



## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 6:00 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 12.13.23
- 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendments #1-8
- 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #4-5
- 2024-2025 MIC Work Program Amendment #1

### Items for Presentation and Discussion:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Ave E Restriping Project
- Long Range MTP 2050 – Stakeholder Involvement Summary

### Project Updates:

- Administrative Modification #3-5 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP
- Long Range MTP 2050 - Jurisdictional Consultations Update

### In-Person Meeting Location:

Hampton Inn  
310 Canal Park Drive  
Duluth, MN 55802

### OR Join virtually via TEAMS below:

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TEAMS MEETING](#)

### OR Join by phone (audio only)

+1 218-210-0525

Conference ID: 622 892 941#

### 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)



**Legend**

- Primary On-Street Signed Route (Heavy-Moderate Traffic)
- Primary On-Street Signed Route (Low-Moderate Traffic)
- Primary On-Street Unsigned Route
- Secondary Connector Route
- Bicycling Prohibited or Not Recommended
- - - Off Road Bike Path
- - - Scenic Skyline Parkway
- - - Gravel Road
- DTA Route

Hampton Inn  
 310 Canal Park Drive  
 Duluth, MN  
 218-720-3000

From I-35 N:  
 Take the 5th Ave W exit - Exit 256B toward Lake Ave  
 Turn right onto Lake Ave/Canal Park Drive  
 Stay straight to go onto N Lake Ave  
 N Lake Ave becomes Canal Park Dr

## Policy Board Members

### Minnesota Members

#### City of Duluth

Hannah Alstead  
Mike Mayou

#### City of Duluth

Citizen Rep  
Vacant

#### City of Hermantown

Wayne Boucher (Co-Chair)

#### City of Proctor

Chad Ward

#### City of Rice Lake

Bob Quade

#### Duluth Transit

#### Authority Board

Tom Szukis

#### St. Louis County

Annie Harala

#### St. Louis County

#### Suburban Townships

Scott Welsh

### Wisconsin Members

#### City of Superior

Jenny VanSickle  
Nick Ledin  
Mark Johnson

#### City of Superior

Citizen Rep  
Ed Anderson

#### Douglas County

Nick Baker (Co-Chair)

Randy Skowlund  
Rosemary Lear  
Sam Pomush

#### Douglas County

#### Suburban Townships

Broc Allen



## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

## Policy Board

Wednesday, January 17, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

## MEETING AGENDA

<b>1. Introductions/Agenda Review</b>	
<b>2. Committee Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of 12.13.23 (for Approval)</li> <li>Director's Report</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Open Public Comment Period"</i></p>	10 min
<b>3. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East Restriping Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, James Gittemeier and Alex Popp, City of Duluth</li> </ul>	30 min
<b>4. 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendments #1-8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for Approval, Sheldon Johnson</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>5. 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP Amendments #4-5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for Approval, Prescott Morrill</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>6. 2024-2025 UPWP Amendment #1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend for Approval, Ron Chicka</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>7. Long Range MTP 2050 – Stakeholder Involvement Summary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation &amp; Discussion, Rondi Watson</li> </ul>	15 min
<b>8. Round Table</b>	5 min
<b>9. Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Modification #3-5 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP</li> <li>Long Range MTP 2050 - Jurisdictional Consultations Update</li> </ul>	5 min
<b>10. Adjourn</b>	

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
Northwood Technical College  
6:00 pm



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## Agenda Item Descriptions

*\* = Presented for Approval or Adoption*

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

### 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 12.13.23\*
- MIC Director's Report
  - Safety Action Plan Update 2024 – AECOM and the area jurisdictional partners will continue to work throughout the year due to the Work Program amendment (using one-time 2023 carryover funding) proposed for formal action this month. The tasks outlined in consultation with our consultant will take the plan to its conclusion and provide a roadmap for addressing the highest priority locations/corridors regarding multimodal safety needs in the MIC area.
  - I-35 Plan Update – The final plan is on our website. Also, presentations of the work to the Fond du Lac Tribe in Cloquet plus the Duluth – Superior Maritime Club to gain input and feedback. A further technical study concerning the possibility of applying variable speed limits along the corridor will be underway soon; addressed as a follow-up task in the plan.
  - Superior – Tower Avenue Plan – Meetings continue with City and Wisconsin DOT staff as we review the traffic operations study recently completed by AECOM. Once again, this study involves the feasibility of lane reduction along Tower between Belknap and 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The plan was a first step toward this potential change; purely technical and without public or private sector input. When ready for a broader level presentation to the TAC and MIC, we will try to line up a presentation.
  - Letters of Support – MIC staff has had multiple requests from area jurisdictions toward projects proposed for the metro area. These include:
    - 1) St Louis County – Rice Lake Road Corridor – Following on the County's presentation last month, we've submitted a letter of support toward their request for federal funds to carry out their preliminary planning efforts. The MIC Board took an official action approving the letter.
    - 2) NWRPC – Our Wisconsin host agency has asked for a letter toward a climate resilience project for continued flood plain management work – particularly a road/stream crossing evaluation in the Nemadji River watershed – via National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). A key aspect of the MICs Long Range Plan and within our planning area.



