September 30, 2026

RESOLUTION 26-04 OF THE DULUTH-SUPERIOR
METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COUNCIL

Metropolitan Interstate Council

WHEREAS, in accordance with 23 U.S.C Sec. 134, the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) was designated, by agreement between the Governors of Minnesota and Wisconsin, the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC), and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to conduct transportation planning for the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Planning Area.

WHEREAS Pursuant 23 CFR § 450.310 the MPO structure must consist of a Policy Board that includes representatives of local governments in the Metropolitan Planning Area to plan, approve, amend, and fund short-term Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) when those projects are consistent with the MPO's adopted Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan and includes measurable performance goals that meet or exceed jurisdictional comprehensive plans in coordination with federal safety standards.

WHEREAS, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission of Wisconsin (NWRPC, fka NWRP&DC) was established in 1959 and the Arrowhead Regional Development (ARDC fka AEDD) was established in 1969.

WHEREAS, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 mandated MPOs for Urbanized Areas (UZA); Governor Anderson of Minnesota designated ARDC the Minnesota-side MPO of the Duluth-Superior Urbanized Area in December 1973.

WHEREAS, ARDC and NWRPC signed an Agreement to create the Metropolitan Interstate Committee the "MIC" in May 1975.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Federal-Aid Highway Act Governor Lucey of Wisconsin designated NWRPC as the Wisconsin-side MPO for the Duluth-Superior UZA in July 1975.

WHEREAS, the September 1975 Joint Planning Regulations published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (now the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under statute 23 CFR Part 450 formalized urban transportation planning for MPOs in the United States into a single, permanent unified framework of standards and guidelines.

WHEREAS, ARDC and NWRPC signed a Joint Powers Agreement activating the bi-state permanent MPO for the UZA in January 1976 *(Enclosed).*

WHEREAS, Pursuant Subpart C (Sections 450.300–450.340) the MPO structure must consist of a policy body that includes representatives of localities in the Urbanized Area and representative(s) of agencies that operate public transit created to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process for populations over 50,000.

WHEREAS, Pursuant 23 U.S.C. 135, 23 U.S.C. 150, and 49 U.S.C. 5304, the MIC has established a 3-C Metropolitan Planning Area process to develop, amend, and implement Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plans, Public Involvement Plan (PIP) with local, regional, state and federal Planning (PL) and matching funds.

WHEREAS, Pursuant 23 U.S.C. 150(b), 49 U.S.C. 5301(c); and 23 USC 134 the MIC's metropolitan transportation planning process provides for the establishment and use of a performance-based approach to transportation decision-making to support national goals as required of MPOs.

WHEREAS, the majority of Greater Minnesota and Wisconsin MPOs have mixed policy board dynamics of transit and appointed officials of varying representation to meet national air quality standards and regional transportation goals.

WHEREAS, the Duluth-Superior MIC retains its obligation to determine its internal procedural operations and membership through adopted by laws and leadership through fair and equitable co-chair elections.

WHEREAS, NWRPC, ARDC, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Minnesota Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the FTA have annually documented, funded, and certified the Duluth-Superior MIC as the MPO since 1976.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) affirms its long-established status, role, and responsibilities as the MPO which serves the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Planning Area in accordance with state and federal regulations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MIC Policy Board respects the Regional Planning Commissions ARDC and NWRPC's stipulated designations issued in December 1973 and July 1975 respectively and appreciates their vital role as the fiscal agents of the hosted MPO named the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MIC Policy Board, federal law, and/or both state governors acting with the consent of municipalities are the recognized powers able to determine when and if MPO redesignation may occur.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MIC Policy Board opposes redesignation and calls on the boards of ARDC and NWRPC to withdraw their support for the redesignation resolutions introduced and or passed in February and April of 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MIC Policy Board calls on state and federal regulators to pause any approval of changes to the power, duties, responsibilities, operations, or structure of the MIC without the advice and consent of the MIC Policy Board signified by a resolution of support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the MIC Policy Board calls on ARDC to ensure all MIC logos documents, and website language accurately reflect the Metropolitan Interstate Council as the federally designated MPO and reflects the appropriate autonomy of the MPO in relationship with and by the regional planning commissions of ARDC and NWRPC per the adopted *(attached)* organizational chart.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The MIC, as a governmental organization, shall ensure its meeting locations, times and days, documents, and procedures are as transparent, welcoming, and open to the public and policy board members to the fullest extent possible. The Policy Board opposes decisions that reduce accessibility to any of the organization's proceedings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED With respect and gratitude for five decades of collaborative intergovernmental transportation expertise and service by and with the regional planning commissions, ARDC & NWRPC, the MIC Policy Board requests the MIC Director disseminate this Resolution in full to all members of the Policy Board's Advisory Committees, Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC), Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), all NWRPC commission and executive board members, ARDC commission and board members, and all relevant local, state, and federal jurisdictional partner staff and agencies.

