

# 2015 SYSTEM STATEMENT

System Statement Issue Date:

# 2015 SYSTEM STATEMENT FOR HELENA TOWNSHIP

September 17, 2015

## Regional Development Plan Adoption

In May 2014, the Metropolitan Council adopted *Thrive MSP 2040*. Following adoption of *Thrive*, the Council adopted the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*, the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan*, and the *2040 Housing Policy Plan*. The Metropolitan Council is now issuing system statements pursuant to [State statute](#).

Receipt of this system statement and the metropolitan system plans triggers a community's obligation to review and, as necessary, amend its comprehensive plan within the next three years, by the end of 2018. The complete text of *Thrive MSP 2040* as well as complete copies of the recently adopted metropolitan system and policy plans are available for viewing and downloading at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Communities/Planning.aspx>. Paper copies are available by calling the Council's Data Center at 651-602-1140.

## System Statement Definition

Metropolitan system plans are long-range comprehensive plans for the regional systems – transit, highways, and airports; wastewater services; and parks and open space – along with the capital budgets for metropolitan wastewater services, transportation, and regional recreation open space. System statements explain the implications of metropolitan system plans for each individual community in the metropolitan area. They are intended to help communities prepare or update their comprehensive plan, as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act:

*Within nine months after receiving a system statement for an amendment to a metropolitan system plan, and within three years after receiving a system statement issued in conjunction with the decennial review required under section [473.864, subdivision 2](#), each affected local governmental unit shall review its comprehensive plan to determine if an amendment is necessary to ensure continued conformity with metropolitan system plans. If an amendment is necessary, the governmental unit shall prepare the amendment and submit it to the council for review.*

Local comprehensive plans, and amendments thereto, will be reviewed by the Council for conformance to metropolitan system plans, consistency with Council policies, and compatibility with adjacent and affected governmental units. Updated local comprehensive plans are due to the Council for review by December 31, 2018.

## What is in this System Statement

The system statement includes information specific to your community, including:

- your community designation or designation(s);
- forecasted population, households, and employment through the year 2040;
- guidance on appropriate densities to ensure that regional services and costly regional infrastructure can be provided as efficiently as possible.
- affordable housing need allocation;

In the following sections, this system statement contains an overview of each of the system plan updates and specific system changes that affect your community. The sections are:

- Transportation, including metropolitan highways, aviation, and transit
- Water Resources, including wastewater, surface water, and water supply planning
- Regional parks and trails

## **Dispute Process**

If your community disagrees with elements of this system statement, or has any questions about this system statement, please contact your Sector Representative, Angela Torres, at 651-602-1566, to review and discuss potential issues or concerns.

The Council and local government units and districts have usually resolved issues relating to the system statement through discussion.

## ***Request for Hearing***

If a local governmental unit and the Council are unable to resolve disagreements over the content of a system statement, the unit or district may, by resolution, request that a hearing be conducted by the Council's Land Use Advisory Committee or by the State Office of Administrative Hearings for the purpose of considering amendments to the system statement. According to Minnesota Statutes section 473.857, the request shall be made by the local governmental unit or school district within 60 days after receipt of the system statement. If no request for a hearing is received by the Council within 60 days, the statement becomes final.

## Regional Development Guide

The Council adopted [\*Thrive MSP 2040\*](#) as the new regional development guide on May 28, 2014. *Thrive* identifies five outcomes that set the policy direction for the region's system and policy plans. Building on our region's history of effective **stewardship** of our resources, *Thrive* envisions a **prosperous, equitable, and livable** region that is **sustainable** for today and generations to come. The Council is directing its operations, plans, policies, programs, and resources toward achieving this shared long-term vision.



Three principles define the Council's approach to implementing regional policy: **integration, collaboration, and accountability**. These principles reflect the Council's roles in integrating policy areas, supporting local governments and regional partners, and promoting and implementing the regional vision. The principles define the Council's approach to policy implementation and set expectations for how the Council interacts with local governments.

*Thrive* also outlines seven land use policies and community designations important for local comprehensive planning updates. The land use policies establish a series of commitments from the Council for local governments and uses community designations to shape development policies for communities. Community designations group jurisdictions with similar characteristics based on Urban or Rural character for the application of regional policies. Together, the land use policies and community designations help to implement the region's vision by setting expectations for development density and the character of development throughout the region.

### Community Designation

Community designations group jurisdictions with similar characteristics for the application of regional policies. The Council uses community designations to guide regional growth and development; establish land use expectations including overall development densities and patterns; and outline the respective roles of the Council and individual communities, along with strategies for planning for forecasted growth. If there are discrepancies between the *Thrive MSP 2040* Community Designations Map and the Community Designation map contained herein because of adjustments and refinements that occurred subsequent to the adoption of *Thrive*, communities should follow the specific guidance contained in this System Statement.

*Thrive* identifies Helena Township with the community designations of Diversified Rural and Agricultural (Figure 1).

Diversified Rural communities are home to a variety of farm and nonfarm land uses including very large-lot residential, clustered housing, hobby farms and agricultural uses. Diversified Rural communities are expected to plan for growth not to exceed forecasts and in patterns that do not exceed 4 units per 40 acres. In addition, Diversified Rural communities are expected to manage land uses to prevent the premature demand for extension of urban services, and so that existing service levels will meet service needs.

Agricultural communities encompass areas with prime agricultural soils that are planned and zoned for long-term agricultural use. Agricultural communities are expected to limit residential development and adopt zoning ordinance and/or other official controls to maintain residential densities no greater than 1 housing unit per 40 acres. In addition, Agricultural communities are expected to manage land uses to prevent the premature demand for extension of urban services, and so that existing service levels will meet service needs.

Specific strategies for Diversified Rural communities and Agricultural communities can be found on Helena Township's [Community Page](#) in the [Local Planning Handbook](#).

## Forecasts

The Council uses the forecasts developed as part of *Thrive* to plan for regional systems. Communities should base their planning work on these forecasts. Given the nature of long-range forecasts and the planning timeline undertaken by most communities, the Council will maintain on-going dialogue with communities to consider any changes in growth trends or community expectations about growth that may have an impact on regional systems.

The *Thrive* forecasts for population, households, and employment for your community are:

	2010 (actual)	2014 (est.)	2020	2030	2040
Population	1,648	1,798	1,720	1,710	1,690
Households	548	580	610	670	700
Employment	147	395	210	230	250

## Housing Policy

The Council adopted the [Housing Policy Plan](#) on December 10, 2014, and amended the plan on July 8, 2015. The purpose of the plan is to provide leadership and guidance on regional housing needs and challenges and to support *Thrive MSP 2040*. The *Housing Policy Plan* provides an integrated policy framework to address housing challenges greater than any one city or county can tackle alone.

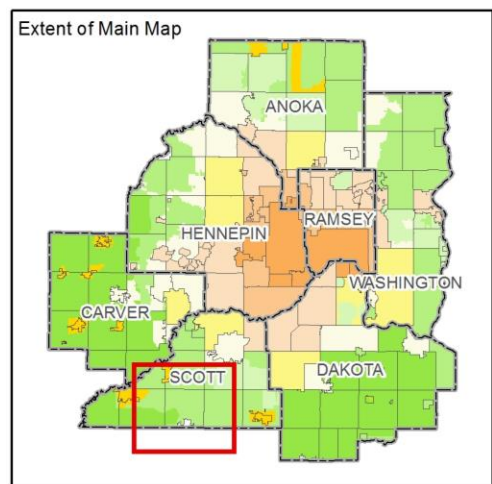
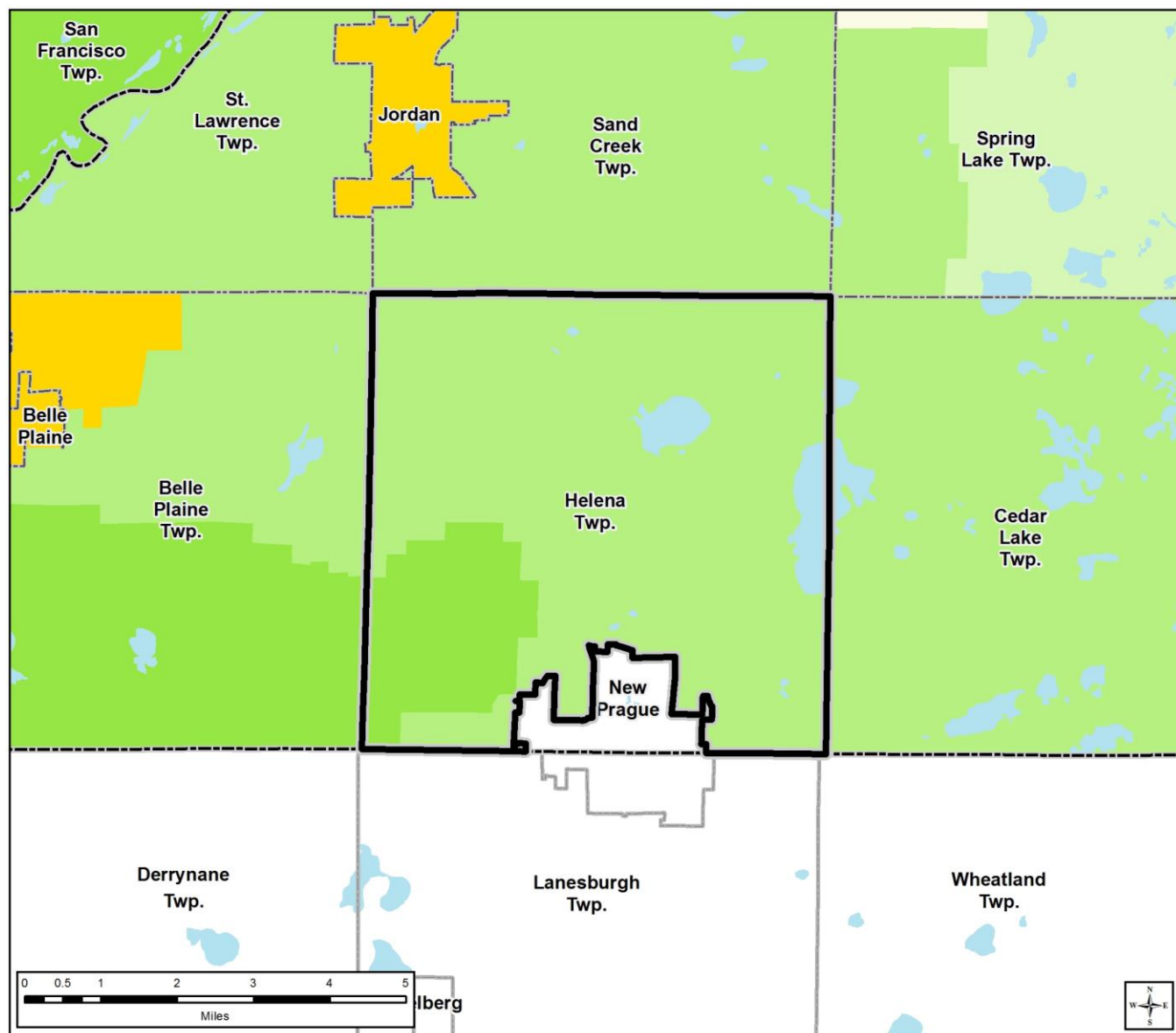
Consistent with state statute (Minn. Stat. 473.859, subd. 2(c) and subd. 4), communities must include a housing element and implementation program in their local comprehensive plans that address existing and projected housing needs.

The Council has also determined the regional need for low and moderate income housing for the decade of 2021-2030 (see Part III and Appendix B in the Housing Policy Plan).

The Council has determined that Helena Township does not have a share of the region's need for low and moderate income housing.

