



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

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 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 2.21.24
- 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendment #10
- 2025 & 2026 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Fund Projects

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Long Range MTP 2050 – Metrics Approach Check In
- Better Bus Blueprint Update and other DTA Initiatives
- 2024 Safety Action Plan Update
- HTAC Update

Project Updates

- Administrative Modification #8 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP

In-Person Meeting Location:

MnDOT
1123 Mesabe Avenue
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: 341 922 694#

Attendance / Meeting Quorum

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

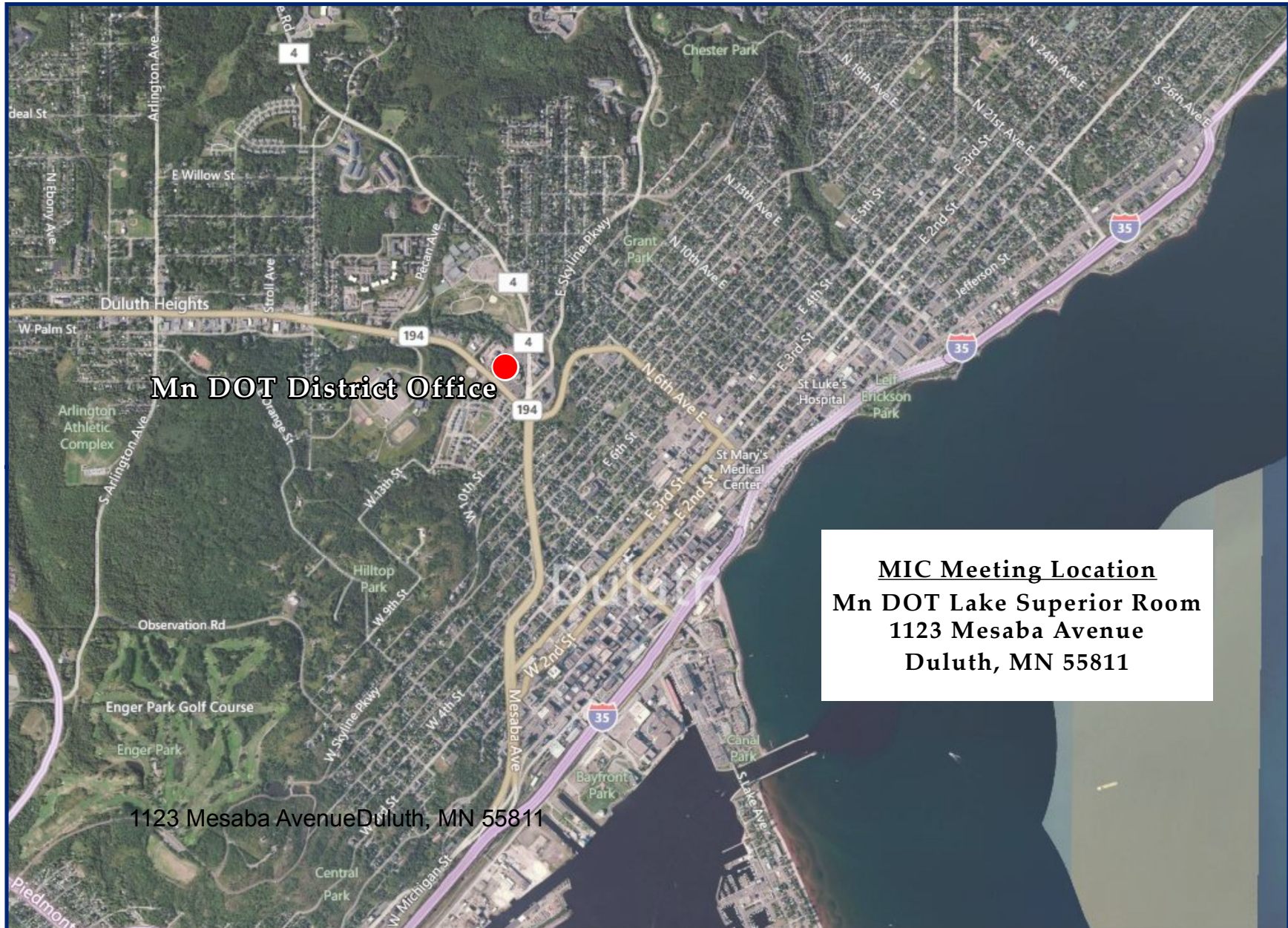
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Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

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

Duluth Mn DOT District Office



Mn DOT District Office

1123 Mesaba Avenue Duluth, MN 55811

MIC Meeting Location
Mn DOT Lake Superior Room
1123 Mesaba Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811

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

David Bolf

Trish Crego (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, March 19, 2024, 1:30 pm
MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Summary of 2.20.24 (for Approval) Director's Report 	
3. Long Range MTP 2050 – Metrics Approach Check In	30 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion; Jim Meyer, AICP, AECOM 	
4. Better Bus Blueprint Update and other DTA Initiatives	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Chris Belden, Duluth Transit Authority 	
5. 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP Amendment #10	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Policy Board for Approval, Sheldon Johnson 	
6. 2025 & 2026 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Project Announcement & Approval	15 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Policy Board for Approval, Prescott Morrill 	
7. 2024 Safety Action Plan Update	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Prescott Morrill & Rondi Watson 	
8. Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) Update	10 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholz 	
9. Round Table	5 min
10. Project Updates	5 min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Modification #8 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP 	
11. Adjourn	

Next Meeting
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
WisDOT
1:30 pm



Agenda Item Descriptions

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 2.20.24*
- MIC Director's Report

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Washington DC Spring Meetings – A very productive few days in DC this month with colleagues across the country as we strategize and plan for policy changes in the next federal transportation bill – two years out. There are a series of items we're advocating for – some key ones are, 1) MPOs becoming a direct recipient for specific federal funds (whether our Planning dollars for staff and possibly other programmatic dollars), 2) having some discretionary programs that are competitive shift to formula-based funding (such as Safe Streets for All) where these funds can simply augment the Planning dollars MPOs already receive, and 3) allow for the carryover of federal funds from one fiscal year to the next allowing long-term projects to not be hindered by yearly constraints.