ATTEST:

_____
Wayne Boucher, Policy Board Co-Chair (MN)

_____
Nick Baker, Policy Board Co-Chair (WI)

_____
Ron Chicka, MIC Director

_____
Date

Fig. 1 Organizational Chart
ARDC serves as the primary fiscal agent and host of the MPO.

Encl: Created May 1975 the MIC was empowered by a Joint Powers Agreement between ARDC & NWRPC January 1976.

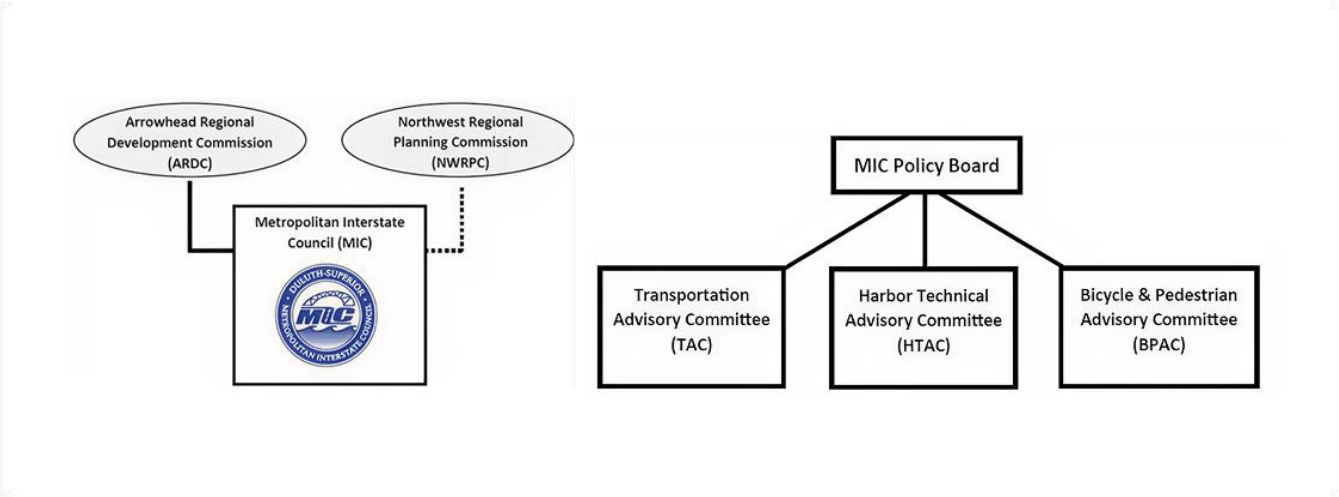
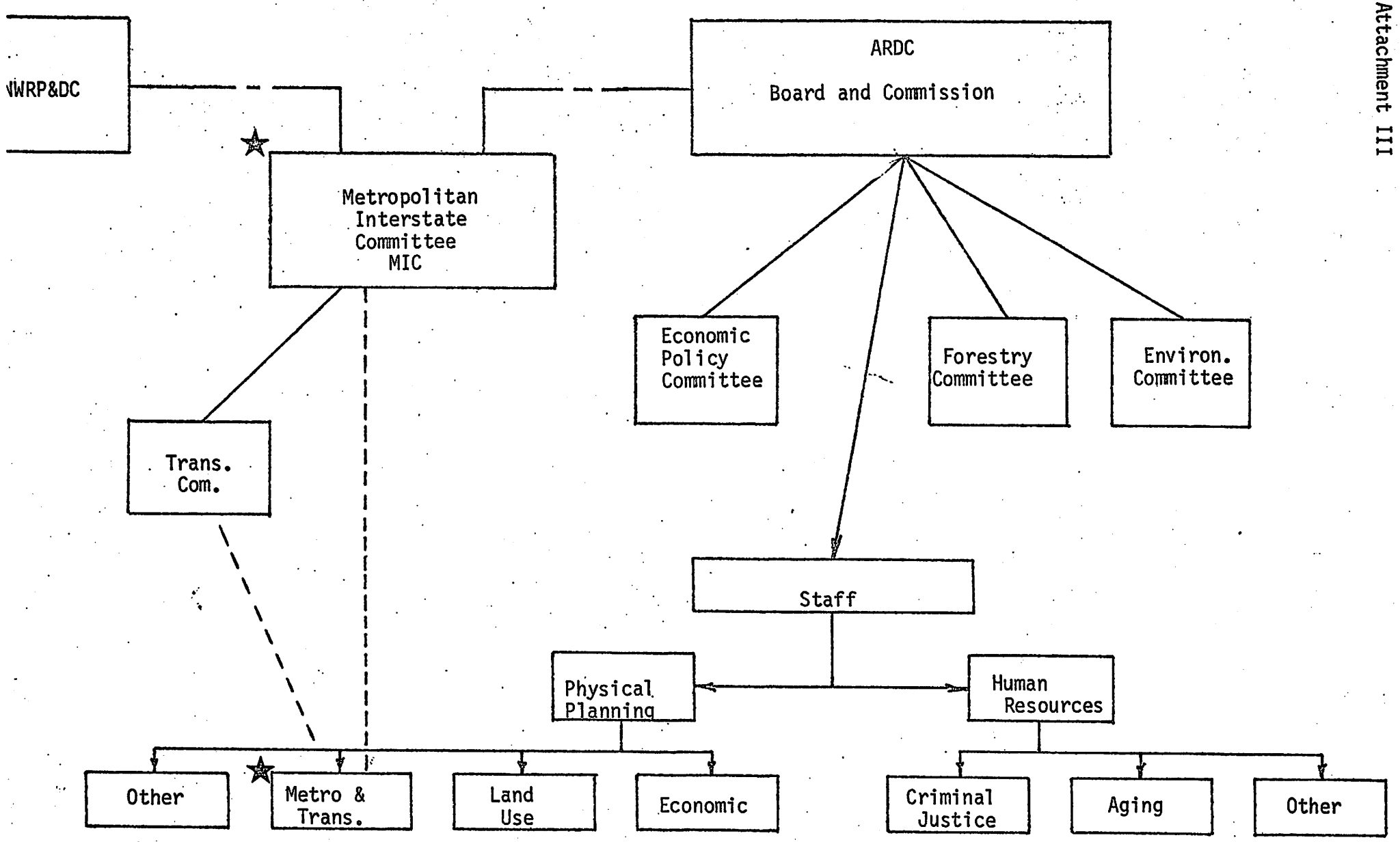


Figure 1

Attachment III

METROPOLITAN FUNCTION IN (IONAL COMMISSION STRUCTURE



★ New Metropolitan Functions

5/27/1975

Master

121.271

ARDC Board Authorized MIC creation 3/13/75 via Resolution

AGREEMENT CREATING THE DULUTH-SUPERIOR METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COMMITTEE

A Cooperative Committee of
Northwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning and Development Commission
and
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