Specific requirements for the housing element and housing implementation programs of local comprehensive plans can be found in the [Local Planning Handbook](#).

Figure 1. Helena Township Community Designation



### Community Designations

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Outside Council planning authority | Emerging Suburban Edge |
| Agricultural                       | Suburban Edge          |
| Rural Residential                  | Suburban               |
| Diversified Rural                  | Urban                  |
| Rural Center                       | Urban Center           |
- 
- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| County Boundaries            |
| City and Township Boundaries |
| Lakes and Major Rivers       |



# TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM STATEMENT

*Helena Township*

The *2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)* is the metropolitan system plan for highways, transit, and aviation to which local comprehensive plans must conform. This system statement summarizes significant changes to these three systems, as well as other changes made to the *Transportation Policy Plan* since the last *2030 TPP* was adopted in 2010, and highlights those elements of the system plan that apply specifically to your community. The *TPP* incorporates the policy direction and the new 2040 socio economic forecasts adopted by the Metropolitan Council in the *Thrive MSP 2040*, and extends the planning horizon from 2030 to 2040.

## Federal Requirements

The *TPP* must respond to requirements outlined in state statute, as well as federal law, such as some new requirements included in the federal law known as the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21). For instance, metropolitan transportation plans must now be performance based, so the *TPP* now includes goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in chapter 2. In previous versions of the *TPP* the strategies were known as policies; while some are new, the wording of many strategies are similar to the wording of policies in previous plans. Performance measurements for this plan are also discussed in Chapter 12, Federal Requirements.

Federal law requires the long range plan to identify regionally significant transportation investments expected to be made over the next two decades, and to demonstrate that these planned investments can be afforded under the plan's financial assumptions. Both costs and available revenues have changed since the last plan was adopted in 2010, resulting in many changes in the plan. Federal law does allow the plan to provide a vision for how an increased level of transportation revenue might be spent if more resources become available, but the programs or projects identified in this scenario are not considered part of the approved plan.

The *TPP* includes two funding scenarios for the metropolitan highway and transit systems: the "Current Revenue Scenario" and the "Increased Revenue Scenario."

- The **Current Revenue Scenario** represents the fiscally constrained regional transportation plan, which assumes revenues that the region can reasonably expect to be available based on past experience and current laws and allocation formulas.
- The **Increased Revenue Scenario** represents an illustration of what be achieved with a reasonable increase in revenues for transportation.

Under the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, local comprehensive plans are expected to conform to the Current Revenue Scenario, which is the official metropolitan system plan. Potential improvements in the Increased Revenue Scenario can be identified separately in local plans as unfunded proposals. A more detailed description of how to handle the various improvements in this category is included under Other Plan Considerations.

In addition to reviewing this system statement, your community should consult the entire *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* to ensure that your community's local comprehensive plan and plan amendments conform to the metropolitan transportation system plan. Chapter 3, Land Use and Local Planning, has been expanded and all communities should carefully review this chapter. A PDF file of

the entire *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* can be found at the Metropolitan Council's website: [http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Planning-2/Key-Transportation-Planning-Documents/Transportation-Policy-Plan-\(1\)/The-Adopted-2040-TPP-\(1\).aspx](http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Planning-2/Key-Transportation-Planning-Documents/Transportation-Policy-Plan-(1)/The-Adopted-2040-TPP-(1).aspx). The format of the plan is slightly different than past *Transportation Policy Plans*. An introductory Overview, Chapter 1: Existing System and Chapter 10: Equity and Environmental Justice have been added to this version of the *TPP*, in addition to the changes noted in the first paragraph. Please note some modifications have been made to the appendices as well.

## **Key Changes in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan**

Adopted by the Metropolitan Council in January 2015, the revised *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* incorporates the following changes:

### **Metropolitan Highway System - Chapter 5**

The Metropolitan Highway System is made up of principal arterials, shown in Fig 1-1 of the *TPP* and also attached to this system statement. Although no new highways have been added to this system in the *2040 TPP*, the last incomplete segment of this system, TH 610, is now under construction in Maple Grove.

- The *TPP* acknowledges that congestion cannot be eliminated or greatly reduced. The region's mobility efforts will need to focus on managing congestion and working to provide alternatives. The majority of resources available between now and 2040 will be needed for preservation, management and operation of the existing highway system.
- Due to increased costs and decreased revenue expectations, many long-planned major projects to add general purpose highway lanes are not in this fiscally constrained plan. While the preservation, safety, and mobility needs of these corridors are recognized, investments in these corridors will be focused on implementing traffic management strategies, lower cost-high benefit spot mobility improvements, and implementing MnPASS lanes. Some specific projects have been identified in this plan, but funding has primarily been allocated into various investment categories rather than specific projects. The highway projects specifically identified in the Current Revenue Scenario are shown in Figure 5-8 of the *TPP* which is also attached to this system statement.
- Modifications were made to *Appendix D - Functional Classification Criteria*, and *Appendix F – Highway Interchange Requests*. *Appendix C – Project List* is new and contains all of the transit and highway projects that have been identified between 2014 and 2023.

### **Transit System - Chapter 6**

The transit system plan provides an overview of the basic components of transit planning, including demographic factors, transit route and network design factors and urban design factors that support transit usage. Local governments have the primary responsibility for planning transit-supportive land use, through their comprehensive planning, and subdivision and zoning ordinances.

- The *TPP* includes updated Transit Market Areas (shown in *TPP* Figure 6-3, also attached) which reflect 2010 Census information and an updated methodology that better aligns types and levels of transit service to expected demand. These market areas identify the types of transit services that are provided within each area.
- The *TPP* includes limited capital funding for transit expansion and modernization. Opportunities primarily exist through competitive grant programs such as the regional solicitation for US DOT



funding. These opportunities are guided by the strategies in the *TPP* and the various elements of the Transit Investment Plan.

- The *TPP* includes an updated transitway system plan that more clearly articulates which projects can be funded within reasonable revenue expectations through year 2040 (Current Revenue Scenario as shown in *TPP* Figure 6-8, which is also attached). The plan includes five new or expanded METRO lines, three new arterial bus rapid transit lines, and three corridors under study for mode and alignment but identified in the Counties Transit Improvement Board's (CTIB) Phase I Program of Projects. This system was developed in collaboration with CTIB, a major partner in regional transitway expansion.
- The *TPP* does not include operating funding for transit service expansion beyond the existing network of regular route bus, general public dial-a-ride, and Metro Vanpool.
- The Increased Revenue Scenario (shown *TPP* Figure 6-9, which is also attached) illustrates the level of expansion for the bus and support system and transitway system that might be reasonable if additional revenues were made available to accelerate construction of the transitway vision for the region.
- The plan includes updated requirements and considerations for land use planning around the region's transit system. This includes new residential density standards for areas near major regional transit investments and an increased emphasis on proactive land use planning in coordination with the planning of the transit system.

### **Aviation System - Chapter 9**

The Metropolitan Aviation System is comprised of nine airports (shown in Figure 1-9 of the *TPP* and also attached to this system statement) and off-airport navigational aids. There are no new airports or navigational aids that have been added to the system in the *2040 TPP*.

- The *TPP* discusses the regional airport classification system as well as providing an overview of roles and responsibilities in aviation for our regional and national partners. The investment plan includes an overview of funding sources for projects, and an overview of projects proposed for the local airports that will maintain and enhance the regional airport system.
- Modifications were made to *Appendix I – Regional Airspace*, *Appendix J – Metropolitan Airports Commission Capital Investment Review Process*, *Appendix K – Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plans* and *Appendix L – Aviation Land Use Compatibility*.

### **Other Plan Changes**

#### **Regional Bicycle Transportation Network - Chapter 7**

The *2040 TPP* encourages the use of bicycles as a mode of transportation. To that end, the *TPP* establishes for the first time a Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN). The goal of the RBTN is to establish an integrated seamless network of on-street bikeways and off-road trails that complement each other to most effectively improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level. Cities, counties, and parks agencies are encouraged to plan for and implement future bikeways within and along these designated corridors and alignments to support the RBTN vision.

## Freight - Chapter 8

Most aspects of freight movement are controlled by the private sector, so unlike other sections of the *TPP*, there is not a specific plan adopted for future public sector investment in freight facilities. However, the discussion of the need for a safe and efficient multimodal freight system has been updated and expanded in the *TPP* to recognize challenges and opportunities for freight movement as well as the future direction of freight by mode. It acknowledges the closure of the Minneapolis Upper Harbor in 2015, leaving St Paul and Shakopee as the region's major barge terminal areas in the future. The plan also acknowledges the increase of trains since 2010 carrying oil from North Dakota on BNSF and CP rail tracks, which is expected to continue into the future. Although railroad trackage in the region was significantly decreased over the last 20 years to "right size" the system after federal deregulation, communities should not expect much additional rail abandonment. Many tracks that appear to be seldom used are owned by the smaller Class III railroads that serve local businesses by providing direct rail connections from manufacturing and warehousing/distribution facilities to the major national railroads. The major Class I railroads are approaching capacity and actually adding tracks in some locations.

## System Plan Considerations Affecting Your Community

Helena Township should consult the complete *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* in preparing its local comprehensive plan. In addition, Helena Township should consult *Thrive MSP 2040* and the current version of the Metropolitan Council's [Local Planning Handbook](#) for specific information needed in its comprehensive plan. Specific system plan considerations affecting Helena Township are detailed below.

### Metropolitan Highways

There are no principal arterials located within Helena Township.

### Transit System

Helena Township includes the following Transit Market Areas:

Transit Market Area	Market Area Description and Typical Transit Services
Market Area V	Transit Market Area V has very low population and employment densities and tends to be primarily Rural communities and Agricultural uses. General public dial-a-ride service may be appropriate here, but due to the very low-intensity land uses these areas are not well-suited for fixed-route transit service.

### Transitways

The *TPP*'s Transit Investment Plan does not show any transitway investments planned for Helena Township in the Current Revenue Scenario (*TPP* Figure 6-8).

### Communities not in the Transit Capital Levy District

Helena Township is not within the Transit Capital Levy District as shown in Fig 1-3 of the *TPP* (Existing Transit System with Transit Capital Levy District). Regardless of the Transit Market Area or transitway corridor planning, the only transit services provided in this type of community are Transit Link dial-a-ride service and various ridesharing services. A list of Transit Link service areas and communities can be found on the Council's website: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Services/Transit-Link/Transit-Link-Service-Areas.aspx?source=child>

If Helena Township is interested in additional transit services and a need for transit services can be identified, Helena Township would first have to agree to pay the regional transit capital levy, as defined in MN Stat. 473.446 and 473.4461.

### *Aviation*

All communities must include an aviation element in the transportation sections of their comprehensive plans. The degree of aviation planning and development considerations that need to be included in the comprehensive plan varies by community. Even those communities not impacted directly by an airport have a responsibility to include airspace protection in their comprehensive plan. The protection element should include potential hazards to air navigation including electronic interference. Helena Township is not in an influence area of a regional airport. Airspace protection should be included in local codes/ordinances to control height of structures.

## **Other Plan Considerations**

### *Regional Bicycle Transportation Network*

*TPP* Figure 7-1 shows the RBTN as established for the first time in the *2040 TPP*. The network consists of a series of prioritized Tier 1 and Tier 2 corridors and dedicated alignments (routes). The process used to develop the RBTN, as well as the general principles and analysis factors used in its development, can be found in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Chapter of the *TPP*.

The RBTN corridors and alignments make up the “trunk arterials” of the overall system of bikeways that connect to regional employment and activity centers. These are not intended to be the only bicycle facilities in the region, and local units should also consider planning for any additional bike facilities desired by their communities. RBTN corridors are shown where more specific alignments within those corridors have not yet been designated, so local governments are encouraged to use their comprehensive planning process to identify suitable alignments within the RBTN corridors for future incorporation into the *TPP*.

