



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

April 26, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips
Maritime Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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First Street
Duluth, MN
55802

Tel 218-529-7541

www.dsmic.org

Re: Letter of Support – Duluth Seaway Port Authority Grant Application - MARAD
Port Infrastructure Development

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Phillips:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority's (DSPA) application for \$30M in funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior area, the MIC is charged with transportation and land use planning for the urbanized area. The Port of Duluth-Superior is a key asset within our region's transportation network and our region's economy benefits from the ongoing strategic investment by DSPA and their partners to ensure flexible, full-service supply chain options at Clure Public Marine Terminal. The 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion is the next phase of improvements and includes an investment of \$37.5 million. The project will result in 100,000 square feet of on-dock, rail-served warehouse space, demolition of substandard former grain elevators to allow for 7.5 acres of outdoor material laydown space, and the purchase of a new hybrid-electric mobile harbor crane.

These initiatives align with the MIC's multimodal freight movement recommendations outlined within Duluth-Superior Area Sustainable Choices 2045 (Sustainable 2045), our Long Range Transportation Plan for the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan area. This project is identified in Sustainable 2045 as Project Number MN-08-01 and meets all five goals in the plan, which include Health, Livable, Safety, Moving, and Economy.

*Duluth-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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The 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project will add capacity and efficiency to Port operations and helps to meet our region's Long Range Transportation goals. We support this project and DSPA's commitment to ensuring the Port of Duluth-Superior continues to meet the needs of our regional and national economy.

As the federally designated MPO for the Duluth-Superior area, the MIC is responsible for determining transportation projects that are federally funded. Our mission includes dedication to region-wide transportation planning and acting as a forum (with our member committees) for transportation issues in the urbanized area. The initiatives within this grant application support a key objective within the MPOs Metropolitan Transportation Plan; that of safe and efficient movement of people and goods within the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application for funding through the Port Infrastructure Development Program to help fund the 2023 Duluth Port Intermodal Terminal Expansion project. The MIC looks forward to the collaborative work ahead. If you have any questions or need any further information please let me know.

Sincerely,



Ron Chicka, Director AICP
Metropolitan Interstate Council
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218.349.8625

cc: Wayne Boucher, MN MIC Policy Board Co-Chair
Nick Baker, WI MIC Policy Board Co-Chair