This Contract, entered into as of this 27th day of May, 1975, by and between the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, herein referred to as ARDC, and Northwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning and Development Commission, herein referred to as NWRP&DC, WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, certain common areawide problems and needs occur within the Duluth, Minnesota-Superior, Wisconsin metropolitan area which transcend county, municipal and State boundaries, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin and Minnesota regional planning and regional development statutes authorize the parties to undertake comprehensive planning which is advisory to local units of government for the physical, economic and social development of the region and to act as a coordinating agency of various governmental programs, and

WHEREAS, the NWRP&DC has been duly constituted under Wisconsin Statutes and has comprehensive planning jurisdiction including Superior and Douglas County in Wisconsin, and the ARDC has been duly constituted under Minnesota Statutes and has comprehensive planning jurisdiction including Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, applicable laws in Minnesota and Wisconsin enable ARDC and NWRP&DC to contract with one another to carry out comprehensive planning services on an interstate basis within the metropolitan Duluth-Superior area,

NOW, THEREFORE, the NWRP&DC and ARDC, in consideration of their mutual promises and agreements, herein agree to establish the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Committee, hereafter referred to as the Metropolitan Interstate Committee (MIC) and further agree as follows:

Membership

The MIC shall have equal representation and voting strength from Wisconsin and Minnesota. Total representation and voting strength on the MIC shall be no more than 20 full members. Fractional votes and memberships shall be permitted.

MIC shall adopt by-laws as hereinafter provided. Such by-laws shall establish the membership of MIC from units of government within the urban and urbanizing Duluth-Superior area. Representatives shall be selected by their respective governing bodies and shall be confirmed in their membership on MIC by the Board of Directors of the regional development commission serving the area within which their unit of government is located.

Co-chairmen, one an MIC member appointed from Wisconsin and the other an MIC member appointed from Minnesota, shall be elected by MIC for one year periods. The Wisconsin chairman shall preside at all meetings of MIC held in Wisconsin. The Minnesota chairman shall preside at all meetings held in Minnesota. In the absence of either chairman, the other chairman shall preside. In the absence of both, the next ranking officer shall preside.

Additional officers may be elected by MIC as it may determine from time to time.

Organization

MIC shall organize and adopt rules and by-laws for its own formation, membership and procedures, in accordance with the provisions of this contract and Wisconsin and Minnesota Statutes. Such by-laws and rules and any amendments thereto shall be first approved by the Boards of Directors of NWRP&DC and ARDC.

Meetings shall be held on a regular basis and at the call of the Chairman or a majority of the MIC and shall be open to the public.

Standing and special committees may be appointed by the Co-Chairmen.

A quorum shall be at least a majority of the MIC.

A written record shall be kept showing all actions taken and resolutions, findings, determinations, transactions and recommendations made. A copy of such record shall be filed with NWRP&DC, ARDC and with each municipality, as a public record.

An annual report of MIC's activities shall be made to ARDC, NWRP&DC and to each member of the governing body of each municipality represented on MIC.

Duties

The MIC shall have the following goals and objectives:

1. When intermunicipal and interstate considerations are involved, to undertake comprehensive planning for the Duluth-Superior area of St. Louis County, Minnesota, and Douglas County, Wisconsin, and other urban and urbanizing areas as may be determined by the parties.

2. To stimulate and assist local governmental units in the above mentioned urban and urbanizing areas in conducting comprehensive and functional planning within their jurisdiction and to provide a mechanism for local governments to participate in a planning process on an intermunicipal and interstate basis.

3. To provide an interstate organization of representative capacity which can deal with common planning problems on interstate and intermunicipal bases.

4. To develop programs and procedures which will result in effective intermunicipal and interstate plans.

5. To develop goals for intermunicipal and interstate plans and to assist in and promote development of such plans.

6. To serve as an information center and clearinghouse for such interstate and intermunicipal planning efforts, including those conducted on behalf of the federal government, state governments and any private or public institution.

7. To carry out such functions and perform such duties as will result in continuing eligibility for federal and state funding of programs affecting the metropolitan area.

