



## Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

# MEETING NOTICE

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 7:00 pm**

**Hermantown Public Safety Building  
Training Center**

**5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN**

### **Guest Speaker:**

- DTA's Proposed Downtown Duluth Multimodal Facility  
- *Dennis Jensen, DTA General Manager*

### **Approval / Voting Items:**

- 2014 Duluth Area TIP Project Application Prioritization
- Amendment #2 to the 2010-2013 Superior Area TIP
- Amendments #2 and #3 to the 2010-2013 Duluth Area TIP

### **Presentation / Discussion / Informational Items:**

- 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update
- Bike and Ped Advisory Committee Update

### **Attendance / Meeting Quorum:**

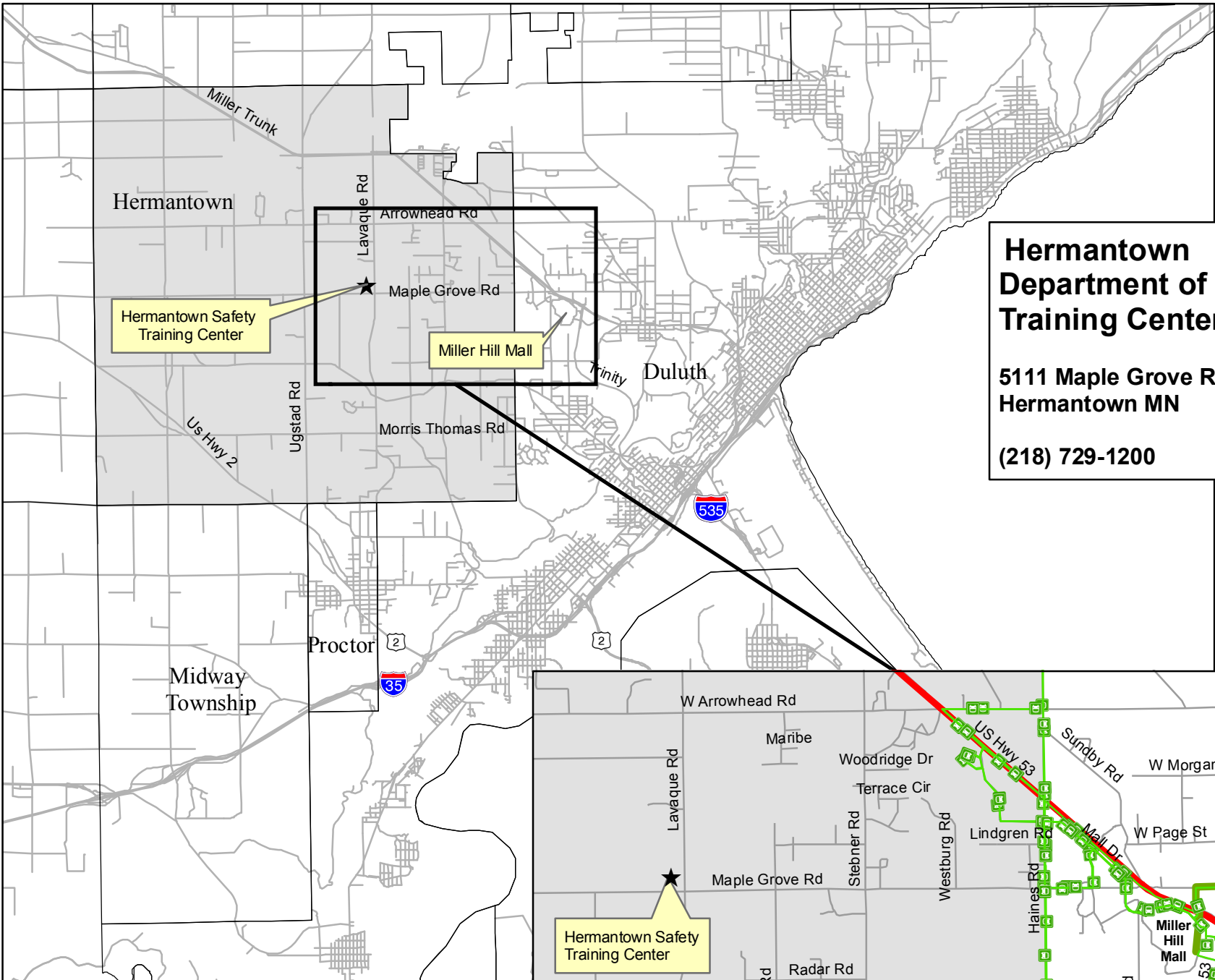
If you are NOT able to attend, or expect to arrive late to the meeting, please contact Rondi Watson at [rwatson@ardc.org](mailto:rwatson@ardc.org) or 529-7541 to ensure a quorum will be present for voting items on the agenda.

