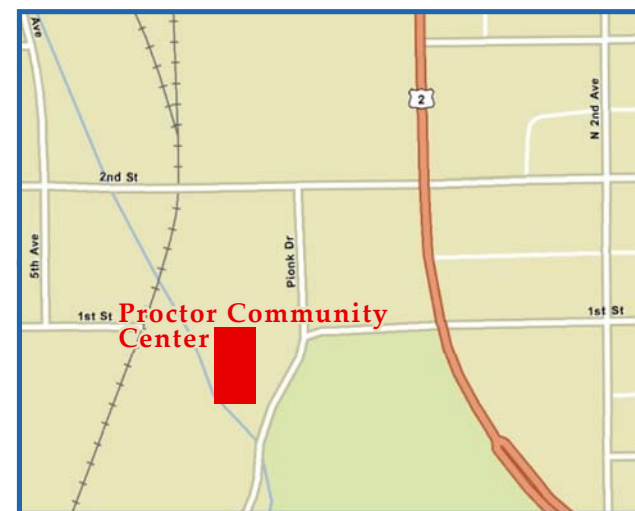
*Duluth and Superior Urban Area Communities Cooperating in Planning and Development through a Joint Venture of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission*

**221 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802 • 218/529-7541 • [www.dsmic.org](http://www.dsmic.org)**



# Proctor Community Center

100 Pionk Drive Duluth, MN



It is recommended that you use local routes during the I-35 Mega-Project construction

TRANSPORTATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(TAC)  
MEMBERS

Airport

Tom Werner

Active Transportation

Skip Williams

City of Duluth

Cari Pedersen

Cindy Voigt

Chris Lee

James Gittemeier

City of Hermantown

John Mulder

David Bolf (alternate)

City of Proctor

Jess Rich

City of Superior

Todd Janigo

Chris Carlson

Jason Serck (alternate)

Douglas County

Jason Jackman

Duluth Transit Authority

Chris Belden

Rod Fournier (alternate)

Economic Development

Karl Schuettler

MnDOT

Maren Webb

Krysten Saatela Foster

Bryan Anderson

(alternate)

Mobility Challenged

Vacant

Port/Harbor

Kate Ferguson

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi

Matt Hemmila (alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Dena Ryan



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 1:30 pm  
MEETING AGENDA

1. <b>Introductions/Agenda Review</b>	
2. <b>Committee Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 6.20.23 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul>	10 min
3. <b>2023 Superior Area TIP Amendments #13-19</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for approval, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	10 min
4. <b>Draft 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on August 25, 2023</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend adoption to the Policy Board, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	5 min
5. <b>Final 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend adoption to the Policy Board, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>	5 min
6. <b>Draft MIC Urban Area Boundary Adjustment</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Richard Saran</li> </ul>	10 min
7. <b>Draft 2024-2025 MIC Work Program Discussion</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Ron Chicka</li> </ul>	15 min
8. <b>Duluth Area I-35 Corridor Study Update</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Ron Chicka &amp; Rondi Watson</li> </ul>	15 min
9. <b>Round Table</b>	
	5 min
10. <b>Project Updates</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)</li> <li>2050 Update of the MIC's Long-Range Transportation Plan</li> </ul>	5 min
11. <b>Adjourn</b>	

*Next Meeting*  
Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
WisDOT  
1:30 pm