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- 3) City of Duluth – Signature toward a grant for lighting of the improved bike-pedestrian crossing of I-35 near the Mesaba Avenue interchange.

**3. 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE EAST RESTRIPING PROJECT**

6<sup>th</sup> Avenue East in Duluth, from just north of the medical complex area to Mesaba Avenue, will undergo a 4 to 3-lane conversion via restriping this summer. This has been analyzed as to feasibility for many years, including work from the MIC in the past. Mainly, this is being done to make this corridor more multimodal in nature and less of a barrier to the surrounding neighborhoods, improved pedestrian, bike and bus accommodations. City staff will discuss the upcoming project for the TAC and MIC Board.

**4. 2024-2027 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #1-8\***

**TIP AMENDMENT #1**

This project enables IndiGO (North Country Independent Living Center) the ability to continue their transportation voucher and volunteer driver program to eligible clients throughout (eight county area including Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer, and Washburn) northern Wisconsin. The project provides individuals with disabilities and residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing a transportation barrier a means of traveling to work, school, shopping, and other events. The vouchers are used to reimburse friends, neighbors and other volunteers who use their own vehicle for transporting disabled individuals. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
IndiGO - North Country Independent Living Center 113-24-012 Amended to TIP in January 2024	Funding of a Voucher Program for individuals with disabilities and others experiencing transportation barriers in 8 NW Counties.	Voucher Program	130,815		130,815	261,630
		TOTAL	130,815		130,815	261,630



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**TIP AMENDMENT #2**

This project enables IndiGO (North Country Independent Living Center) the ability to operate a mobility management program funding staff members who coordinate rides for the region’s population seniors and individuals with disabilities, and work to expand their service, provide outreach and information of transportation options to residents, and work to coordinate rides with other providers. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
IndiGO - North Country Independent Living Center 113-24-013 Amended to TIP in January 2024	Funding a mobility manager within NCIL	Mobility Manager	22,725		5,681	28,406
		TOTAL	22,725		5,681	28,406

**TIP AMENDMENT #3**

This project enables the Center for Independent Living to provide a transportation voucher and volunteer driver program to eligible clients throughout a 42-county area (including Douglas County). The project provides individuals with disabilities and residents aged 55 and over who are experiencing a transportation barrier a means of traveling to work, school, shopping, and other events. The vouchers are used to reimburse friends, neighbors and other volunteers who use their own vehicle for transporting disabled individuals. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024



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**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Center for Independent Living 113-24-014 Amended to TIP in January 2024	Funding of a Voucher Program for individuals with disabilities and others experiencing transportation barriers in 42 Central and NW Wisconsin Counties.	Voucher Program	410,280		410,280	820,560
		TOTAL	410,280		410,280	820,560

**TIP AMENDMENT #4**

This project enables the Center for Independent Living to operate a mobility management program funding staff members who coordinate rides for a 42-county area (including Douglas County) for a population of seniors and individuals with disabilities, and work to expand their service, provide outreach and information of transportation options to residents, and work to coordinate rides with other providers. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT. The project will span January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Center for Independent Living 113-24-015 Amended to TIP in January 2024	Funding a mobility manager within the Center for Independent Living	Mobility Manager	126,658		31,665	158,323
		TOTAL	126,658		31,665	158,323



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**TIP AMENDMENT #5**

This project enables Senior Connections to replace a current vehicle with a new Minivan, Side-Entry equipped. Federal funds for this project are made available through the Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program administered by WisDOT.

**2022 Transportation Improvements Projects (Section 5310)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Senior Connections, Inc.  113-24-016 Amended to TIP in January 2024	1 - Minivan Replacement Vehicle Purchase Side-Entry Equipped	Vehicle Purchase	55,271		23,688	78,959
		TOTAL	55,271		23,688	78,959

**TIP AMENDMENT #6**

A TIP amendment has been requested for preliminary engineering for work associated with painting the Bong Bridge (B161-0038-0001 to 0013) in partnership with MnDOT. Preliminary engineering work is scheduled for 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-24-017  Amended to TIP in January 2024	USH 2 - Bong Bridge Prelim Engineering - Zone Painting B16-0038-0001 to 0013 0.0 miles \$85,000 WisDOT and \$85,000 MnDOT 8680-00-04	PE ROW CONST		85	85	170
		TOTAL		85	85	170





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**TIP AMENDMENT #7**

A TIP amendment has been requested for preliminary engineering for an MMA (methyl methacrylate) overlay of the Susquehanna Bridge along USH 2 in the City of Superior. Preliminary engineering work is scheduled for 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-24-018  Amended to TIP in January 2024	USH 2 Susquehanna Ave Bridge B16-0049 Preliminary Eng 0.00 miles NHPP 1570-00-12	PE	1.920	.600		2.400
		ROW				
		CONST				
		TOTAL	1.920	.600		2.400

**TIP AMENDMENT #8**

A TIP amendment has been requested for preliminary engineering for a thin polymer overlay of the Pokegama River Bridge (B-16-0143) along STH 105. Preliminary engineering work is scheduled for 2024.