**Driving Directions & Parking Information:** See map on reverse.

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*

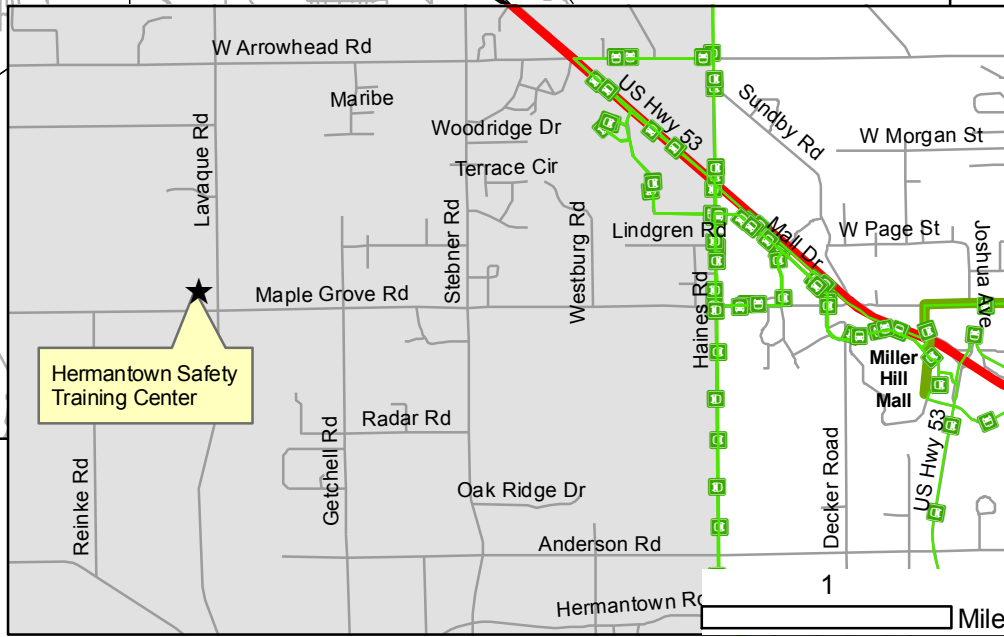
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**Hermantown  
Department of Public Safety  
Training Center**

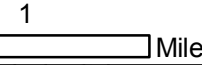
**5111 Maple Grove Rd  
Hermantown MN**

**(218) 729-1200**



**Legend**

-  DTA Bus Route
- Bike Routes**
-  Primary On-Street Unsigned Route
-  Bicycling Prohibited or Not Recommended





## Metropolitan Interstate Council Policy Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at 7:00 pm

Hermantown Public Safety Facility Training Center  
Hermantown, MN

### AGENDA

#### Minnesota Members

City of Duluth  
Tony Cuneo  
Kerry Gauthier

City of Duluth – Citizen Rep  
David Montgomery

City of Hermantown  
Wayne Boucher

City of Proctor  
Troy Foucault

Duluth Transit Authority  
Melanie Hendrickson

St. Louis County  
Steve O'Neil, MN Co-Chair

St. Louis County  
Suburban Townships  
Earl Elde  
Cindy Moe

#### Wisconsin Members

City of Superior  
Ed Anderson  
Warren Bender  
Dan Olson

City of Superior – Citizen Rep  
Kevin Norbie

Douglas County  
Nick Baker, WI Co-Chair  
Mike Coyle  
Kathryn McKenzie  
Jim Paine

