



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board

Wednesday, April 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 3.20.24

Items for Presentation and Discussion

- Northern Lights Express (NLX) Update
- West Superior Street Reconstruction Project
- Long Range MTP 2050 Update

Project Updates

- 2024 Duluth Area Bikeway Plan Update

In-Person Meeting Location:

Douglas County
1316 N 14th Street Rm 270
Superior, WI 54880

OR

Join virtually via TEAMS below:

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TEAMS MEETING](#)

OR

Join by phone (audio only)

+1 218-210-0525

Conference ID: 427 889 786#

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.

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. We are committed to accessibility. If you have an accommodation request that will allow you to participate more fully, 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.

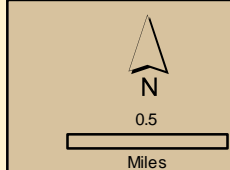
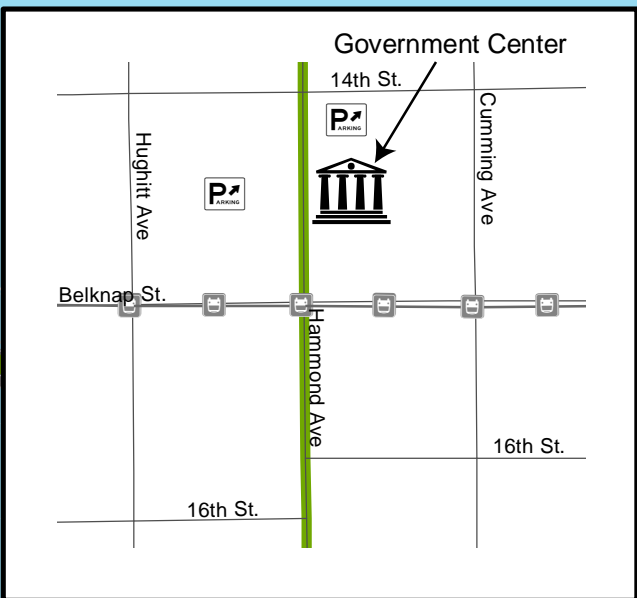
Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

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



Government Center



City-County Government Center

1316 N. 14th Street - Superior, WI



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Members**

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- City of Duluth**
Mike Mayou
Terese Tomanek
- City of Duluth
Citizen Rep**
Yauhen Karatai
- 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**
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- 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, April 17, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
MEETING AGENDA**

1. Introductions/Agenda Review	
2. Committee Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Summary of 3.20.24 (for Approval) • Director's Report <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Open Public Comment Period"</i></p>	<i>10 min</i>
3. Northern Lights Express (NLX) Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation & Discussion; Greg Mathis, MnDOT and Dena Ryan, WisDOT 	<i>30 min</i>
4. West Superior Street Reconstruction Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation & Discussion; Alex Popp and James Gittemeier, City of Duluth 	<i>30 min</i>
5. Long Range MTP 2050 Update	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation & Discussion, Mike Wenholtz 	<i>20 min</i>
6. Round Table	<i>5 min</i>
7. Project Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Duluth Area Bikeway Plan Update 	<i>5 min</i>
8. Adjourn	

Next Meeting
 Wednesday, May 15, 2024
 Hermantown City Hall
 6:00 pm



Agenda Item Descriptions

** = Presented for Approval or Adoption*

1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of 3.20.24*
- MIC Director's Report

SS4A Planning Grant -- \$62,500 local match required from MIC-area jurisdictions - As described at last month's TAC and MIC meetings, we were awarded a federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) planning grant in the amount of \$250,000 (plus a \$62,500 local match) – the largest FY23 award in Minnesota– to complete a Safety Action Plan to guide the implementation of a Safe System, multimodal approach to roadway safety. All cities, counties, and townships in the MIC area will be involved in (and will benefit from) this project.

The next step to getting it up and running as soon as possible is to determine the amount of each jurisdiction's contribution toward the required \$62,500 local match. We will be presenting options for allocating this amount (e.g., based on population size or number of roadway miles) at the next SS4A advisory committee on May 16. At that time we hope to reach a consensus about how the matching grant amount will be divided up, including specific dollar amounts to be forwarded along for inclusion in each jurisdiction's 2025 budget request.

I-35 and Federal Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant – With the City of Duluth receiving \$1.8M (total \$2.25M with match) a strategy meeting is being set between area partners to discuss next steps. The MICs recently finished plan set this in motion. We'll review some aspects of the document and consider additional planning work underway by the County, with respect to the Depot at 5th AW and NLX concepts, plus discuss where the DOT is at with their plans for the reconstruction/redesign for the 5th AW overpass (short term project for the DOT). All will need to be blended with this recent award for the City to develop long term plans for the Interstate in the downtown.

Letter(s) of Support

- a) National Sea Grant Program – Continuing the federal funding via the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill for work of both the MN and WI Sea Grants. Both are key participants in the function of the MICs Harbor TAC promoting and supporting the economic and environmental importance of the St. Louis River estuary.



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3. NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS (NLX) UPDATE

The Northern Lights Express (NLX) is a proposed higher speed passenger rail project that would provide rail service between Minneapolis and Duluth. If constructed, NLX will operate on approximately 152 miles of existing BNSF rail corridor, and as proposed would include connections in both the cities of Duluth and Superior.

There have been many NLX-related studies and discussions. The Federal Railroad Administration completed an environmental review and approved the service development plan in early 2018. In May 2023, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$194.7 million for the project. These funds provide the 20% local match needed to pursue federal grants to complete design work, construct the project and purchase locomotives and passenger cars for the service. Federal matching grants are expected to pay for roughly 80% of the project.

Greg Mathis, the State Planning Director for Passenger Rail with MnDOT will provide a status update of the NLX, including proposed next steps. Dena Ryan, Urban and Regional Planner with WisDOT will provide a few Wisconsin perspectives on the NLX.

4. WEST SUPERIOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The West Superior Street Reconstruction Project is a 1.65-mile-long project federally funded through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) U.S. DOT program. This project will rebuild and reconfigure Superior St from a highway thoroughfare (as old U.S. Highway 61 design remnants still remain in most segments) to an urban commercial street conducive of the new and re-used mixed-use development currently taking place. The City of Duluth staff will review the project status, the street design moving forward, and the design and construction schedule.

5. LONG RANGE MTP 2050 UPDATE

Every MPO is federally required to prepare and update a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the key plan of each MPO. An MTP provides the overall vision for the region's transportation system, includes goals and objectives to help meet the vision, identifies projects that can be included in future TIPs, and provides the underpinning of the MPO's work program. The MIC is required to update its long-range MTP at least once every 5 years. The next MTP update is due this October. MIC staff have been working on numerous tasks to support the MTP update for many months. A summary of what is required, what has been accomplished to date, and a general timeline for upcoming work will be presented to the MIC Board.



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6. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

7. PROJECT UPDATES

2024 Duluth Area Bikeway Plan Update

The Bike Subcommittee has reviewed the first round of content updated to the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Bikeways Plan, last published in 2019. Work is ongoing to update the current plan, and the next round of draft updates are to be discussed and considered at the May BPAC meeting (5/2/2024).

8. ADJOURN