



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

September 22, 2023

Mr. Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Planning Grant – Duluth I-35 Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC), we are writing in support of the City of Duluth’s request for Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) planning grant funding that would allow for the study of long-term solutions and mitigation strategies for improving connections along Highway I-35 in Downtown and West Duluth.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth, MN-Superior, WI area, the MIC is charged with transportation planning for the urbanized area. The proposed project supports the vision from our Long Range Transportation Plan, 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.”

Furthermore, this proposed planning project along I-35, a key regional infrastructure asset, is recommended for more in-depth, community-involved study in the recent [Duluth Area I-35 Corridor Plan](#) undertaken by the MIC and MnDOT, before additional major reconstruction work takes place.

The MIC strongly encourages your consideration of the City of Duluth’s application for 2023 RCN Community Planning grant funds for the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Ron Chicka
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cc: MIC Policy Board
Transportation Advisory Committee