**2024 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT  113-24-019  Amended to TIP in January 2024	STH 105 Pokegama River Bridge B-16-0143 Thin Overlay Preliminary Eng 0.0 miles NHPP 8510-00-07	PE	5.624	1.406		7.030
		ROW				
		CONST				
		TOTAL	5.624	1.406		7.030

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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**5. 2024-2027 DULUTH AREA TIP AMENDMENTS #4-5\***

**Amendment #4** – MnDOT is requesting the addition of a new project on MN 23 from W 5<sup>th</sup> St to 121<sup>st</sup> Ave W using STBGP funds (TIP Project ID # 6910-116). This project includes the removal and replacement of bituminous pavement.

- Total project cost = \$2,000,000
  - Federal funding = \$1,628,400
  - State funding = \$371,600

**Amendment #5** – MnDOT is requesting the addition of a new project related to the Blatnik Bridge, using Bridge Formula Funding (BFP, TIP Project ID # 6981-26PLT). This project is for engineering consultation; bridge pile load testing.

- Total project cost = \$3,000,000
  - Federal funding = \$2,700,000
  - State funding = \$300,000

**6. 2024-2025 UPWP AMENDMENT #1\***

We will be proposing an amendment right away in the new year to our recently approved budget for 2024. This was mentioned at our December meetings. We have a very large balance from 2023 mostly due to the fact of being short a Planner position for 2/3 of the year. This has not ever occurred since I've been employed with the MIC. But, as the marketplace goes now, especially for experienced staff, this issue is becoming more commonplace around the country – and really in many different professional fields. So, after consultation with MNDOT, they are allowing us to do this budget adjustment. The source(s) to be carried over are from the MN side federal funds and accompanying local (ARDC) match to those federal dollars. Only those two sources. This is done via an 80% federal – 20% local calculation. As of this mailing, the exact value is still being determined. However, it is approximately \$100,000 in total. So, \$80,000 in federal funds; \$20,000 local match.

It is being proposed that the funds go straight to completing the extensive work of the areawide Safety Action Plan (all MIC jurisdiction crash analysis and recommendation work) plus a couple of added tasks to our main document of the MIC, our Long Range Plan, due for approval later this year. Both are being conducted with our consultant, AECOM, assisting MIC staff.



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### 7. LONG RANGE MTP 2050 – STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

Throughout 2023, we've been listening to stakeholders in the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area as they describe their vision for the region's transportation system, key areas of concern, and big ideas for the future. In a public survey, interviews, and focus groups, people from the region have told us what's important to them. This presentation will give some highlights of what we've heard so far and ask for your thoughts as well.

### 8. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

### 9. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Administrative Modification #3 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP**

This modification, approved by MIC staff, is a group of edits to the current TIP document (Duluth Area 2024-2027 TIP) to include updated safety performance measures to include the most recent data from MnDOT.

- **Administrative Modification #4 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP**

This modification, approved by MIC staff, is related to an existing MnDOT project in the current 2024-2027 TIP to secure Early Procurement (EP) in 2024 of lighting equipment for the planned improvements along Hwy 61 (Project ID # 6926-57). EP will use \$50,000 of the project's existing budget and remain fiscally constrained.

- **Administrative Modification #5 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP**

This modification, approved by MIC staff, is related to an existing MnDOT project in the current '24-'27 TIP to secure Early Procurement (EP) in 2024 of expansion joints for planned bridge improvements along the I-35 corridor from Lake Ave to 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E. EP will use \$90,000 of the project's existing budget and remain fiscally constrained.

- **Long Range MTP 2050 – Jurisdictional Meetings Update**

Jurisdictional consultations are an important part of the development of a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), such as the MIC's *Sustainable Choices 2050*. MIC staff recently facilitated two jurisdictional consultations, one in Minnesota and one in Wisconsin. Thirteen people participated in the Minnesota consultation representing MnDOT, St. Louis County, the City of Duluth, the City of Proctor, DTA, Duluth Airport Authority, St. Louis County Emergency Management, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, and the MIC. Seven people participated in the Wisconsin consultation representing WisDOT, the City of Superior, and the MIC. In a departure from past MTP development efforts these jurisdictional consultations were held as group meetings for the purpose of encouraging cooperative interactions to better understand and discuss the MIC area's



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multimodal transportation network. This purpose was achieved during both consultations.

Following introductions and a brief high-level overview presentation to provide context for the consultation the agenda items were for each jurisdiction to estimate the current condition and performance of its multimodal transportation network, identify projects within the past 5 years that highlight improvements in condition and performance, identify the most pressing needs to improve condition and performance, identify proposed federally-funded and/or regionally significant projects to be included in the MTP, and an estimate of costs versus expected revenue for their proposed list of projects. Jurisdictions were able to ask questions of each other or share information that was helpful for others and/or the entire MIC area multimodal transportation network.

- **Letter of Support for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Improvement Project**

We prepared a letter of support on behalf of the MIC for St. Louis County's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for the Rice Lake Road Corridor Project. The program supports state and local jurisdictions to complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects. Vic Lund presented information about the project at the December TAC and MIC meetings; you can read more about the project at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/rice-lake-rd-corridor>.

## 10. ADJOURN