8. To coordinate and promote the enactment of compatible and consistent federal, state and local legislation affecting matters of common concern to the citizens within the metropolitan area.

Powers

The MIC shall have the following powers to perform its duties and functions:

1. To direct and oversee research studies, collection and analysis of data, the preparation of plans to guide the harmonious physical, economic and social development of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Area and provide technical assistance to local units of government within the urban and urbanizing metropolitan area. Program responsibilities will be specified in the work programs adopted by MIC and contractual obligations established by NWRP&DC and ARDC. All policies and plans of the MIC will be subject to review and comment by NWRP&DC and ARDC pursuant to the Regional Development Act of Minnesota and the Regional Planning Commission Law of Wisconsin and appropriate federal regulations.

2. To perform the federal grant review and coordinating function for NWRP&DC and ARDC for the Duluth-Superior area pursuant to the designations held by ARDC and NWRP&DC as Regional Clearinghouses under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95. The regional commissions, however, will retain the option of reviewing grant proposals that have regional as well as metropolitan significance.

3. To review and comment upon all policies and plans provided to the MIC by local units of government that have jurisdiction in the metropolitan area.

4. To adopt plans which have been developed for the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Area by any planning agency recognized by either Wisconsin or Minnesota or by any agency or department of the United States Government having authority to do so.

Staff

ARDC and NWRP&DC may employ consultants and staff and pay for such services, supplies, equipment and other expenses as may be necessary and proper for the performance of the MIC duties and responsibilities. They may also utilize individuals selected from their respective staffs or contract with

and reimburse local units of government for work performed by their staffs and consultants.

The staff responsible for metropolitan planning shall include a full time director who shall be an employee of ARDC. The staff shall also include a Deputy Director who is designated by NWRP&DC.

The duties of the Director of Metropolitan Planning shall include:

a. Technical and fiscal responsibility for the metropolitan projects.

b. Technical direction of the staff assigned to metropolitan projects.

c. Support of MIC activities.

d. Coordination with the Deputy Director.

e. Development of the yearly work program for MIC.

The duties of the Deputy Director shall include:

a. Technical and fiscal responsibility for the metropolitan projects assigned to him by MIC and the Director of Metropolitan Planning.

b. Assist the Director in the technical direction of planning staff assigned to metropolitan projects.

c. Support of MIC activities.

d. Coordination with the Director of Metropolitan Planning.

e. Assist in the development of the yearly work program.

Appointment and retention of the Director and Deputy Director and appointments of consultants shall be subject to the approval of the MIC. Appointment of full time professional staff shall be approved by the executive directors of NWRP&DC and ARDC.

The executive directors of ARDC and NWRP&DC shall have responsibility through the Director and Deputy Director for review of staff activities performed

by individuals assigned to the work of the MIC. The actual employer of any staff so assigned shall be determined pursuant to agreement between the responsible regional commissions.

Contracting and Fiscal Responsibilities - Work Programs

NWRP&DC and ARDC will initiate joint contracts for funding and work to be directed by the MIC. Aid, gifts and grants for work to be directed by the MIC will be retained for use by the MIC in segregated accounts that are consistent with the adopted accounting procedures of the regional development commissions. One regional commission, with the consent of the other, may act as single fiscal agent for the purpose of receipt and disbursement of funds.

Metropolitan projects for each fiscal year or portion thereof shall be specified in a work program. On-going projects or programs covering more than one fiscal year shall be set forth in a work program to be completed on or before April 1st of each year. Work programs must include:

a. A description of each project planned for the fiscal year or portion thereof.

b. An estimate of the costs of each project and the anticipated funding sources for the project.

c. The identification of the agency which has responsibility for the project.

d. A financial statement summarizing the anticipated expenses and revenue sources for the fiscal year.

The work program may follow the format required by federal and state agencies providing funds.

MIC must first approve the work program for each project or program undertaken. After such approval, such work program shall be submitted to NWRP&DC and ARDC for acceptance and appropriate action.