In addition, agencies should plan their local on and off-road bikeway networks to connect to the designated Tier 1 and Tier 2 alignments, as well as any new network alignments within RBTN corridors to be proposed in local comprehensive plans. Bikeway projects that complete segments of, or connect to, the RBTN are given priority for federal transportation funds through the Transportation Advisory Board’s biannual regional solicitation.

### *A Minor System / Functional Classification*



The *TPP* has always recognized the A minor arterial system as an important supplement to the regional highway system, and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) continues to maintain the official regional map of these roads. The *2040 TPP* does include an updated functional classification map (Fig. 1-2 in Chapter 1) and a modified *Appendix D - Functional Classification Criteria*. Communities should consult the Local Plan Handbook for more information on functional classification, how to reflect the A minor arterial system in their plan, and how to request functional classification changes if necessary.

### *Freight*

The Council encourages all local governments to plan for freight movement in their communities. Trucks are the major mode of freight movement in the region and across the nation to distribute consumer goods as well as move manufactured goods and commodities, and they operate in every community. Communities with special freight facilities shown on *TPP* Figure 8-1, Metropolitan Freight System, (attached) should also include those additional modes and facilities in their local plan, and plan for compatible adjacent land uses.

Figure 1-1 of the TPP

**Principal Arterials**

-  Principal Arterial - Existing
-  Principal Arterial - Under Construction

**Reference Items**

-  Lakes and Rivers
-  City Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  MUSA 2040 MPO Area