Our meetings over the week included speaking with both the House and Senate staff leaders responsible for drafting the bill; meeting with staff of the Urban Institute – Housing to better incorporate housing needs into transportation plans; a work session of how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can assist our work, meetings with like agencies such as the National League of Cities and Counties to align policy proposals, and finally discussions on draft language directly with the USDOT and Federal Transit Administration. Progress was made on a number of fronts, in particular having MPOs Planning dollars directly aimed at the local governing authority and eliminating the need for State oversight that often is very redundant (resource waste) and unduly political.

Lastly, in a side meeting with Wisconsin Secretary Thompson (also AASHTO President – state highway officials' organization) we discussed collaborative efforts between our two entities aimed at how best to structure policy to get dollars "out-the-door" and used in a more expeditious manner for real world projects. This will take some more time and I'll likely be providing more input on behalf of AMPO in upcoming AASHTO national meetings.

Wisconsin Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds – After a check with sources at the DOT, we've found out that the dollars for 2024 are – at least temporarily – held up in the State legislature. No funds have been allotted anywhere in the state. Since this is a federal program



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and dollars are targeted to – among other groups MPOs – I’m uncertain as to how this is allowable. But this is the case.

Letter(s) of Support

- a) Superior – federal grant applied for study of N. 28th St to grade separate the road from the BNSF railyard.
- b) Duluth Public Schools – to apply for a district-wide Safe Routes to School coordinator position. This would greatly assist in the plans conducted for the schools by the MIC.

3. LONG RANGE MTP 2050 – METRICS APPROACH CHECK IN

As required by federal code the MIC, along with assistance from its consultant AECOM, is developing a performance-based planning scoring approach for proposed projects in the long-term Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This approach is to be integrated into the MTP update due October 2024. As a follow-up to the MTP project scoring approach discussion during the February TAC meeting, this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for the TAC members to share any thoughts, concerns, or recommendations, or to ask any questions, regarding the proposed Step 1 MTP Project Scoring Metrics or Step 3 MTP Project Final Review Questions (and scoring). TAC members should refer to the detailed March 6 email they received on this topic.

4. BETTER BUS BLUEPRINT UPDATE AND OTHER DTA INITIATIVES

It’s been six months since the DTA’s [Better Bus Blueprint](#) implemented simplified bus routing, higher frequency bus service, new user-friendly technology and targeted bus stop improvements. Chris Belden, the DTA’s Director of Planning and Grants, will present information about the BBB rollout, and other key transit-related initiatives in the Duluth-Superior area.

5. 2024-2027 SUPERIOR AREA TIP AMENDMENT #10*

A TIP amendment has been requested by WisDOT for construction/bridge replacement/reimbursement to Minnesota towards the IH 535 Blatnik Bridge replacement project (St. Louis River BR B16-0005 to 0001). WisDOT bond funds transfer to MnDOT scheduled for 2026.



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2026 Transportation Improvements Projects (Roadway)

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Thousands			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
WisDOT	IH 535 - Blatnik Bridge Replacement Construction/Bridge Replacement/Reimbursement to MnDOT	PE ROW CONST		352,800		352,800
113-24-021	B16-0005 to 0001	TOTAL		352,800		352,800
Amended to TIP in March 2024	0.0 miles 100% WisDOT Bond Funding 1199-00-77					

Questions regarding this project should be directed to Sheldon Johnson at 715-635-2197 or by email at sjohnson@nwrpc.com.

6. 2025 & 2026 MINNESOTA CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) FUNDS PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT & APPROVAL*

The Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is a relatively new funding source, authorized by the IIJA to provide funds distributed by population size with the aim to reduce carbon emissions by either enhancing existing programmed projects, or funding stand-alone projects. This program is funded through FY2028.

The Duluth-Superior MIC has the discretion to select projects for the allocation of these funds each fiscal year. Currently, there is consensus amongst the MIC’s CRP working group to allocate \$370,000 in FY25 funds to assist the City of Duluth with their planned West Superior Street corridor reconstruction project, in addition to the federal RAISE grant for this project.

Additionally, there is a jurisdictional meeting scheduled for Friday, March 15th to determine the allocation of CRP FY2026 funds (also \$370,000). Solicitation of CRP FY2026 funds is to be completed by the end of March 2024

7. 2024 SAFETY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Jurisdictional area partners, and AECOM continue to meet. With funds from the Work Program, there is budget to finish the analysis phase of the contract. The MIC is populating project lists



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and data analysis strategies to identify areas within the MIC area that may pose significant safety concerns.

8. HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HTAC) UPDATE

The HTAC met on March 6 with a full agenda covering a variety of topics, including a summary of the 2023 shipping season, dredging, St. Louis River Area of Concern updates, the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, and the updated MIC Harbor Work Plan. A brief summary of the meeting, including some highlights, will be presented to the TAC.

9. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

10. PROJECT UPDATES

- **Administrative Modification #8 to the 2024-2027 Duluth Area TIP**

St. Louis County, JCT US 2 and Munger Shaw Rd

St Louis Co is requesting an increase of the total project cost in FY2024 for the construction of left turn lanes at the intersection of US 2 and CR 223 (Munger Shaw Rd), in the order of \$300,000 (from \$925,000 to \$1,225,000) because of updated project costs and inflation. This project remains fiscally constrained.

11. ADJOURN