Additional Duties and Powers

The MIC may assume any specific additional duties and powers assigned or granted jointly by ARDC and NWRP&DC.

Abrogation and Severability

Nothing contained herein is intended to nor shall change, circumvent, amend, repeal, annul, impair or interfere or restrict the statutory power given the NWRP&DC and ARDC and municipalities by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Legislatures.

If any section or part of this Contract or by-laws adopted or actions taken pursuant to said Contract are adjudged unconstitutional, void, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Contract and the aforesaid by-laws and action shall not be affected thereby.

Amendment

The MIC or ARDC or NWRP&DC may request or propose changes to this Contract from time to time. Such changes, which are mutually agreed upon by and between the parties hereto, shall be incorporated by written amendment to this Contract and shall be attached hereto.

Withdrawal, Renewal and Termination

The duration of this Contract shall be for three years and shall be subject to renewal of additional three-year periods on six months notice. Either ARDC or NWRP&DC may withdraw at the end of any fiscal year by giving at least six (6) months notice in writing to the other.

Such withdrawal shall not, however, release the withdrawing party from any obligation incurred hereunder or under any supplementary contract or amendment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Northwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning and Development Commission and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, having been duly authorized to enter into such agreement, have executed this Contract as of the date first above written.

Secretary

Chairman of ARDC

Secretary

Chairman of NWRP&DC

1/8/1976
Joint Powers Agreement

AGREEMENT CREATING THE DULUTH-SUPERIOR METROPOLITAN INTERSTATE COMMITTEE

A cooperative Committee of
Northwest Regional Planning Commission
and
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

This Contract, entered into as of this 8th day of January 1976, by and between the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, herein referred to as ARDC, and Northwest Regional Planning Commission, herein referred to as NWRPC, WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, certain common areawide problems and needs occur within the Duluth, Minnesota-Superior, Wisconsin metropolitan area which transcend county, municipal and State boundaries, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin and Minnesota regional planning and regional development statutes authorize the parties to undertake comprehensive planning which is advisory to local units of government for the physical, economic and social development of the region and to act as a coordinating agency of various governmental programs, and

WHEREAS, the NWRPC has been duly constituted under Wisconsin Statutes and has comprehensive planning jurisdiction including Superior and Douglas County in Wisconsin, and the ARDC has been duly constituted under Minnesota Statutes and has comprehensive planning jurisdiction including Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, applicable laws in Minnesota and Wisconsin enable ARDC and NWRPC to contract with one another to carry out comprehensive planning services on an interstate basis within the metropolitan Duluth-Superior area,

NOW, THEREFORE, the NWRPC and ARDC, in consideration of their mutual promises and agreements, herein agree to establish the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Committee, hereafter referred to as the Metropolitan Interstate Committee, (MIC) and further agree as follows:

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The MIC shall have equal representation and voting strength from Wisconsin and Minnesota. Total representation and voting strength on the MIC shall be no more than 20 full members. Fractional votes and memberships shall be permitted.

MIC shall adopt by-laws as hereinafter provided. Such by-laws shall establish the membership of MIC from units of government within the urban and urbanizing Duluth-Superior area. Representatives shall be selected by their respective governing bodies and shall be confirmed in their membership

on MIC by the Board of Directors of the regional development commission serving the area within which their unit of government is located.

Co-chairmen, one an MIC member appointed from Wisconsin and the other an MIC member appointed from Minnesota, shall be elected by MIC for one year periods. The Wisconsin chairman shall preside at all meetings of MIC held in Wisconsin. The Minnesota chairman shall preside at all meetings held in Minnesota. In the absence of either chairman, the other chairman shall preside. In the absence of both, the next ranking officer shall preside.

Additional officers may be elected by MIC as it may determine for from time to time.

Organization

MIC shall organize and adopt rules and by-laws for its own formation, membership and procedures, in accordance with the provisions of this contract and Wisconsin and Minnesota Statutes. Such by-laws and rules and any amendments thereto shall be first approved by the Boards of Directors of NWRPC and ARDC.