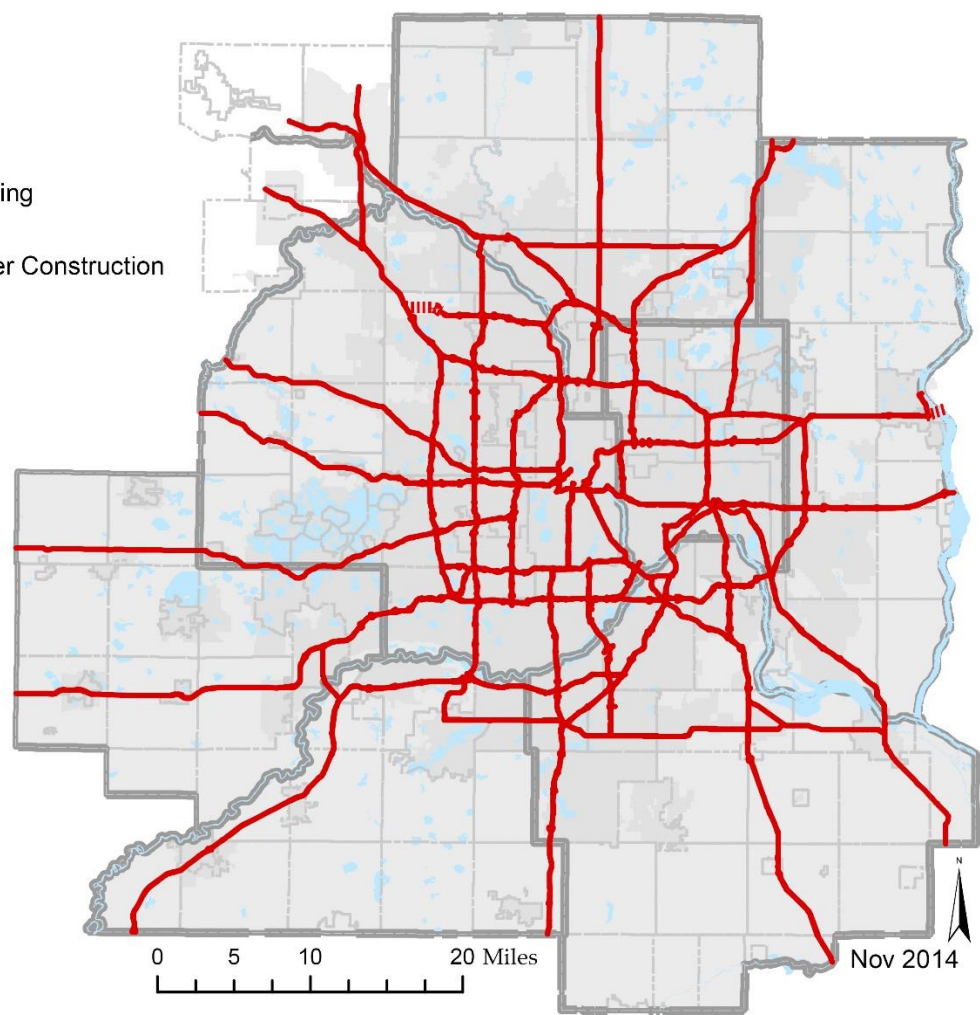




Figure 1-2 of the TPP

## Functional Class Roads

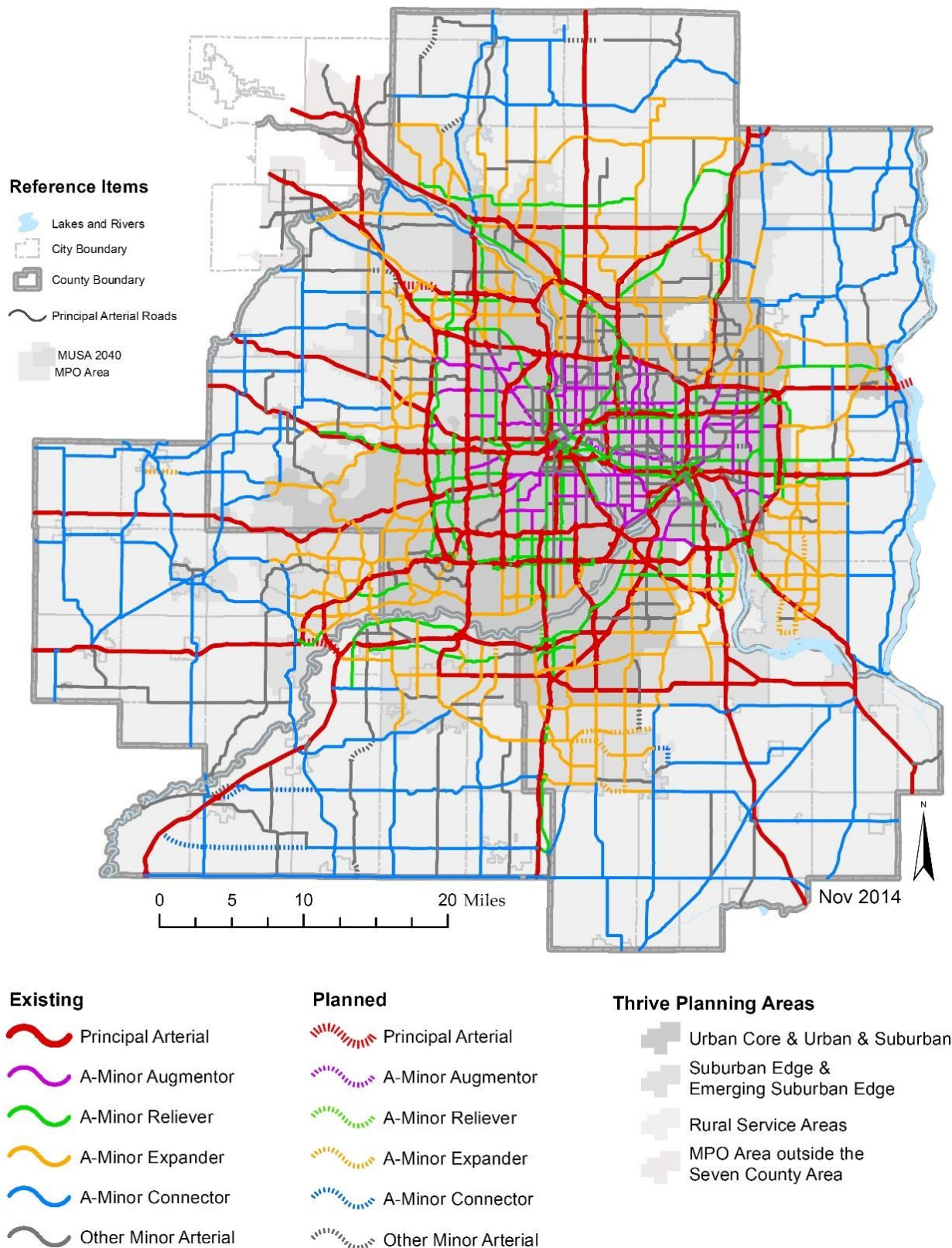


Figure 5-8 of the TPP

## Identified Projects\* in Highway Current Revenue Scenario

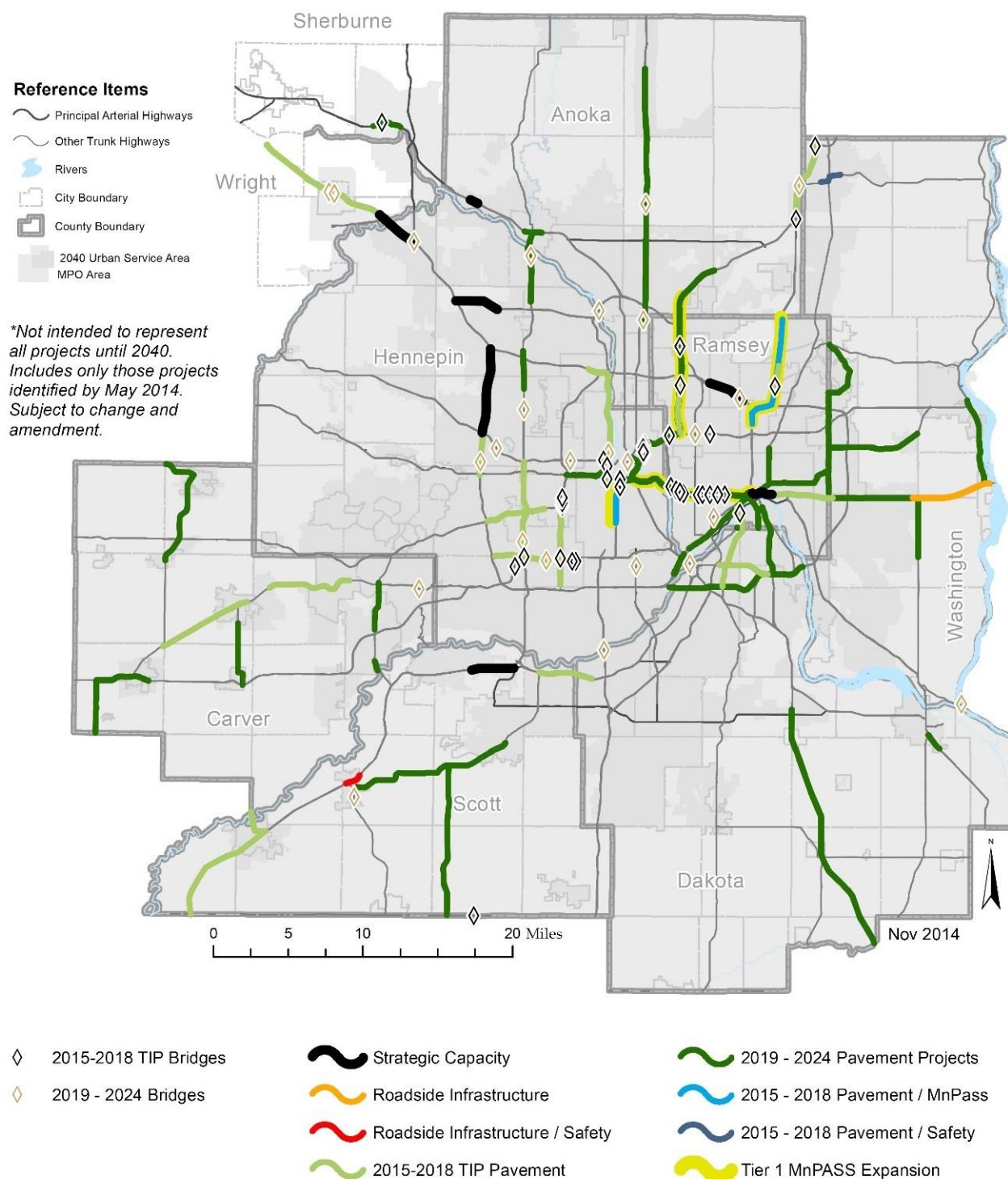
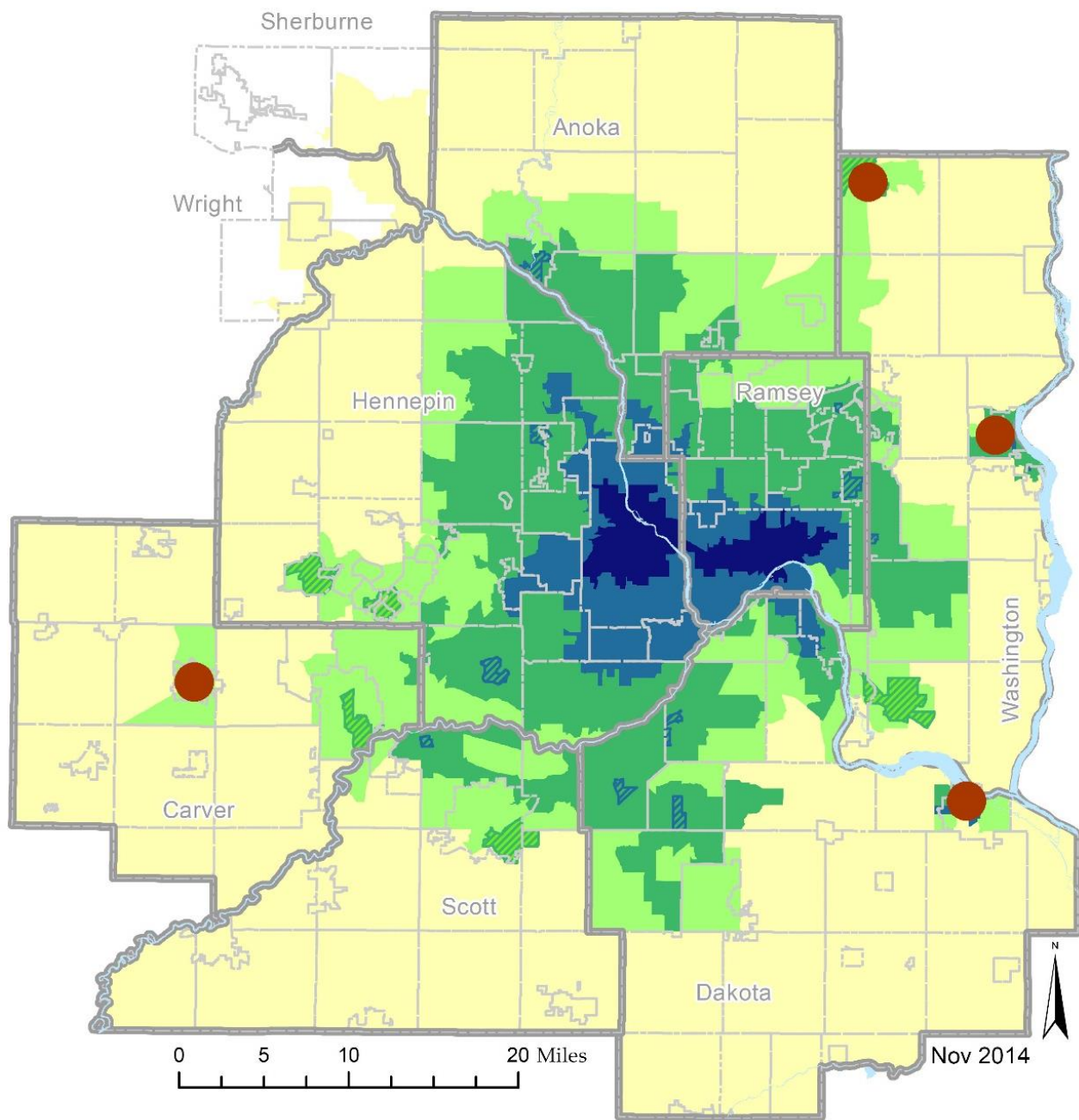




Figure 6-3 of the TPP

## Transit Market Areas



- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Market Area I           |  Emerging Market Area III |
|  Market Area II          |  Market Area IV           |
|  Emerging Market Area II |  Market Area V            |
|  Market Area III         |  Freestanding Town Center |

Figure 6-8 of the TPP

## Current Revenue Scenario Transitways and CTIB Phase I Program of Projects

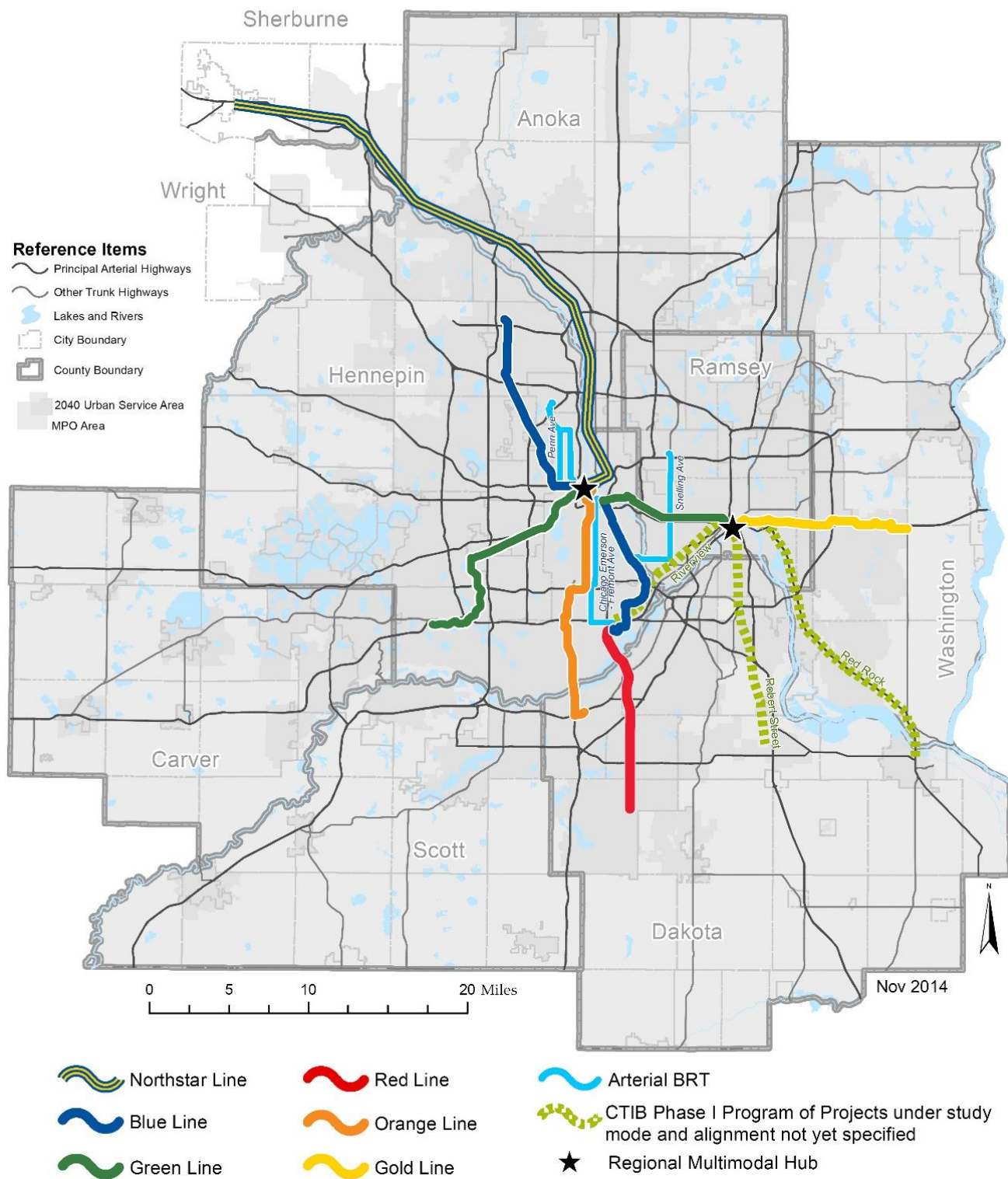
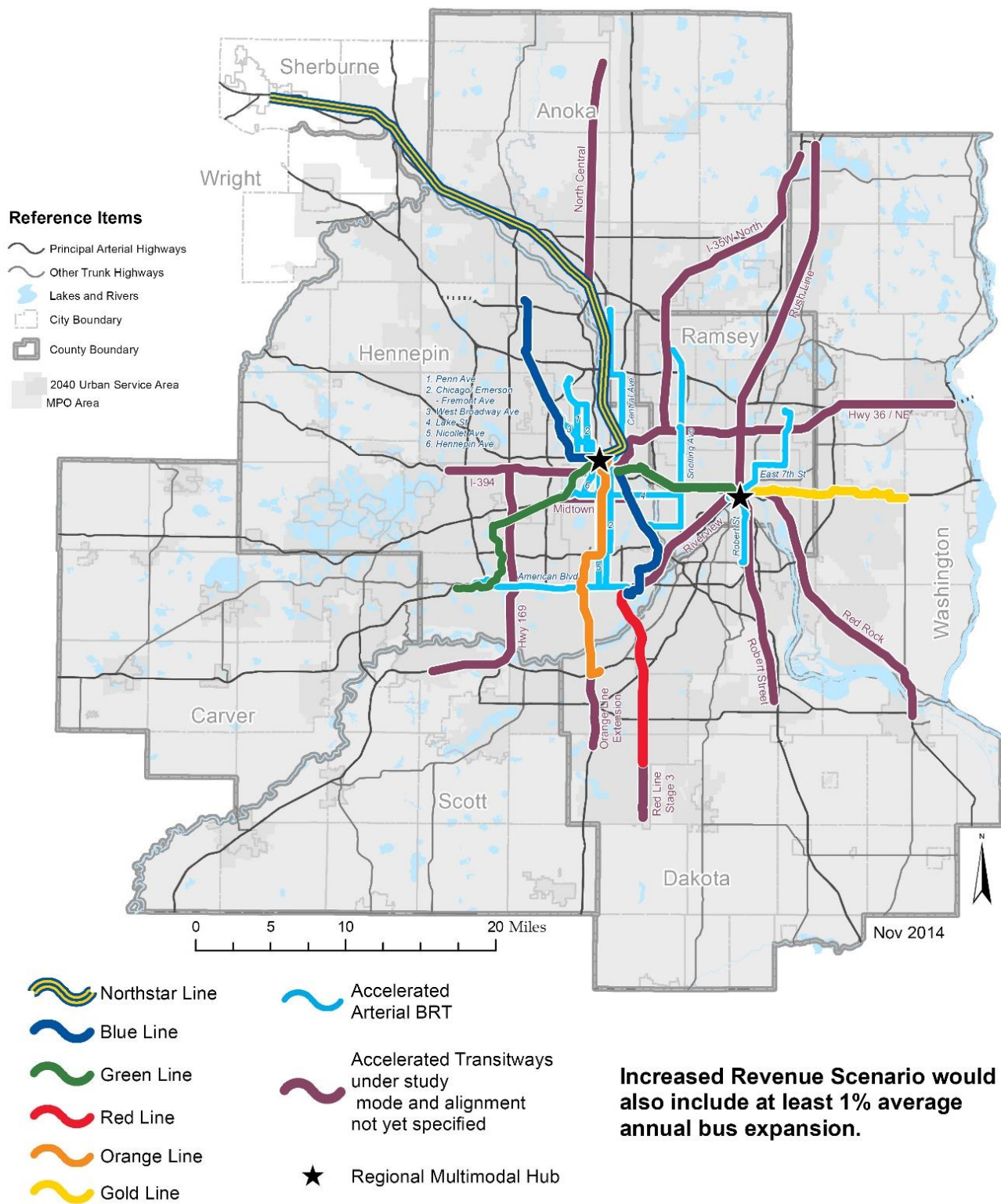