Douglas County  
Suburban Townships  
Broc Allen

<b>1. Introductions / Agenda Review</b> <b>2. Committee Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Summary of January 20, 2010 (<i>for approval</i>)</li> </ul>	10 min
<b>3. DTA's Proposed Downtown Duluth Multimodal Facility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Dennis Jensen, DTA General Manager</i></li> </ul>	20 min
<b>4. 2014 Duluth-Area TIP Project Prioritization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	15 min
<b>5. Amendment #2 to the 2010-2013 Superior TIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for Approval, <i>Sheldon Johnson</i></li> </ul>	5 min
<b>6. Amendments #2 and #3 to the 2010-2013 Duluth TIP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for Approval, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	10 min
<b>7. 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> </ul>	15 min
<b>8. Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation and Discussion, <i>James Gittemeier</i></li> </ul>	10 min
<b>9. Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Transportation Bill/Policy Update, <i>Ron Chicka</i></li> <li>Blatnik Bridge Base Study, <i>Robert Herling</i></li> <li>Duluth's Green Jobs Initiative, <i>Andy McDonald</i></li> <li>Bayfront Small Area Management Plan, <i>Andy McDonald</i></li> <li>2010-2013 Superior Urbanized Area TIP – Administrative Modifications, <i>Sheldon Johnson</i></li> </ul>	5 min

#### Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 7:00 pm  
WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI

# MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates

February 17, 2010 Meeting

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council



\* = Approval Item

## 1. INTRODUCTIONS / AGENDA REVIEW

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Meeting Summary of January 20, 2010 \* (see separate attachment)

## 3. DTA'S PROPOSED DOWNTOWN DULUTH MULTIMODAL FACILITY

Guest speaker Dennis Jensen, General Manager of the Duluth Transit Authority, will present the current phase of design work that the DTA is proposing for the Multimodal Facility. A consultant well known for working on these types of projects, LSA Design Inc., is leading this effort. Among the items to consider for the group is how the project potentially links with the Depot (NLX Rail) and how well it is serviced via bike and pedestrian movements which were key recommendations falling out of our recent Downtown Duluth Modal Connections Study.

## 4. 2014 DULUTH AREA TIP PROJECT PRIORITIZATION \*

Three project applications will be prioritized for 2014 federal funding. Please note that roadway projects are prioritized separately from transit projects. However, since there are just two roadways projects, both of which are lead by Mn/DOT, and since Mn/DOT's top priority, the Bong Bridge project is being coordinated with WisDOT as well, it was agreed that there is not a need to go through the formal scoring process that usually takes place at the TAC meeting in February. Therefore, MIC staff will go over the details of the projects and then the TAC and MIC will be asked to approve the project list, as it is currently prioritized, to submit to the [NE MN ATP](#) process for further funding consideration.

Here is a listing of the 3 projects. The complete applications are available to view on the MIC website, at [www.dsmic.org/duluthtip](http://www.dsmic.org/duluthtip).

Agency	Project Info	Federal \$	State/Local \$	Total \$
Mn/DOT	Hwy 2 Bong Bridge Repairs – painting, deck overly & joint repair.	\$10,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$13,400,000
Mn/DOT	I-35 Repavement – From Carlton/St. Louis County line to Boundary Ave.	\$5,300,000	\$700,000	\$6,000,000
DTA	Regular Route Bus Replacement – purchase 10 buses, five of which will be hybrids.	\$4,656,000	\$1,164,000	\$5,616,000

**MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued**

February 17, 2010 Meeting

**Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council**

Please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

**5. AMENDMENT #2 TO THE 2010-2013 SUPERIOR URBANIZED AREA TIP \***

It is necessary to consider an amendment to add the following project to the approved projects list in the 2010-2013 Superior Urbanized Area TIP. A summary of the proposed amendment is outlined below:

**2010 Transportation Improvements Projects (NEW FREEDOM - 5317)**

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
North Country Independent Living	Funding for the availability of a Voucher Program	Voucher Program	168,959		168,959	337,918
113-10-21		TOTAL	168,959		168,959	337,918
Amended to TIP in February 2010						

This project enables North Country Independent Living Center the ability to continue their transportation vouchers program to eligible clients throughout (eight county area including; Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn counties in) northern Wisconsin. The project will begin in early 2010 and run through December 31, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 715-635-2197 or by email at [sjohnson@nwrpc.com](mailto:sjohnson@nwrpc.com).