Meetings shall be held on a regular basis and at the call of the Chairman or a majority of the MIC and shall be open to the public.

Standing and special committees may be appointed by the Co-Chairmen.

A quorum shall be at least a majority of the MIC.

A written record shall be kept showing all actions taken and resolutions, findings, determinations, transactions, and recommendations made. A copy of such record shall be filed with NWRPC, ARDC and with each municipality, as a public record.

An annual report of MIC's activities shall be made to ARDC, NWRPC and to each member of the governing body of each municipality represented on MIC.

Duties

The MIC shall have the following goals and objectives:

1. When intermunicipal and interstate considerations are involved, to undertake comprehensive planning for the Duluth-Superior area of St. Louis County, Minnesota and Douglas County, Wisconsin, and other urban and urbanizing areas as may be determined by the parties.

2. To stimulate and assist local governmental units in the above mentioned urban and urbanizing areas in conducting comprehensive and functional planning within their jurisdiction and to provide a mechanism for local governments to participate in a planning process on an intermunicipal and interstate basis.

3. To provide an interstate organization of representative capacity which can deal with common planning problems on interstate and intermunicipal bases.

4. To develop programs and procedures which will result in effective intermunicipal and interstate plans.

5. To develop goals for intermunicipal and interstate plans and to assist in and promote development of such plans.

6. To serve as an information center and clearinghouse for such interstate and intermunicipal planning efforts, including those conducted on behalf of the federal government, state governments and any private or public institution.

7. To carry out such functions and perform such duties as will result in continuing eligibility for federal and state funding of programs affecting the metropolitan area.

8. To coordinate and promote the enactment of compatible and consistent federal, state and local legislation affecting matters of common concern to the citizens within the metropolitan area.

Powers

The MIC shall have the following powers to perform its duties and functions:

1. To direct and oversee research studies, collection and analysis of data, the preparation of plans to guide the harmonious physical, economic and social development of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Area and provide technical assistance to local units of government within the urban and urbanizing metropolitan area. Program responsibilities will be specified in the work programs adopted by MIC and contractual obligations established by NWRPC and ARDC. All policies and plans of the MIC will be subject to review and comment by NWRPC and ARDC pursuant to the Regional Development Act of Minnesota and the Regional Planning Commisison Law of Wisconsin and appropriate federal regulations.

2. To coordinate federal and state assisted projects and programs through review, comment and information exchange. Actions of the MIC will be pursuant to the designations held by NWRPC and ARDC as regional clearinghouses under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95 and subject to the approval of ARDC and NWRPC.

Slightly differs from 5/27/75 Version

3. To review and comment upon all policies and plans provided to the MIC by local units of government that have jurisdiction in the metropolitan area.

4. To adopt plans which have been developed for the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Area by any planning agency recognized by either Wisconsin or Minnesota or by any agency or department of the United States Government having authority to do so.

Staff

ARDC and NWRPC may employ consultants and staff and pay for such

services, supplies, equipment and other expenses as may be necessary and proper for the performance of the MIC duties and responsibilities. They may also utilize individuals selected from their respective staffs or contract with and reimburse local units of government for work performed by their staffs and consultants.

The staff responsible for metropolitan planning shall include a full time director who shall be an employee of ARDC. The staff shall also include a Deputy Director who is designated by NWRPC.

The duties of the Director of Metropolitan Planning shall include:

a. Technical and fiscal responsibility for the metropolitan projects.

b. Technical direction of the staff assigned to metropolitan projects.

c. Support of MIC activities.

d. Coordination with the Deputy Director.

e. Development of the yearly work program for MIC.

The duties of the Deputy Director shall include:

a. Technical and fiscal responsibility for the metropolitan projects assigned to him by MIC and the Director of Metropolitan Planning.

b. Technical direction of planning staff assigned to metropolitan projects by MIC and the Director of Metropolitan Planning.

c. Support of MIC activities.

d. Coordination with the Director of Metropolitan Planning.

e. Assist in the development of the yearly program.