Figure 6-9 of the TPP

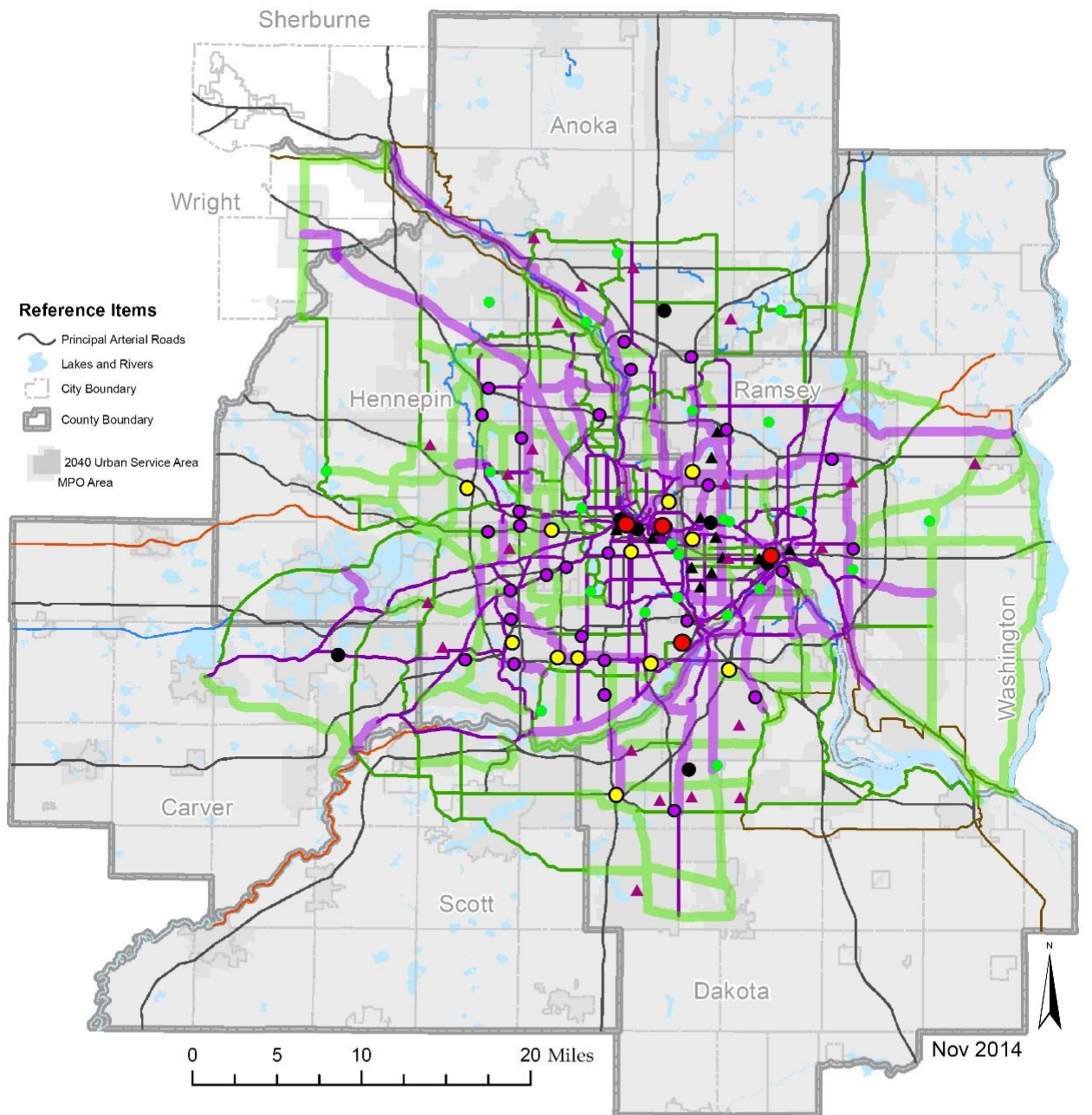
## Increased Revenue Scenario Transitways Building an Accelerated Transitway Vision



**Increased Revenue Scenario would also include at least 1% average annual bus expansion.**

Figure 7-1 of the TPP

## Regional Bicycle Transportation Network Vision



### RBTN Alignments

- Tier 1 Alignments
- Tier 2 Alignments

### RBTN Corridors (Alignments Undefined)

- Tier 1 Priority Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridor
- Tier 2 Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridors

### Regional Destinations

- Metropolitan Job Centers
- Regional Job Centers
- Subregional Job Centers
- Large High Schools
- Colleges & Universities
- Highly Visited Regional Parks
- Major Sport & Entertainment Centers

### Other Trail Systems

- Regional Trails (Regional Parks Policy Plan)
- Mississippi River Trail (US Route 45)
- State Trails (DNR)



Figure 8-1 of the TPP

Metropolitan Freight System

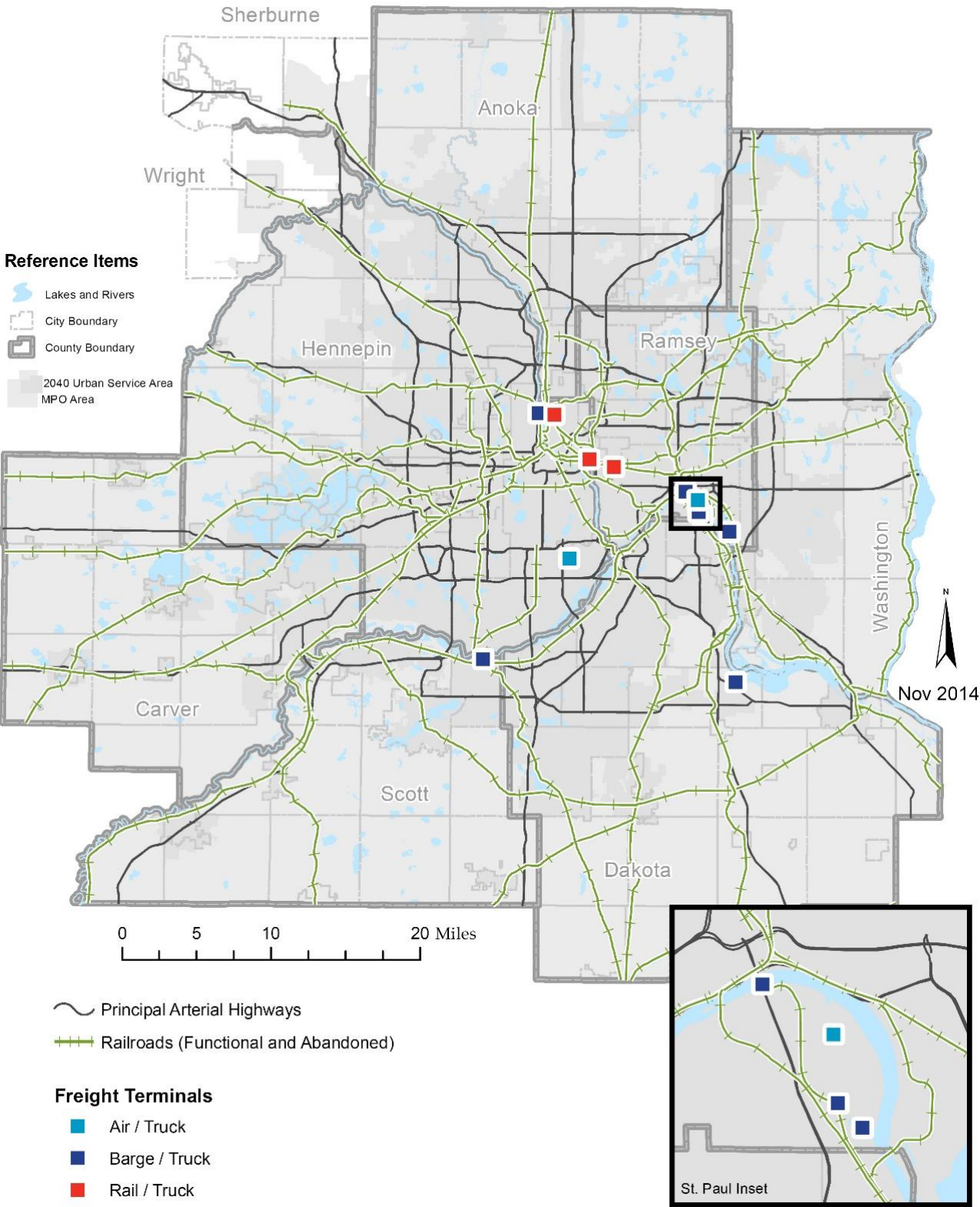
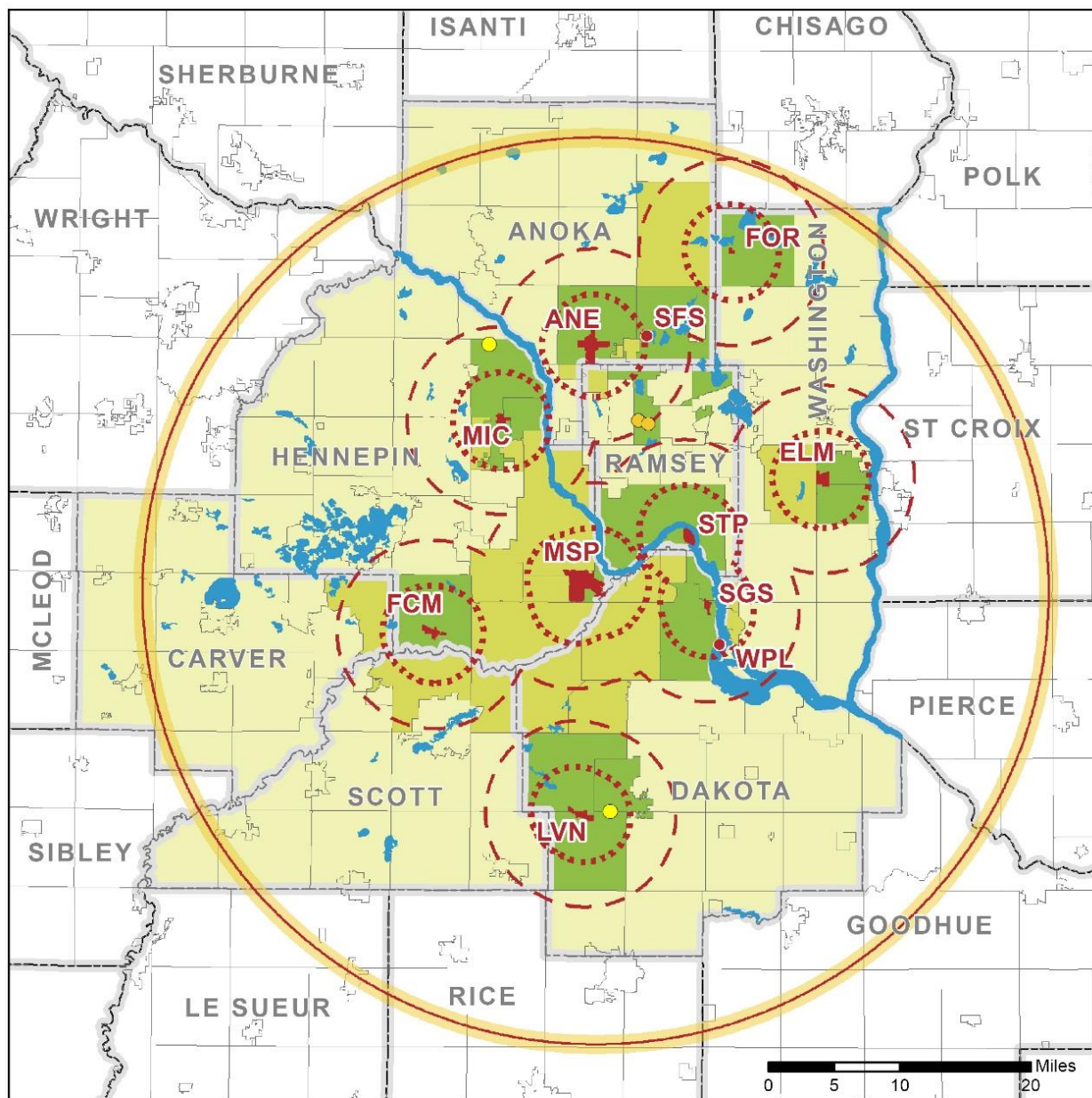


