



TAC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

March 19, 2024 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Meeting Summary

* = Approval Item

Note Taker(s)	Tari Aanonsen, MIC Administrative & Finance Assistant	
Members Present		
	Chris Belden	Duluth Transit Authority
	David Bolf	City of Hermantown
	Chris Carlson	City of Superior – Public Works
	Derek Fredrickson	MnDOT District 1
	Jim Foldesi	St Louis County
	James Gittemeier	City of Duluth
	Jason Jackman	Douglas County
	Todd Janigo	City of Superior – Public Works
	Cari Pedersen	City of Duluth
	Jess Rich	City of Proctor
	Dena Ryan	WisDOT
	Karl Schuettler	Northspan Group
	Cindy Voigt	City of Duluth Engineering
	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
	Skip Williams	Active Transportation
Members Absent		* Excused Absence
	Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
	Chris Lee	City of Duluth
	Tom Werner*	Duluth Airport Authority
	Vacant	Mobility Challenged Community
Others Present		
	Ron Chicka	MIC Director
	Trish Crego	City of Hermantown
	Miles Hanson	City of Duluth, Americorps
	Duane Hill	MnDOT District One
	Sheldon Johnson	NWRPC –MIC Deputy Director
	Jim Meyer	AECOM (presenter)
	Prescott Morrill	MIC Planner
	Jason Nordberg	FHWA-WI
	Michael Kalnbach	MnDOT
	Richard Sarran	MIC Senior GIS Specialist
	Erika Shepard	MnDOT Central Office
	Matthew Sorensen	WisDOT Central Office
	Mike Sullivan	Marad/US DOT/Maritime Administration
	Rondi Watson	MIC Senior Planner/Communications Specialist
	Mike Wenholz	MIC Principal Planner



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1. Introductions / Agenda Review

Ron Chicka, MIC Director, called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. A "roll call" attendance was taken. When completed, Ron stated that Administration Modification #9 had been removed from the agenda. He then asked if there were any questions or other changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summaries of 2.20.24*

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

Table with 2 columns: Motion Discussion and Vote, and description of the motion to approve the 2.20.24 meeting summary.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Chicka reported on several items of interest that were highlighted in the Director's Report in the agenda packet as well as some items listed below:

Reconnecting Communities Grant – James Gittemeier spoke on the Reconnecting Communities Grant that was awarded to the City of Duluth in the amount of 2.2M, to look at the needs of West Duluth and the downtown area. He also offered his thanks to Duane Hill of MnDOT for communicating the opportunity to apply for a matching State grant to go along with the Reconnecting Communities Grant award.

Letter(s) of Support

- a) Superior – federal grant applied for study of N. 28th St to grade separate the road from the BNSF railyard. Todd Janigo mentioned that the BNSF Railroad has offered to assist with funding for a viaduct, if the City of Superior is awarded the grant that has been applied for.
b) Duluth Public Schools – will be hosting a district-wide Safe Routes to School coordinator position. This will greatly assist in the plans conducted for the schools by the MIC.

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

3. LONG RANGE MTP 2050 – METRICS APPROACH CHECK IN

Jim Meyer of AECOM gave an update on the Long Range MTP 2050 Scoring Metrics. TAC members were given time to offer feedback and ask questions. An in-depth discussion took place that included concerns with specific factors involved in the scoring metrics and final review questions in the MTP Scoring approach.



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A few key takeaways from the discussion were:

- This process is federally required.
- This process holds harmless projects that are in the TIP.
- Step 1 is for high level, GIS measurable data for scoring purposes.
- Step 3 (Final Review Questions) delves deeper into the projects that rose to the top of the 300+ projects that were submitted. It helps to ensure that projects were scored appropriately in Step 1.
- The aim of the scoring metrics is to elevate a list of projects that best represent the goals of the MTP. This process does not eliminate any project from the MTP.

4. BETER BUS BLUEPRINT UPDATE AND OTHER DTA INITIATIVES

Chris Belden, DTA’s Director of Planning and Grants. This presentation has been rescheduled for the April TAC meeting, due to time allowance.

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

Sheldon presented the following amendment to the 2024-2027 Superior Area TIP:

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.

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	PE				
113-24-021	Construction/Bridge Replacement/Reimbursement to MnDOT	ROW CONST		352,800		352,800
Amended to TIP in March 2024	B16-0005 to 0001 0.0 miles 100% WisDOT Bond Funding 1199-00-77	TOTAL		352,800		352,800

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



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Motion Discussion and Vote	Dena Ryan / Jason Jackman moved to recommend the 2024-2027 Superior Area Tip Amendments #10 to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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6. FY2025 & FY2026 MINNESOTA CARBON REDUCTION PROGRAM (CRP) FUNDS PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPROVAL*

Prescott Morrill presented the 2025 and 2026 CRP projects as selected and agreed upon by the jurisdictions. The MIC is asking for these projects to be moved forward to the Policy Board for approval.

FY2025 CRP Funds - will be used to help support the Raise grant in funding the Active Transportation Corridor in the West Superior Street Reconstruction Project. Funding will be primarily for the installation of EV charging stations along the corridor.

FY 2026 CRP Funds - will be used for the Campus Connector Trail, segments 4 & 5 at St. Marie Street and College Street.

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jim Foldesi / Skip Williams moved to recommend the 2025 and 2026 Minnesota Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funds Projects to the Policy Board for approval. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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7. 2024 SAFETY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Prescott Morrill and Rondi Watson gave an update on the MIC's 2024 Safety Action Plan, as well as the Safe Streets for All federal grant work that will be occurring in 2025 and 2026.

The MIC's consultant, AECOM, is currently performing an in-depth analysis of the traffic network in the MIC planning area, following the federal Safe System Approach that has been adopted by MnDOT. This is different than the traditional approach of waiting for serious crashes to occur before making changes and instead, identifies the risk factors and proactively makes the necessary changes. This consultant led work will identify countermeasures, estimate costs and prioritize projects in the MIC's planning area. A final report will be delivered in October 2024, detailing the study methodology and results. This work is included in the MIC's 2024 UPWP.

In 2025, the SS4A grant work will expand upon the MIC work that will be completed in 2024. The goal of this funding is to develop a Sustained Safety Culture, that would influence how our community accepts and prioritizes transportation safety strategies, to eliminate or reduce fatalities and serious injuries in our transportation network. Work that needs to be done going forward will be to revise the scope of work and reallocate the budget to take into account the work that will have been completed in 2024 and to perhaps incorporate a demonstration project. Also, we will be working with the local jurisdictions to determine how the local match component will be divided.



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8. HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HTAC) UPDATE

Mike Wenholz, MIC Senior Planner. This presentation was cancelled, due to time allowance. Please see the meeting website for a copy of the presentation for reviewing independently: [TAC Meeting – March 2024 – DSMIC](#)

9. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

There were no round table items brought forward for 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: With no further agenda items, discussions or announcements, Director Ron Chicka adjourned the meeting at 3:19 pm.