= Approval Item

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 6.20.23\***
- **Directors Report**
  - **Safety Action Plan Update 2023 and 2024** - The MIC is working on dual fronts for this work task. For this year, as the MIC Board recently took action on, we're moving Phase 2 of our work involving analysis of our crash database to become an appendix to our Metropolitan Transportation Plan; with analysis being conducted by AECOM. They have developed a scope and we're discussing next steps now. This work program amendment has also recently been approved by the DOT and FHWA from both states allowing work to commence. On a second front, we have applied for the federal grant program – Safe Streets for All – to the tune of \$250K for a policy-based plan that will set this area up for future infrastructure grants via this same program. Nearly all MPOs in the nation are looking to this new program to get a federally recognized document set in place. We're to find out about the award in the Fall of this year.
  - **MIC Staffing Update** – For our current Planner/Senior Planner opening, we had a very limited pool to choose from for an interview. We had five apply; two were qualified and when one pulled out, we ended up with one interview. That person proved to be good; an offer was made, but it was not accepted, and we will have to re-post. A key task to fill is the HTAC coordinator role for the MIC that requires very astute relationship skills as it is our largest committee and very diverse in membership.
  - **I-35 Plan Update** – As this project is nearing conclusion, two other related events are occurring where we will be actively involved. First, I will be taking part in an August 30 event at Mn Power of a program put on by the UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research with speakers and a walking tour focused on the future of downtown Duluth and its relationship to the freeway. Second, on September 8<sup>th</sup> on the U of MN campus in St Paul, our project is on the MN Freight Advisory Committee agenda to be presented for discussion and input from this important group that is made up of public and private sector interests from across the state, including the DOT Commissioner. In addition, the City of Duluth is preparing to submit a grant to the



**Agenda Item Descriptions**

federal Reconnecting Communities Program to further examine the West Duluth and downtown segments of the freeway. Our current consultant, AECOM, is preparing the application.

- **Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Triennial Review** – Both Rondi Watson (DTA Board Chair) and I will be participating in this federal review of the full range of services provided to the area by the DTA; including planning work conducted by federal partners such as the MPO. We review the progression of the TIP and transit projects included plus other working arrangements that should be in place between the transit agency and the MPO.

**3. 2023 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #13-19\***

**TIP AMENDMENT #13**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for pavement marking work on STH 13 from Engdahl Road to USH 53. Pavement marking work is scheduled for 2023.

**2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	STH 13	PE				
113-23-019	Engdahl Rd to USH 53	ROW				
	Pavement Marking	CONST	46.4	11.6		58
Amended to TIP in August 2023	5.89 mi					
	1000-18-61	TOTAL	46.4	11.6		58



Agenda Item Descriptions

**TIP AMENDMENT #14**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for work associated with preliminary design to the St. Louis River Bridge. Work is scheduled for 2023.

**2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-23-020  Amended to TIP in August 2023	St Louis River BR	PE		159	141	300
	B16-0005-0001 to 0005 Final Design PE Reimburse MN 0.0 mi 1199-00-10	ROW CONST  TOTAL		159	141	300

**TIP AMENDMENT #15**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for work associated with preliminary design to the St. Louis River Bridge. Work is scheduled for 2023.

**2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-23-021  Amended to TIP in August 2023	St Louis River BR	PE		225.25	199.75	425
	B16-0005-0001 to 0005 Final Design PE 0.0 mi 1199-00-11	ROW CONST  TOTAL		225.25	199.75	425



Agenda Item Descriptions

**TIP AMENDMENT #16**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for work associated with real estate acquisition associated with the St. Louis River Bridge. Work is scheduled for 2023.

**2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	St Louis River BR	PE				
113-23-022	B16-0005-0001 to	ROW		2,300		2,300
	0005	CONST				
Amended to TIP	ROW					
in August 2023	0.0 mi					
	1199-00-20	TOTAL		2,300		2,300

**TIP AMENDMENT #17**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for work associated with a road closure at a rail crossing. Work is scheduled for 2023.

**2023 Transportation Improvements Projects (Rail)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	Short Cut Road – T.	PE				
113-23-023	Superior	ROW				
	BNSF RR XING	CONST	30			30
	086404J					
Amended to TIP	X-ing Closure					
in August 2023	Incentive	TOTAL	30			30
	8395-00-50					



Agenda Item Descriptions

**TIP AMENDMENT #18**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for work associated with a rail signal replacement project. Work is scheduled for 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Rail)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-23-024  Amended to TIP in August 2023	CTH C MN State Line - STH 35 BNSF RR XING 067768H	PE ROW CONST	282.8		70.7	353.5
	Reconst-Signal Replacement 8758-00-50	TOTAL	282.8		70.7	353.5

**TIP AMENDMENT #19**

A TIP amendment has been requested by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for work associated with a rail crossing surface replacement. Work is scheduled for 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Rail)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-23-025  Amended to TIP in August 2023	CTH C MN State Line - STH 35 BNSF RR XING 067768H	PE ROW CONST			101	101
	Reconst-Crossing Surface (BNSF local) 8758-00-51	TOTAL			101	101

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).