Figure 9-1 of the TPP

## Airport Service Areas



### Public Owned Public Use Airport

- Airport Compatibility Area**  
(3 NM's – Noise, Zoning, Infrastructure)  
(6 NM's – Landfills, Wind Towers)

**MSP** Minneapolis – St. Paul International Airport  
(Wold-Chamberlain Field)

**STP** St. Paul Downtown Airport  
(Holman Field)

**ANE** Anoka County – Blaine Airport  
(Janes Field)

**FCM** Flying Cloud Airport

**MIC** Crystal Airport

**SGS** South St. Paul Airport  
(Fleming Field)

**ELM** Lake Elmo Airport

**LVN** Airlake Airport

**FOR** Forest Lake Airport

### Privately Owned Public Use Airport

**SFS** Surf-Side Seaplane Base  
(Rice Lake)

**WPL** Wipline Seaplane Base  
(Miss. River)

**Minneapolis Class-B Airspace Boundary**

**Permitted Seaplane Surface Waters**  
(within 7 County Area only)

**VOR Protection Zone**

**Tall Tower Areas**

**Aviation Facility Located in Community**

**Community Directly Affected by Facility(s)**

**General Airspace Notification/Protection**



# WATER RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS/ WASTEWATER SYSTEM STATEMENT

*Helena Township*

The 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan includes policies and strategies to achieve the following goal:

*To protect, conserve, and utilize the region's groundwater and surface water in ways that protect public health, support economical growth and development, maintain habitat and ecosystem health, and provide for recreational opportunities, which are essential to our region's quality of life.*

The Policy Plan takes an integrated approach to water supply, water quality, and wastewater issues. This approach moves beyond managing wastewater and stormwater only to meet regulatory requirements by viewing wastewater and stormwater as resources, with the goal of protecting the quantity and quality of water our region needs now and for future generations.

The Policy Plan includes policies and strategies to:

- Maximize regional benefits from regional investments in the areas of wastewater, water supply and surface water.
- Pursue reuse of wastewater and stormwater to offset demands on groundwater supplies.
- Promote greater collaboration, financial support, and technical support in working with partners to address wastewater, water quality, water quantity and water supply issues.
- Implement environmental stewardship in operating the regional wastewater system by reusing wastewater, reducing energy use and air pollutant emissions, and reducing, reusing, and recycling solid waste.

## **Key Concepts in the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan**

Adopted by the Metropolitan Council in May 2015, the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan is the metropolitan system plan for metropolitan wastewater services with which local comprehensive plans must conform. The Policy Plan incorporates the following changes:

- Centers on and around an integrated approach to water supply, wastewater, and surface water planning.
- Promotes the investigation of the issues and challenges in furthering our work in water conservation, wastewater and stormwater reuse, and low impact development practices in order to promote a more sustainable region.
- Promotes the concept of sustainable water resources where, through collaboration and cooperation, the region will take steps to manage its water resources in a sustainable way aimed at:
  - Providing an adequate water supply for the region
  - Promoting and implementing best management practices that protect the quality and quantity of our resources
  - Providing efficient and cost effective wastewater services to the region
  - Efficiently addressing nonpoint and point sources pollution issues and solutions, and,
  - Assessing and monitoring lakes, rivers, and streams so that we can adequately manage, protect, and restore our valued resources.
- Continues the Council's position that communities that permit the construction and operation of subsurface sewage treatment systems and other private wastewater treatment systems are

responsible for ensuring that these systems are installed, maintained, managed and regulated consistent with Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080-7083.

- Includes requirements in Appendix C for comprehensive sewer plans, local water plans, and local water supply plans.

Helena Township should consult the complete Policy Plan in preparing its local comprehensive plan. In addition, Helena Township should consult *Thrive MSP 2040* and the *Local Planning Handbook* for specific information needed in its comprehensive plan.

## **System Plan Considerations Affecting Your Community**

### ***Metropolitan Sewer Service***

Under state law (Minn. Stat. 473.513) local governments are required to submit both a wastewater plan element to their comprehensive plan as well as a comprehensive sewer plan describing service needs from the Council. Specific requirements for the sewer element of your comprehensive plan can be found in the Water Resources section of the [\*Local Planning Handbook\*](#).

### **Forecasts**

The forecasts of population, households, and employment, for Helena Township can be found on your Community Page in the [\*Local Planning Handbook\*](#).

### **Wastewater System Serving Your Community**

Figure 1 is a map of Helena Township. Your community is not provided centralized wastewater services through either a regional or centralized local wastewater system. Residential and commercial properties provide their own wastewater services through subsurface sewage treatment systems. The Metropolitan Council has no plans to provide regional wastewater services to Helena Township.

### ***Management of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) and Private Systems***

The Metropolitan Land Planning Act requires the sewer element of the local comprehensive plan to describe the standards and conditions under which the installation of subsurface sewage treatment systems and other private wastewater treatment systems will be permitted and to the extent practicable, the areas not suitable for public or private systems.

The appropriate density for development with subsurface sewage treatment systems depends on the suitability of the soils to treat wastewater and whether space is available for a primary and back up drainfield. It is the Council's position that all municipalities and counties allowing subsurface sewage treatment systems should incorporate current MPCA regulations (Minn. Rules Chapter 7080-7083) as part of a program for managing subsurface sewage treatment systems in the sewer element of their local comprehensive plan and implement the standards in issuing permits.

Helena Township should adopt a management program consistent with state rules. An overview of Helena Township's management program must be included in the community's local comprehensive plan update. If adequate information on the management program is not included; the comprehensive plan will be found incomplete for review until the required information is provided to the Council. Specific requirements for the local comprehensive plan can be found in the [\*Local Planning Handbook\*](#).

Small private treatment plants are located throughout the Metropolitan Area serving such developments as individual industries, mobile home parks, and other urban type uses. The Council's position is that

such private wastewater treatment plants should be permitted only if they are in areas not programmed for metropolitan sewer service in the future and they are provided for in a community's comprehensive plan that the Council has approved. Furthermore, the community is responsible for permitting all community or cluster wastewater treatment systems consistent with Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080-7083 and MPCA standards. The Council will not provide financial support to assist communities if these systems fail.

Helena Township should include in the sewer element of its local comprehensive plan the conditions under which private treatment plants or municipal treatments would be allowed, and include appropriate management techniques sufficiently detailed to ensure that the facilities conform to permit conditions. Helena Township is responsible for ensuring that permit conditions for private treatment plants are met and financial resources to manage these facilities are available.

## *Surface Water Management*

In 1995, Minnesota Statutes Section 473.859, subd. 2 was amended to make the local water plan (often referred to as local surface water management plans) required by section 103B. 235 a part of the land use plan of the local comprehensive plan. Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410, updated in July of 2015, includes the requirements for local water management plans. The main change that you need to be aware of is that all communities in the metropolitan area must update their local water plan between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018. This means that Helena Township must update its local water plan as part of the comprehensive plan update. The community's updated local water plan should be submitted to the Council for its review concurrent with the review by the Watershed Management Organization(s) within whose watershed(s) the community is located. **Failure to have an updated local water plan will result in the comprehensive plan being found incomplete for review until the required plan is provided to the Council.**

Local water plans must meet the requirements for local water plans in Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410. In general, local surface water plans need to include a summary of the priorities and problems in the community; structural, nonstructural and programmatic actions to take to address the priorities and problems; and clearly identified funding mechanisms to fix the problems.

More detailed guidance for the local water plans can be found in Appendix C of the Council's *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan* and in the Council's current [\*Local Planning Handbook\*](#).

In addition, the Council has also updated its priority lake list that was first developed in the 1980s as part of the *Water Resources Policy Plan* update. Figure 2 shows the priority lakes for Helena Township. The Council uses the priority lake list to focus its limited resources. The list is also used in the environmental review process. Where a proposed development may impact a priority lake, the project proposer must complete a nutrient budget analysis for the lake as part of the environmental review process.

Also included on Figure 2 is the watershed organization(s) that Helena Township is part of and a list of impaired waters in the community for use in development of your local water plans.

## *Other Plan Considerations*

### *Water Supply*

Local comprehensive plans also address water supply (Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.859). For communities in the metropolitan area with municipal water supply systems, this local comprehensive plan requirement

is met by completing the local water supply plan template, which was jointly developed by the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource (DNR).

#### **FOR COMMUNITIES WITHOUT PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES:**

Because your community relies primarily on private wells and does not own/operate a municipal community public water supply system (PWS), you do not need to prepare a local water supply plan. However, your updated local comprehensive plan should include information about water sources, including plans to protect private water supplies, in appropriate sections of the local comprehensive plan.

Guidance and information for water supply planning can be found in the Appendix C of the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan*, the [Local Planning Handbook](#), and the Council's *Master Water Supply Plan*.