Appointment and retention of the Director and Deputy Director and appointments of consultants shall be subject to the approval of the MIC. Appointment of full time professional staff shall be approved by the executive directors of NWRPC and ARDC.

The executive directors of ARDC and NWRPC shall have responsibility through the Director and Deputy Director for review of staff activities performed by individuals assigned to the work of the MIC. The actual employer of any staff so assigned shall be determined pursuant to agreement between the responsible regional commissions.

Contracting and Fiscal Responsibilities - Work Programs

NWRPC and ARDC will initiate joint contracts for funding and work to be directed by the MIC. Aid, gifts and grants for work to be directed by the MIC will be retained for use by the MIC in segregated accounts that are consistent with the adopted accounting procedures of the regional development commissions. One regional commission, with the consent of the other may act as single fiscal agent for the purpose of receipt and disbursement of funds.

Metropolitan projects for each fiscal year or portion thereof shall be specified in a work program. On-going projects or programs covering more than one fiscal year shall be set forth in a work program to be completed on or before April 1st of each year. Work programs must include:

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b. An estimate of the costs of each project and the anticipated funding sources for the project.

c. The identification of the agency which has responsibility for the project.

d. A financial statement summarizing the anticipated expenses and revenue sources for the fiscal year.

The work program may follow the format required by federal and state agencies providing funds.

MIC must first approve the work program for each project or program undertaken. After such approval, such work program shall be submitted to NWRPC and ARDC for acceptance and appropriate action.

Additional Duties and Powers

The MIC may assume any specific additional duties and powers assigned or granted jointly by ARDC and NWRPC.

Abrogation and Severability

Nothing contained herein is intended to nor shall change, circumvent, amend, repeal, annul, impair or interfere or restrict the statutory power given the NWRPC and ARDC and municipalities by the Wisconsin and Minnesota Legislatures.

If any section or part of this Contract or by-laws adopted or actions taken pursuant to said Contract are adjudged unconstitutional, void, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Contract and the aforesaid by-laws and action shall not be affected thereby.

Amendment

The MIC or ARDC or NWRPC may request or propose changes to this Contract from time to time. Such changes, which are mutually agreed upon by and between the parties hereto, shall be incorporated by written amendment to this Contract and shall be attached hereto.

Withdrawal, Renewal and Termination

The duration of this Contract shall be for three years and shall be subject to renewal of additional three-year periods on six months notice. Either ARDC or NWRPC may withdraw at the end of any fiscal year by giving at least six (6) months notice in writing to the other.

Such withdrawal shall not, however, release the withdrawing party from any obligation incurred hereunder or under any supplementary contract or amendment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, having been duly authorized to enter into such agreement, have executed this Contract as of the date first above written.

Secretary

Chairman of ARDC

Secretary

Chairman of NWRPC

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Wisconsin Division
525 Junction Road, Suite 8000
Madison, WI 53717

Minnesota Division
180 East Fifth Street, Suite 930
St. Paul, MN 55101

September 14, 2026

Ms. Kristina Boardman
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53707

Ms. Nancy Daubenberger
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Secretary Boardman and Commissioner Daubenberger:

After a thorough review of the issue regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designation for the Duluth-Superior urbanized area, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) confirms the finding by both the State of Wisconsin and the State of Minnesota that the Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) policy board is the MPO for the Duluth-Superior urbanized area.

FHWA's decision is based on its interpretation of the controlling statute 23 USC 134(b)(2). Specifically, because the MIC policy board was established to serve as the policy board for the Duluth-Superior urbanized area the applicable federal law clearly designates the MIC policy board as the MPO for that area.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jason Nordberg from FHWA Wisconsin Division at (608) 829-7523 or Scott Mareck from FHWA Minnesota Division at (651) 421-8083.

Sincerely yours,

Linda K. Swann
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Sincerely yours,

Wendall L. Meyer
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration