



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

August 15, 2023 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen	
Members Present		
	Jeff Abboud	WisDOT
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
	Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
	Skip Williams	Active Transportation
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Bryan Anderson	Alternate for MnDOT Dist. 1
	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Jason Jackman*	Douglas County
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth
	John Mulder	City of Hermantown
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Dena Ryan*	WisDOT
	Vacant	MnDOT Dist 1
	vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Tari Aanonsen	MIC Admin Asst
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Sara Husen	WisDOT
	Sheldon Johnson	MIC Deputy Director/NWRPC
	Eli Jurewicz	MIC Intern
	Andrea Krause	Zeitgeist
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Jason Nordberg	FHWA
	Ricky Sarran	MIC-GIS Specialist
	Erika Shepard	MnDOT
	Voni Vegar	MnDOT
	Rondi Watson	MIC Planning Asst/Communication Coordinator



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. A “roll call” attendance was taken. When completed, Ron asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Meeting Summary of 6.20.23**

Ron then asked if there were any questions or changes to the June meeting summary.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Tom Werner / Jim Foldessi moved to approve the 6.20.23 meeting summary. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Director Chicka reported on the following:

- **Safety Action Plan 2023 and 2024-** The 2023-24 UPWP was amended last month to include work by our consultant, AECOM, involving crash data analysis. The amendment was also approved by the DOT and FHWA of both states, allowing that work to continue. We are waiting to hear if our application for the Safe Streets for All grant is approved for \$250,000. We should find out in the fall of this year.
- **MIC Staffing Update-** The MIC is still in need of a Planner/Senior Planner. The position will be reposted in the coming weeks. This is a key position for the MIC that is primarily responsible for coordination of the HTAC.
- **I-35 Plan Update-** The project is nearing completion. The steering committee is set to meet next month. Ron will be taking part in two upcoming events that relate to the project. One will involve a walking tour focusing on the future of downtown Duluth and its relationship to the freeway. The event will be hosted by the UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research. The other event will be a presentation of the project for discussion and input at the MN Freight Advisory Committee meeting in St. Paul in early September. Lastly, the City of Duluth is preparing to submit a grant for the federal Reconnecting Communities Program to further examine West Duluth and downtown areas of the freeway. AECOM is preparing that application.
- **Duluth Transit Authority (DTA) Triennial Review-** Ron and Rondi Watson (DTA Board Chair) will be participating in the federal review of the full range of services provided by the DTA. Planning work will be reviewed, along with the progression of the TIP and other transit projects.



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3. 2023 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #13-19

Deputy Director, Sheldon Johnson, presented the following 2023-2026 Superior Area TIP Amendments for recommendation to the Policy Board for approval:

Amendment # 13 – A request from WisDOT for pavement marking work on STH 13 from Engdahl Road to USH 53.

Amendment #14 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with preliminary design to the St. Louis River Bridge.

Amendment #15 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with preliminary design to the St. Louis River Bridge.

Amendment #16 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with real estate acquisition associated with the St. Louis River Bridge.

Amendment #17 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with a road closure at a rail crossing.

Amendment #18 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with a rail signal replacement project.

Amendment #19 – A request from WisDOT for work associated with a rail crossing surface replacement.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and description of the motion.

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

After a brief review of four new projects for inclusion, Deputy Director, Sheldon Johnson, requested the Draft 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP-Release for 30-Day Public Comment Period on August 25, 2023 be recommended to the Policy Board for approval.

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and description of the motion.

5. FINAL 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP

Prescott Morrill briefly highlighted a handful of new projects slated in the TIP and then requested that the Final 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP be recommended to the Policy Board for adoption.

Skip Williams pointed out that the CRP funded ADA and pedestrian improvements in the Woodland Avenue project were in addition to the improvements that were already a part of the project. Skip also commented that the ped counts slated for Snively would be important as they would be taken during the winter season.

James Gittlemeier made mention that the CCT was an abbreviation for Campus Connection Trail.



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Skip Williams / Jim Foldessi moved to recommend the Final 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP to the Policy Board for adoption. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. DRAFT MIC URBAN AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Director Chicka began by explaining that the MIC Urban Area Boundary is reviewed for adjustment every ten years.

Richard Serran, MIC GIS Specialist, briefly outlined the adjustments as requested in the draft. He further explained that the adjustments are largely due to changes in Census data, along with the inclusion of whole towns or cities, where a portion was already existing in the boundary area. Dense areas have also been considered for inclusion.

Tom Werner voiced his support for the consideration of Martin Road for inclusion in the MIC Urban Area Boundary, as the future economic development plans of the Duluth International Airport would have an effect on the activity of the area.

The Final MIC Urban Area Boundary Adjustment will be presented next month for the recommendation to the Policy Board for approval.

7. 2024-2025 MIC WORK PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Director Ron Chicka described how the MIC would present items/tasks for inclusion in the draft 2024-25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at our upcoming meeting(s). In particular, it is time to update the MIC Bike Plan itself, along with incorporating an amendment for the Short-Range Plan if the federal grant is awarded for the Safe Streets for All program. Also, to be discussed will be to include a discretionary project, with the help of a consultant, for an areawide Traffic Signal Assessment Plan. Final UPWP approval is anticipated in September.

Jim Foldessi suggested that the scope of work for the Traffic Signal Assessment Plan be reviewed by Jim Miles and Vic Lund for their input. This may also be a project that would qualify for CRP funding in the future.

Erika Shepard mentioned that the Complete Streets funding should be included in the Work Program.

8. DULUTH AREA I-35 CORRIDOR STUDY UPDATE

Rondi Watson gave a progress report on the I-35 Corridor Study, as it is nearing completion. Highlights included feedback from an online survey and public meeting, both well populated. Respondents varied by modality and key themes were attained from the survey. One major theme that surfaced is to prioritize both pedestrian and bicycle modes of transportation in the area. Survey results also showed the popularity of certain concepts over others that were proposed through the study for both Spirit Valley, (the Consolidated Interchange), and the downtown, (the Lid Concept). Next steps include implementation, the application for the Connecting Communities Grant and lastly, the Final Plan, to be presented to the Policy board for approval in December 2023.



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9. ROUND TABLE

Todd Janigo voiced the need for a couple of key areas to be addressed, especially before the Blatnik Bridge project gets underway. Short-term solutions should be sought now for the entrances and exits to the Bong Bridge. Especially considering this may be the primary means of traveling between Duluth and Superior during the construction of the Blatnik.

10. PROJECT UPDATE

- ***Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)***

Prescott spoke of the 2024 CRP fund allocation to the Woodland Avenue pedestrian improvements. Additionally, MnDOT will be submitting a Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) that will help guide how funds are appropriated and will include an online tool for jurisdictions that will help them understand their carbon footprint.

- ***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 September, 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: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Ron Chicka adjourned the meeting at 3:01 pm.