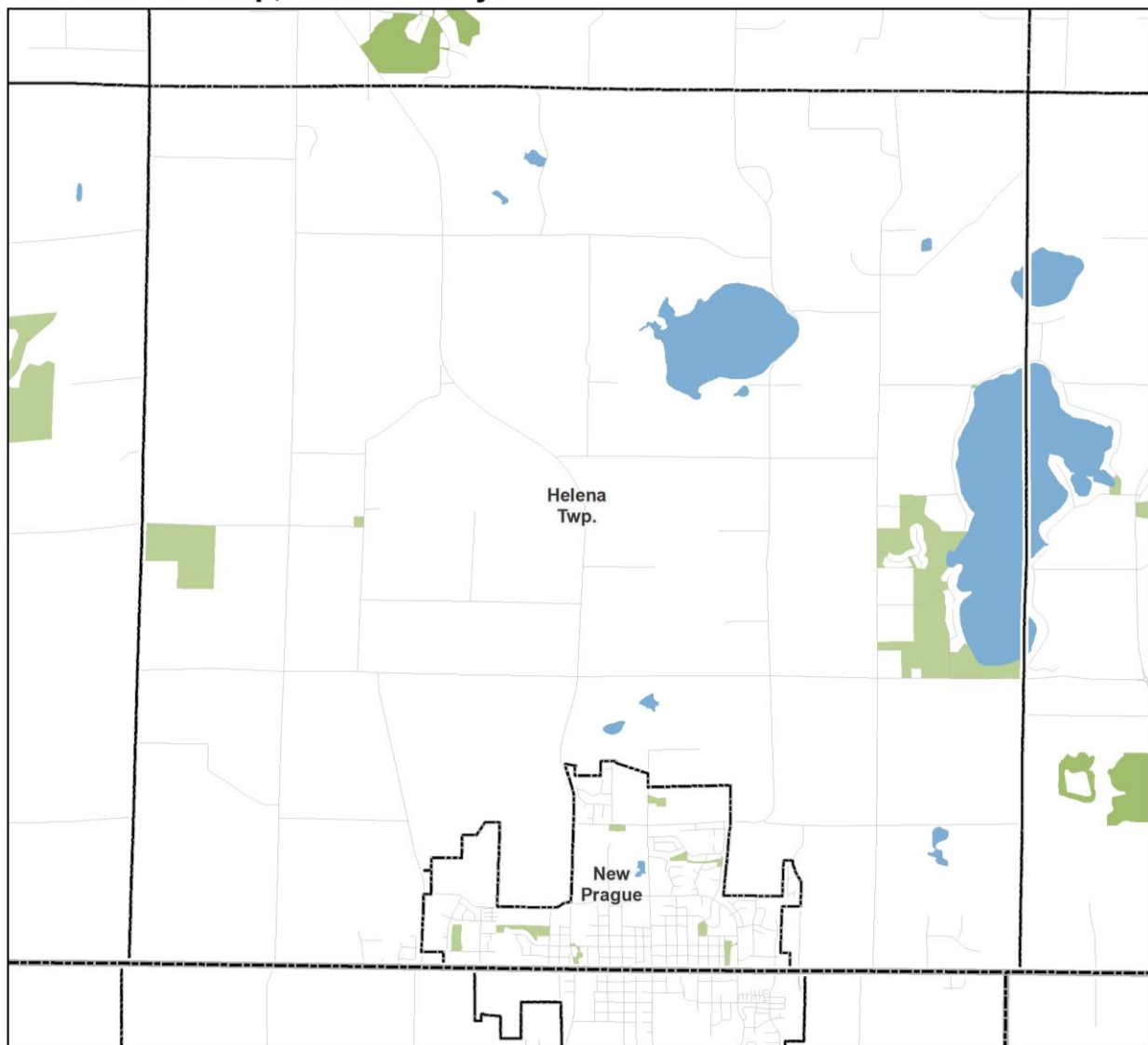
The Council's *Master Water Supply Plan* provides communities in the region with planning assistance for water supply in a way that:

- Recognizes local control and responsibility for owning, maintaining and operating water systems
- Is developed in cooperation and consultation with municipal water suppliers, regional stakeholders and state agencies
- Protects critical habitat and water resources over the long term
- Meets regional needs for a reliable, secure water supply
- Highlights the benefits of integrated planning for stormwater, wastewater and water supply
- Emphasizes and supports conservation and inter-jurisdictional cooperation
- Provides clear guidance by identifying key challenges/issues/considerations in the region and available approaches without dictating solutions

Figures 3-5 illustrate some water supply considerations that the community may consider as they develop their local water supply plans, such as: aquifer water levels, groundwater and surface water interactions, areas where aquifer tests or monitoring may be needed to reduce uncertainty, regulatory and management areas, and emergency interconnections.

Figure 1. Community Map

## Helena Township, Scott County



1/2/2015

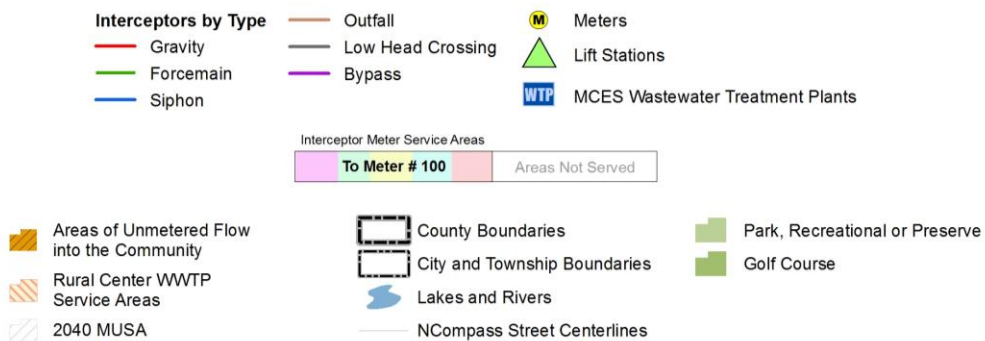
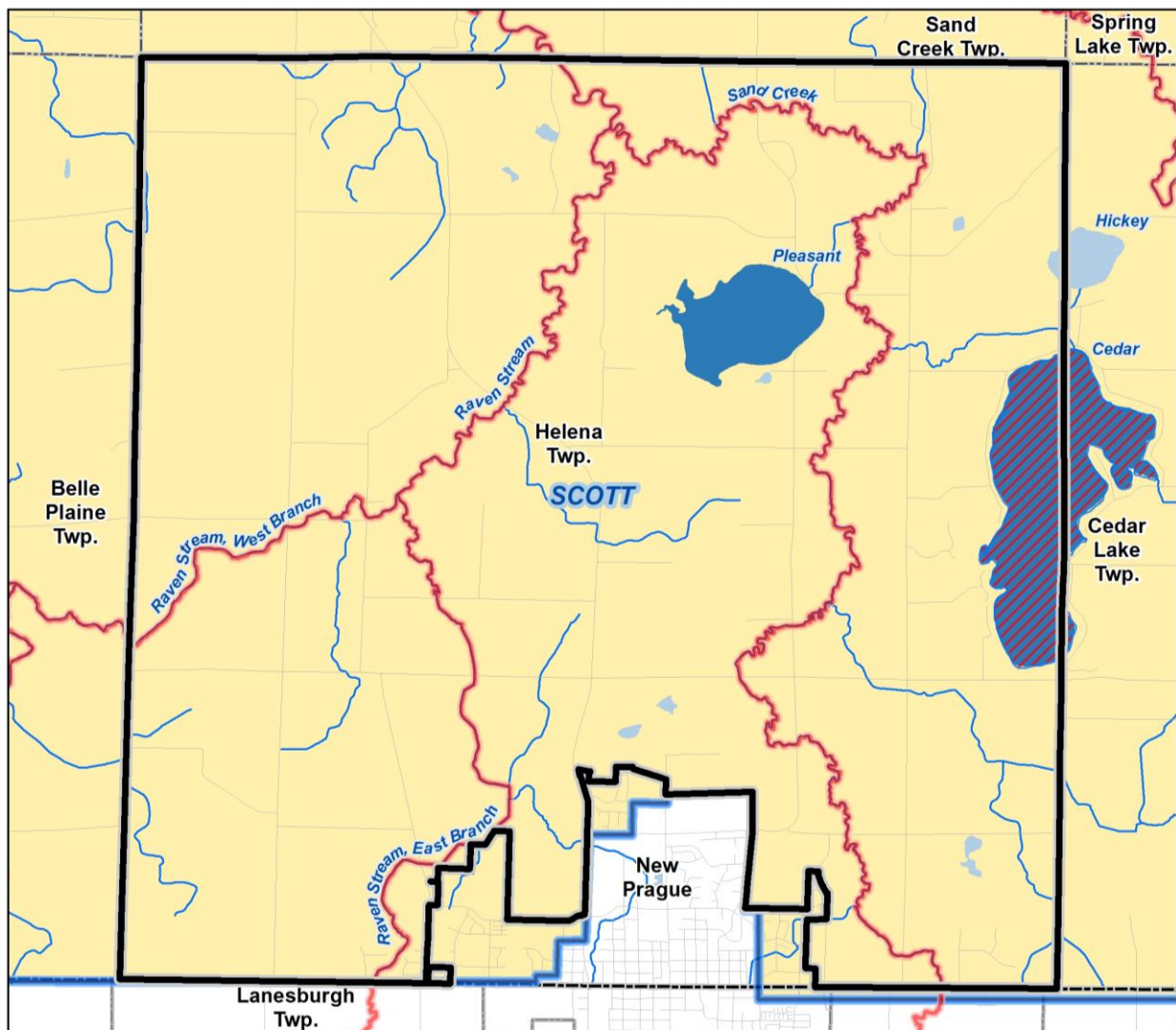




Figure 2. Surface Water Resources

## Helena Township, Scott County




 Watershed Management Organization Boundaries

### Watershed Management Organization Type

-  County
-  Watershed District
-  Watershed Management Organization


 Impaired Lakes (2014 Draft MPCA 303(d) List)


 Impaired Rivers & Streams (2014 Draft MPCA 303(d) List)

 2014 Priority Lakes

 County Boundaries

 City and Township Boundaries

 Other Lakes and Major Rivers

 Other Streams


 NCompass Street Centerlines



Figure 3. Surface water features and interaction with the regional groundwater system, and state-protected surface water features

Helena Twp.

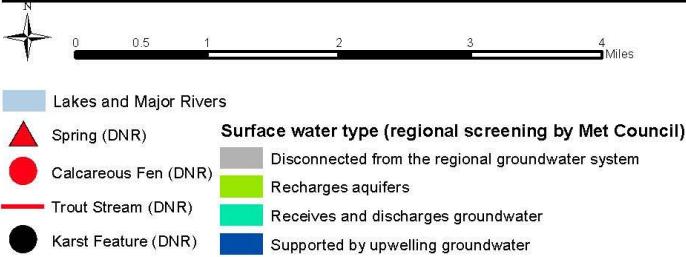
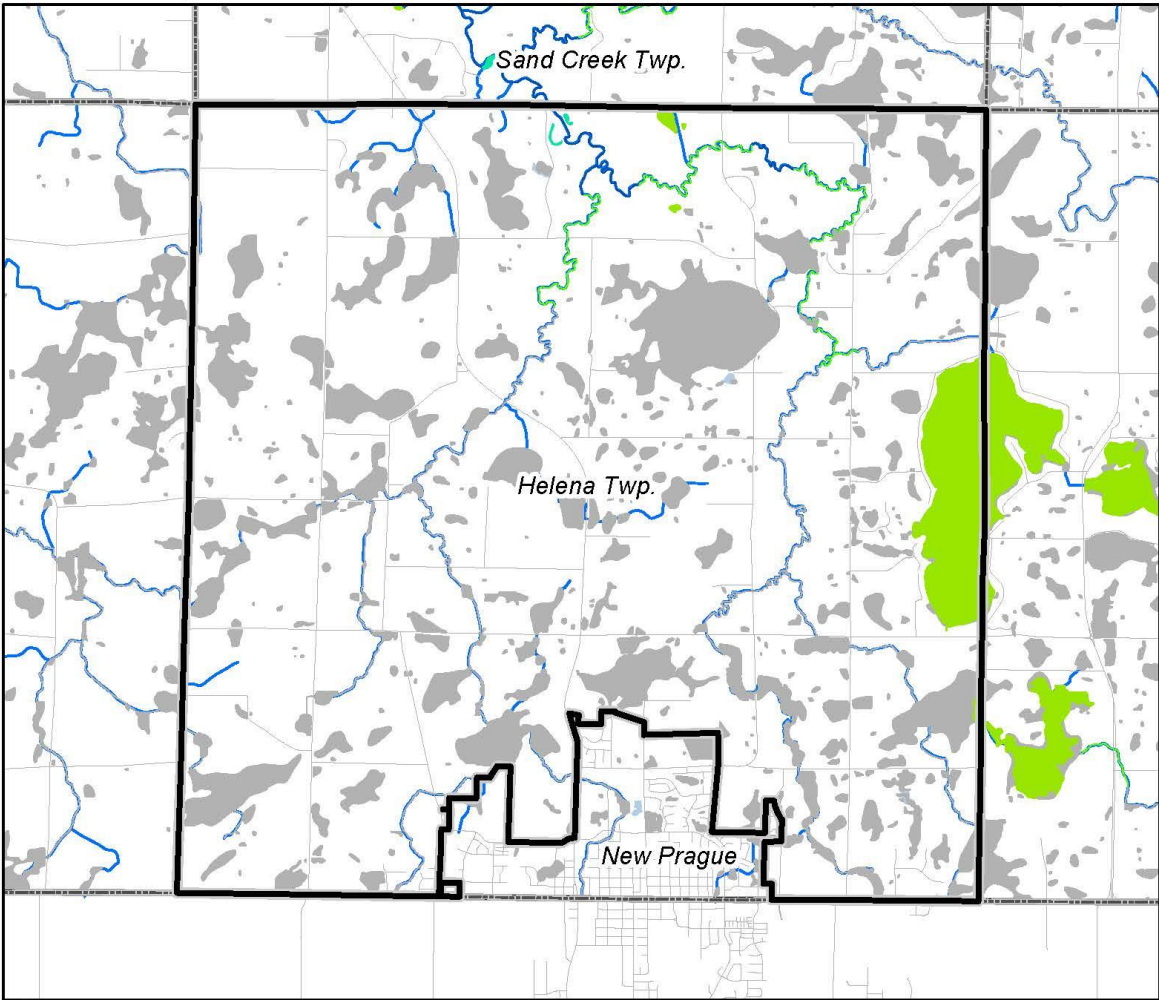