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Agenda Item Descriptions

**4. DRAFT 2024-2027 SUPERIOR AREA TIP RELEASE FOR 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AUGUST 25, 2023\***

On approval, the MIC will release the 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP for public comment for a 30-day period, beginning August 25, 2023. At this time, our lists of public projects for Fiscal Years 2024-2027 should be complete for the time being, according to our input from our constituent jurisdictions. After this public comment period, any pertinent comments received will be incorporated into the final version of the TIP, with the action to adopt to be included in the agenda for the September 2023 MIC Board meeting.

**5. FINAL 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP\***

The Public Comment Period for the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP concluded on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. There were 4 minor changes that were identified by our jurisdictions that have been made. However, none of the changes required a renewal of the public comment period. As such, the final version has been finished and prepared for adoption by the MIC Policy Board, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**6. DRAFT MIC URBAN AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT**

Updating the Urbanized Area Boundary is done every 10 years and is based on the 2020 Census. We are allowed to make the boundary bigger but in no way can we reduce the boundary smaller than the original 2020 Census Boundary. This boundary includes full area of any jurisdiction that the 2020 Census Urban Area entered. We have also met with both state DOT's for input on our Adjusted Urbanized Area.

**7. 2024-2025 MIC WORK PROGRAM DISCUSSION**

We will present the items/tasks for inclusion in the draft 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at our upcoming meeting(s). (Budget amounts for each individual project are being further refined; we can speak to budget sources – not much change from what is already noted in the existing UPWP.) A key work task for 2024 will be approval of the updated Long-Range Plan for the MIC; considerable amount of time from both staff and our consultant is directed at this one item. Within our Bike-Pedestrian element, it is time to update our Bike Plan itself. In Short Range, we anticipate an amendment next year that incorporates the federal grant we applied for toward the Safe Streets for All program. There would be staff time plus the larger amount (\$250K) we requested. Lastly, we will discuss a discretionary project (would need consultant help) for an areawide Traffic Signal Assessment Plan that we have received several favorable comments by the MIC members to conduct. Final UPWP approval is anticipated in September.



## 8. DULUTH AREA I-35 CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE

To date, Bolton & Menk, the MIC's consultant for the I-35 Corridor Plan, has completed a technical assessment of the 14-mile study corridor and developed design alternatives to address the identified deficiencies. In addition, the scope of work was expanded, with financial assistance from MnDOT, to conduct a more detailed analysis of the Thompson Hill area to better understand and document environmental concerns and to further refine design concepts which may include a truck climbing lane.

The proposed designs for key intersections along the entire 14-mile study corridor were presented in May to the Project Steering Committee and to the TAC and the MIC for feedback. Subsequently, selected designs were presented for feedback to two focus groups, representing port/freight and Downtown/Canal Park interests.

A public open house was held on June 6 and generated a great deal of interest. More than 50 people showed up in person, and 366 survey responses were received. A summary of Phase 2 public engagement will be presented at this month's TAC and MIC meetings.

## 9. ROUND TABLE

## 10. PROJECT UPDATES

- *Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)*

2024 is the first year of CRP fund allocation. CRP funds have been incorporated into the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP. 2024 funds have been allocated to Woodland Ave pedestrian improvements (St. Louis County), with placeholders for following years. Additionally, MnDOT will be submitting a Carbon Reduction Strategy with further guidance for CRP projects from FY 2025 to FHWA November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- *2050 Update of the MIC's Long-Range Transportation Plan*

The 2050 update of the MIC's 2045 long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is now underway, with the assistance of consultants AECOM, through this year and next. Adoption of the 2050 update by the Policy Board is required by October 2024. An early step, to take place in late August, is for our staff to conduct the first of two MIC-area jurisdictional consultations. The goal of the first consultation is to review updated demographics and to gain input into observed and emerging transportation issues; the second round of consultations, to occur later this fall, will be to discuss potential improvement projects and inter-jurisdictional coordination.

## 11. ADJOURN