**6. AMENDMENTS #2 AND #3 TO THE 2010-2013 DULUTH URBANIZED AREA TIP \***

**Amendment #2**

An amendment to the 2010-2013 Duluth Urbanized Area Transportation Improvement Program is being requested to include Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding to the City of Duluth for the Lester Park Elementary School project. The funding is for infrastructure work around the redeveloped school site, include sidewalk improvements on adjacent streets.

Agency	Project	Federal	Local	Total
Duluth	Lester Park SRTS Infrastructure Improvements	\$155,870	\$0	\$155,870

**Amendment #3**

An amendment to the 2010-2013 Duluth Urbanized Area Transportation Improvement Program is being requested to include projects that could be funded through the possible Jobs for Main Street

## MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2010 Meeting

### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Act currently under consideration in Congress. Due to a likely tight turn-around to get projects out the door (50% of the projects must be awarded 90 days after the bill is passed by Congress and signed into law by the President), the MIC is being asked to approve projects for the TIP in anticipation of this bill. However, at this time the exact projects are not fully known, although by the time of the meeting in February, more details should be available. Preliminarily, projects within the MIC area include work on the aerial lift bridge and transit projects will be proposed for this funding. More details to follow.

Please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

#### 7. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

Staff has reviewed the 2010-2035 list of transportation improvement projects in the following areas: social equity, environmental, air quality, financial capacity, and historical preservation. With this information staff is currently undertaking an extensive consultation process with area and regional stakeholders to notify them of future projects and to gather input about potential issues related to them. Findings from the review process will be presented at the February TAC and MIC meetings.

Please contact Robert Herling at [rherling@ardc.org](mailto:rherling@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7573 for comments or questions.

#### 8. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The MIC Policy Board formally approved the establishment of the MIC Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. This committee will formally advise the MIC Policy Board and consist of bicycle and pedestrian stakeholders who represent all facets of these modes. MIC staff will be facilitating a kick-off meeting on:

**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>/ 6pm at ARDC**

The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the BPAC to the public, understand why the committee has been created and the role of the committee in the region, and to hold a preliminary discussion of what projects are to be undertaken by this committee. First on that list will be the formation of a sub-committee to lead the effort to plan the Bike to Work Day event for 2010.

Please contact James Gittemeier at [jgittemeier@ardc.org](mailto:jgittemeier@ardc.org) or (218) 529-7556 for comments or questions.

#### 9. PROJECT UPDATES

##### **Federal Transportation Bill / Policy Update, Ron Chicka**

At this time, the "Jobs Bill" or Jobs for Main Street Act, passed by the House, awaits action by the U.S. Senate. Then it will need joint congressional approval and finally Administrative (President) approval. As identified in this agenda with respect to the MNDOT TIP, the MIC is already taking action as directed by the DOT to amend projects into our existing TIP. This is being done in order to meet the very tight timelines for processing of funds through appropriate channels at the local, state and federal levels.

## MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2010 Meeting

### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Also, I attended a Transportation Reauthorization Outreach Tour conducted by the US DOT in Minneapolis last month where the next federal bill was discussed from a federal perspective (i.e. the key components of the bill and how they pertain to transportation planning at a local level). The Administration's Secretary, Ray LaHood and Congressman Oberstar were key note speakers. Among the many items discussed were five major elements from Administration that for the most part mirror Oberstar's version of the bill. These are: safety, livable communities, state of good repair (preservation of existing systems), economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability. Please refer to the attachment accompanying this meeting packet for greater detail on these items from the Outreach workshop.

