



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

**Tuesday, December 12, 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 10.17.23
- 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1
- 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #2
- 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #3

### Items for Presentation and Discussion:

- MTP Long Range Plan 2050 – Introduction to Project Evaluation
- Rice Lake Road Corridor Improvement Project
- Minnesota Carbon Reduction Strategy

### Project Updates:

- Administrative Modification #1 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP
- Administrative Modification #2 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP
- HTAC Update
- 2023 Duluth Superior Adjusted Urban Area Boundary

### In-Person Meeting Location:

**WisDOT/Lake Superior Room**  
**1701 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Superior, WI**

### OR Join virtually via TEAMS below:

[Click here to join teams meeting](#)

### OR Join by Phone (audio only)

**+1 929-352-2956**

**Conference ID: 552 321 951#**

### 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.

*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](http://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](http://www.dsmic.org)**

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

Derek Fredrickson

Bryan Anderson

(alternate)

Mobility Challenged

Vacant

Port/Harbor

Kate Ferguson

St. Louis County

Jim Foldesi

Matt Hemmila (alternate)

WisDOT NW Region

Dena Ryan

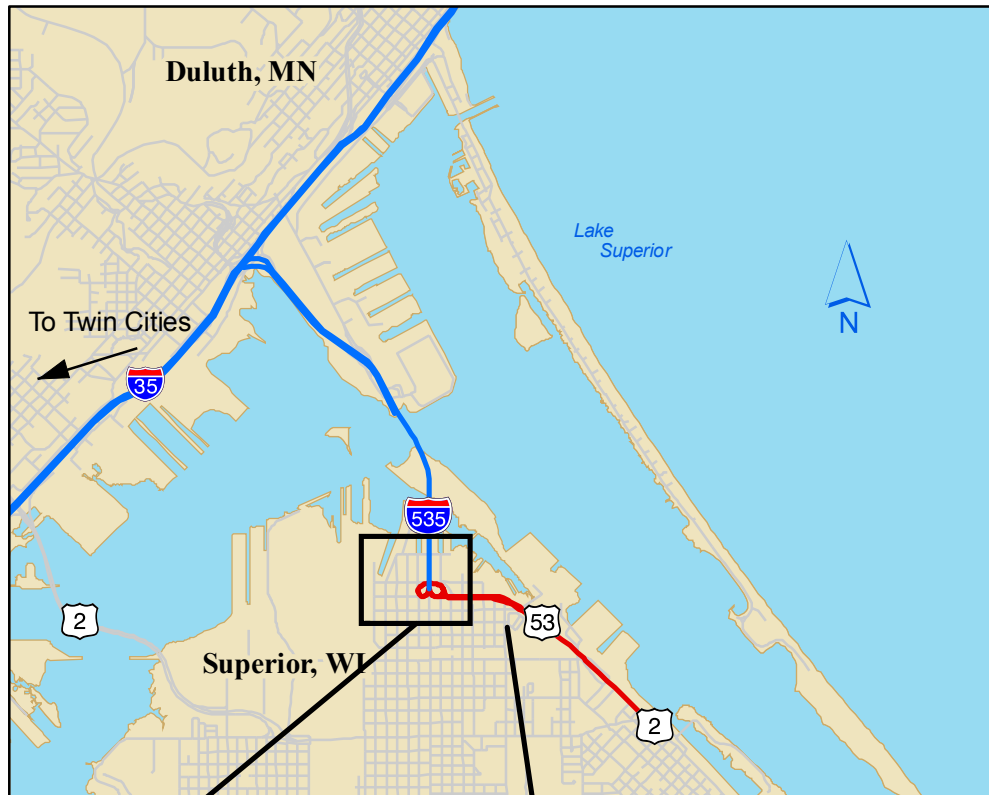


Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 1:30 pm  
**MEETING AGENDA**

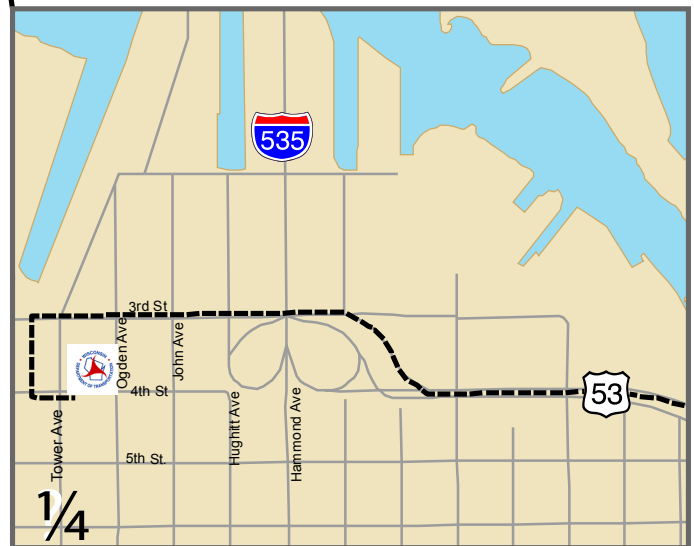
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|--|--------|
| <b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b>  |        |
| <b>2. Committee Business</b>   |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 10.17.23 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul>  | 10 min |
| <b>3. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2050 – Introduction to Project Evaluation</b>   |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Jim Meyer, AECOM</li> </ul>  | 30 min |
| <b>4. Rice Lake Road Corridor Improvement Project</b>  |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Vic Lund, St. Louis County Public Works, Traffic Engineer</li> </ul>   | 20 min |
| <b>5. 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #1</b>   |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for approval, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>   | 5 min  |
| <b>6. 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #2</b>   |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for approval, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>   | 5 min  |
| <b>7. 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendment #3</b>   |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend to the Policy Board for approval, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>   | 5 min  |
| <b>8. Minnesota Carbon Reduction Strategy</b>  |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>  | 5 min  |
| <b>9. Round Table</b>  |        |
|  | 5 min  |
| <b>10. Project Updates</b>   |        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Modification #1 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP</li> <li>Administrative Modification #2 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP</li> <li>HTAC Update</li> <li>2023 Duluth Superior Adjusted Urban Area Boundary</li> </ul> | 5 min  |
| <b>11. Adjourn</b>   |        |

**Next Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024  
MnDOT  
1:30 pm

**WisDOT Northwest Region - Superior Office**  
**1701 N 4th St**  
**Superior, WI**



**From Minnesota** on either I-35 N or S:  
 Take 535 / 53 (Blatnik Bridge) to Superior, WI  
**Bear RIGHT off bridge, then straight following signs for South 35**  
 At stop, turn LEFT onto 3rd St  
 Bear LEFT as road curves (Tower Ave)  
 Turn LEFT at 4th St (1st left)  
 WisDOT will be on the left



**From Wisconsin:** Follow 53/2 from the south  
 Bear RIGHT at signs for **Superior Business District/ South 35 / Vehicle Registration Driver Licensing**  
 this becomes N 3rd St  
 Bear LEFT as road curves (Tower Ave / South 35)  
 Turn LEFT at 1st left (4th St)  
 WisDOT will be on the left

- Parking lot in front of building
- Meeting held in Lake Superior Conference Room



\* = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 10.17.23\*
- MIC Director's Report
  - Safety Action Plan Update 2023 and 2024 – AECOM and the area jurisdictional partners continue to meet and are currently uploading detailed data on: speed limits, curve locations and radius, intersection traffic control, lighting, land use and socioeconomic data. Project will continue into 2024.
  - MIC Staffing Update – Greatly pleased to announce Mike Wenholtz (left for couple years to the Wis DNR) is back with the MIC in the role of Principal Planner, leading our HTAC and its subcommittees, plus co-leading our Long Range Plan. We're back to being fully staffed after many months of trying to fill the vacancy with an experienced individual.
  - I-35 Plan Update – The MICs and DOTs Final Plan for our I-35 work can be found online at [https://dsmic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Duluth-Area-I-35-Corridor-Plan\\_Executive-Summary\\_FINAL.pdf](https://dsmic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Duluth-Area-I-35-Corridor-Plan_Executive-Summary_FINAL.pdf) A series of short-range projects (5 to 10 years) along the route are now better identified/positioned for further design and ultimately funding as a result. Very pleased with AECOM staff (and their subconsultants) for the outstanding process throughput and the end product we now have in place.
  - Letters of Support – MIC staff has had multiple requests from area jurisdictions toward projects proposed for the metro area. These include:
    - 1) Blatnik Bridge – Bike/Ped Component – BPAC requested by both DOTs for Federal grant programs to emphasize a multimodal network for the facility.
    - 2) Five project applications submitted by St Louis County for HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funding. HSIP is a core Federal-aid program with the purpose of achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. All are supported by MIC area plans.
    - 3) Pike Lake Bike-Ped Improvement Study – BPAC requested for St Louis County toward application for a MnDOT Active Transportation grant. The study would involve the Canosia Township Trails Plan and further identify a series of recommendations.



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**Agenda Item Descriptions**

*\* = Presented for TAC recommendation to the MIC Policy Board for Approval or Adoption*

- 4) City of Duluth – Junction Ave/W. St Marie Street – Local Road Improvement Program fund toward approximately 1.0-mile segment of roadway between Carver and College to complete pedestrian and ADA-compliant amenities connecting St. Scholastica with the Lakewalk Shared Use path.
- 5) St Louis County – Rice Lake Road Corridor – The County is preparing to apply for a federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor project. The program helps communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or regional impact and supports jurisdictions at state and local levels to complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects.

### **3. MTP LONG RANGE PLAN 2050 – INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT EVALUATION**

Jim will cover the general process of project inclusion in the MTP; how the scoring process is proposed to be slightly different and more in line with state and federal requirements that focus on performance measurement objectives. This process of project evaluation will be discussed in upcoming jurisdictional meetings as well.

### **4. RICE LAKE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

St. Louis County is continuing to lead a planning and preliminary engineering process to improve the Rice Lake Rd (CSAH 4) corridor – to the immediate north and south of Martin Road (the corridor the MIC has studied as well over many years). The current process will include a visioning exercise to consider additional improvements that could be added to the overall project that would provide a public benefit. This project is currently unfunded. The goal of this process is to develop a competitive project that would successfully obtain Federal funding through discretionary grant programs. A letter of support (for the County's approach) toward the funding grant via the MIC Board will be proposed and submitted. Vic Lund, St Louis Co Engineering, will discuss the project's current status.

(You can read more about the project at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>).



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#### 5. 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #1 \*

The City of Duluth is requesting the addition of a project along the Lakewalk, using funding awarded from the federal RAISE grant program (TIP Project ID# 118-090-029). This project will include multi-use trail construction and shoreline stabilization from Lake Ave to 28<sup>th</sup> Ave E.

- Total Project Cost = \$10,248,758
  - Federal Funding = \$8,196,234
  - City Funding = \$2,052,524

#### 6. 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENT #2 \*

MnDOT is requesting a new project for inclusion in the current Duluth Area TIP for highway sign replacement on MN 23 from Howard Rd to Becks Rd in Duluth (TIP Project ID# 8821-377). This project is 100% funded by state funds. However, because a portion of these improvements fall within the MIC/MPO area, it will be included in the current Duluth Area TIP.

- Total Project Cost (State Funding) = \$900,000

#### 7. 2024-2027 DULUTH ARE TIP AMENDMENT #3 \*

Amendment #3 constitutes a suite of changes, including Bridge Formula Funding Program (BFP) for two projects in the TIP. These additional funds will be used to complete bridge deck overlays instead of a cheaper flood seal treatment.

For each project, there are additional federal funds from the BFP program, with additional local match funds, which will be added as new line-items to the Duluth Area TIP.

These two projects are:

**Duluth TIP ID# 6982-336:** multiple bridges between Lake Ave and 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E

- Original project cost = \$1,900,000
  - Additional BFP Project cost = \$1,138,500 Federal; \$126,500 State Fund match; \$1,265,000
- Project Total

**Duluth TIP ID# 6982-348:** multiple I-35 bridges over Mesaba Ave

- Original project cost = \$8,200,000
  - Additional BFP project cost = \$931,500 Federal; \$103,500 State Fund match; \$1,035,000
- Project Total



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## 8. MINNESOTA CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY

In November, MnDOT published the Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS) document, which includes a toolkit for jurisdictions to reference when applying to the MPO for CRP funding. The MIC will be soliciting projects for FY 2025 and FY 2026 in February 2024. Project selection will be done by the MIC, in coordination with the NEMNATP, and selected projects for FY 2025 and FY 2026 will be amended into the current Duluth Area TIP.

## 9. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

## 10. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Administrative Modification #1 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP**

This modification, approved by MIC staff, removes two projects from the Duluth Area TIP.

**Duluth TIP ID# 6910-109:** This project was intended to remove a historic bridge over Mission Creek. This project is being removed due to cultural discoveries and will be delivered in a future fiscal year. The federal funds allocated to this project will be used to fund other district priorities, to be determined.

**Duluth TIP ID# 6982-342:** This project was to make some nominal improvements for ADA compliance from Lake Ave to 26<sup>th</sup> Ave E. However, district priorities have changed due to budgetary constraints, and these funds will be allocated for similar purposes in the same fiscal year (FY 2024) for other MnDOT projects.

- **Administrative Modification #2 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP**

This modification is for a project on the Two Harbors Expressway, for intersection conflict reductions. Due to more refined project estimates, the projected project cost has been reduced by \$800,000. The revised total project cost is \$1,077,778.

- **HTAC Update**

Issues reviewed and presented at the December HTAC included: reporting out of the work of both the Navigation and Dredging subcommittees by their respective Chairs; presentation and input period regarding the Minnesota statewide Freight Plan Update by central office staff of the DOT; an input session from HTAC members and other relevant entities focused on the MICs Metropolitan Transportation Plan in order to gain input on current key issues of movement in the Twin Ports area; lastly, a discussion led by Bryan Rydberg of AOR Waterfront Security, a local leader in the logistics industry and experienced at security with shippers/businesses in Duluth and Superior.



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**Agenda Item Descriptions**

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- **Letters of Support for St. Louis County Safety Projects**

We prepared letters of support on behalf of the MIC for five project applications submitted by the county for HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) funding. HSIP is a core Federal-aid program with the purpose of achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads and requires a data-driven, strategic approach to improving safety, with a focus on performance.

All five projects are located within the MIC area, and the proposed improvements would implement some longstanding recommendations from several MIC plans, including the 2000 Midway Road Access Management Plan, the 2018 Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Study and the 2020 update of our long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

- **2023 D-S Adjusted UAB**

The 2023 Duluth-Superior Adjusted Urban Area Boundary has been submitted to both states. MnDOT has officially accepted the Boundary and sent it on to FHWA for Minnesota Approval.

**11. ADJOURN**