#### **Blatnik Bridge Base Study, Robert Herling**

MIC staff has revisited the initial scope of work for this study that was originally approved by the MIC Board in the last quarter of 2008. Work items were reassessed in terms of their current relevance and order of priority, especially as they relate to the modeling work URS is now undertaking jointly for the MIC and WisDOT. A new timeline was drafted for this study, and work will commence in April 2010. At a meeting to come – March or April – staff will present the modeling work that the consultant is conducting specifically tied to traffic movements resulting from the Bong being closed down and potential new modifications made to the Blatnik to mitigate congestion plus entirely revamped access points to the Blatnik in the long term.

#### **Duluth's Green Jobs Initiative, Andy McDonald**

MIC staff has been participating in this effort along with many other community leaders. Green jobs are defined as "jobs relating to, or involving actions for protecting the natural environment that have career growth potential and a living wage." In addition to a Steering Committee, there are 5 work groups organized – built environment, energy production, food system, resource protection, and transportation. Ron is participating on the transportation work group and I am on the resource protection work group.

At our most recent meetings, participants began developing action plans that will be designed implement goals. One of the primary goals of the Resource Protection group is to protect waters and lands of the Twin Ports area including the St Louis River Area of Concern. The action steps include developing contractor capacity for remediation/restoration projects, promoting low impact development, and capitalizing on recent funding opportunities. The Transportation Work Group has focused on three topics: 1) Extending DTA's operating hours to provide greater opportunity for potential employees at existing or future job sites; 2) Focusing on infrastructure improvements at the old US Steel site (the Port Authority is currently proposing to develop one area) to make it "market-ready" for possible new employers; and 3) Making needed infrastructure improvements at the Duluth Bayfront area (former LaFarge Plant) as this transitions from industrial to mixed use.

#### **City of Duluth Bayfront Small Area Management Plan, Andy McDonald**

The City of Duluth recently hosted a public meeting on January 27 to present draft recommendations for public input. Recommendations were compiled after reviewing past plans

## MIC Agenda Topics and Project Updates, continued

February 17, 2010 Meeting

### Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

for area, input from the study committee and input from the public at the first public meeting. The recommendations include changing the zoning to Mixed-use Commercial Waterfront which will become Mixed Use Waterfront under the new Unified Development Code (UDC). The new UDC will include standards that address lot size, building setback, building height, buffers, water quality protection and shoreland areas. Issues raised by the public at this meeting included development location, water quality protection, parking, study area size, and other elements of the impending development. After this input is considered, the final recommendations will go to the Planning Commission in February and to the City Council in March.

#### 2010-2013 Superior Urbanized Area TIP – Administrative Modifications, *Sheldon Johnson*

The following approved TIP projects require technical changes due to the projects having undergone further engineering analysis. The following projects do not require formal action to make the necessary changes to the 2010-2013 TIP. However, a brief description of the projects is summarized below.

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
Douglas County	CTH C – From STH 35 to Kronberg Road Const/pav replacement ARRA	PE	20,000			20,000
113-10-001		ROW				
		CONST	1,518,839		72,390	1,591,229
		TOTAL	1,538,839		72,390	1,611,229

The original dollar amount was for \$1,250,000 using 100% federal funds (ARRA). Additional funding includes \$20,000 for “state design oversight” and \$361,229 split 80/20 using STP Urban (federal) covering \$288,839 and \$72,390 covering the local match.

And:

Jurisdiction and Project Number	Project Description		Estimated Costs & Funding Sources			
			Federal	State	Local	Total
City of Superior	East 5 <sup>th</sup> Street – From 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue E – 20 <sup>th</sup> Avenue E. Const/pav resurfacing ARRA	PE	7,500		5,500	13,000
113-10-002		ROW				
		CONST	501,067		9,954	511,021
	8998-00-13/14	TOTAL	508,567		15,454	524,021

The original dollar amount was for \$352,000 using 100% federal funds (ARRA). Additional funding includes \$13,000 for “state design oversight” and \$461,250 in ARRA funding and 49,771 split 80/20 using STP Urban (federal) covering \$39,817 and \$9,954 covering the local match.