Figure 4. Availability of MN Department of Natural Resources groundwater level and MN Department of Health aquifer test data

Helena Twp.

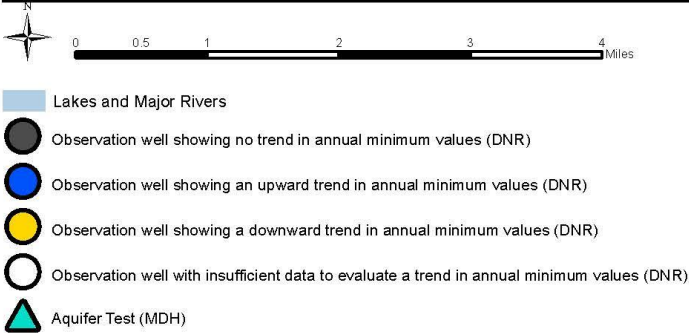
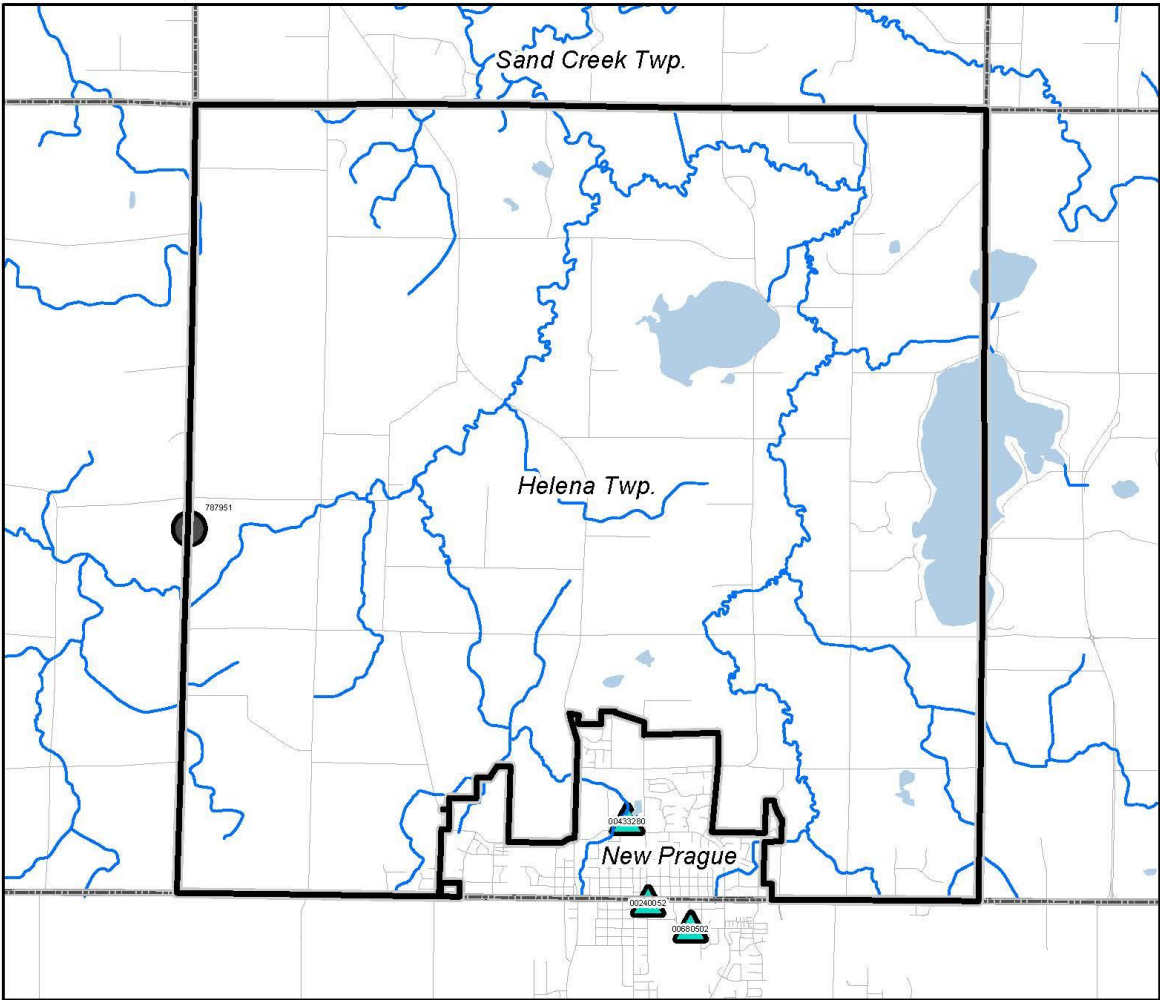
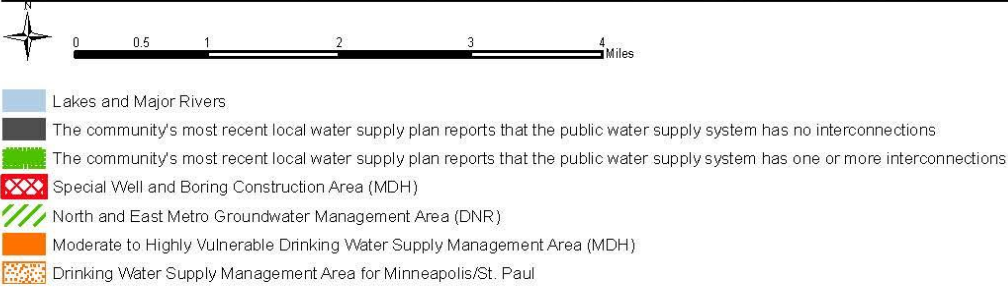
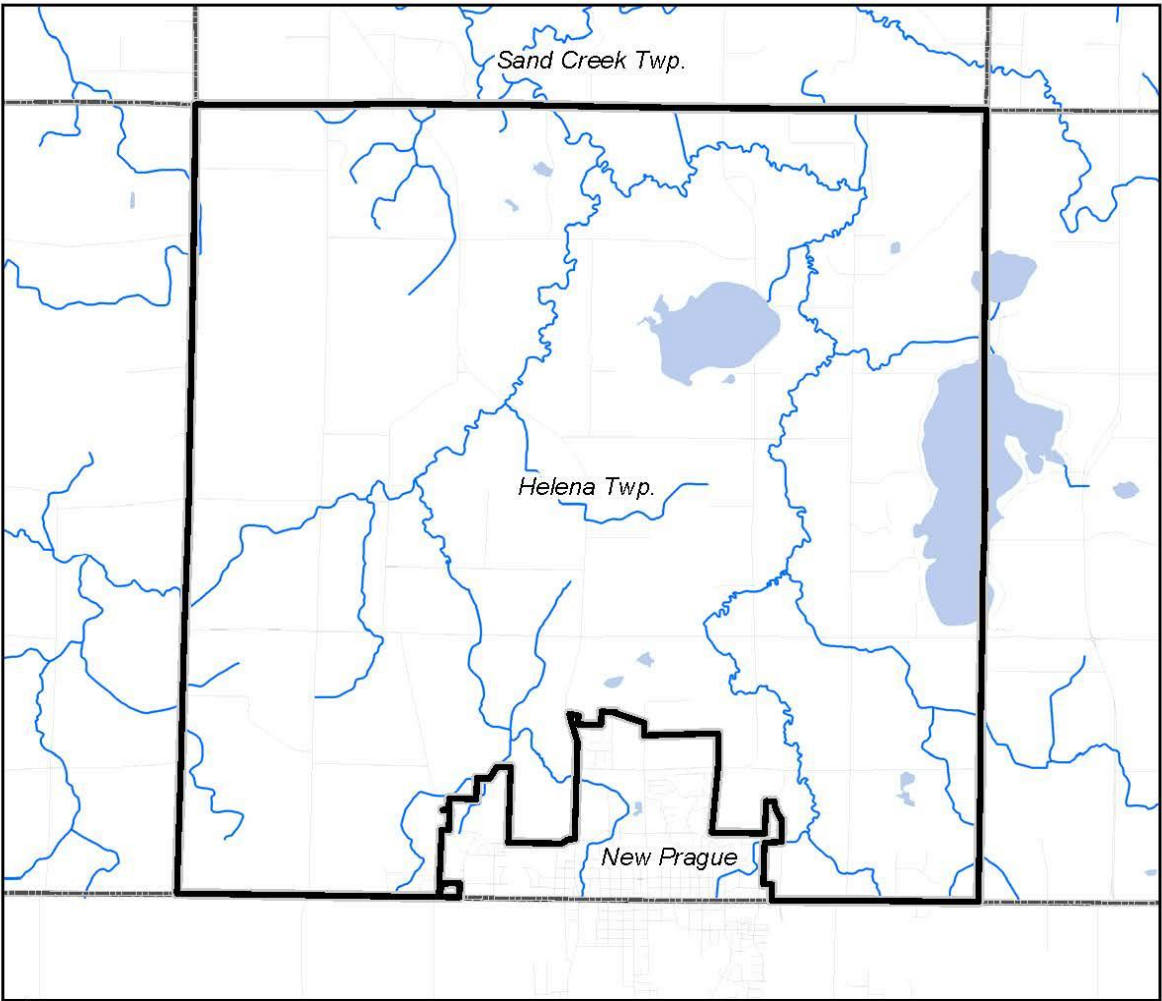


Figure 5. Municipal public water supply system interconnections and regulatory management areas

**Helena Twp.**



# REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM STATEMENT

*Helena Township*

The Regional Parks System includes 62 regional parks, park reserves, and special recreation features, plus more than 340 miles of regional trails that showcase the unique landscapes of the region and provide year-round recreation. The Regional Parks System is well-loved by our region's residents and attracted over 48 million annual visits in 2014.

The organizational structure of the Regional Parks System is unique, built upon a strong partnership between the Council and the ten regional park implementing agencies that own and operate Regional Parks System units. The regional park implementing agencies are:

Anoka County	Ramsey County
City of Bloomington	City of Saint Paul
Carver County	Scott County
Dakota County	Three Rivers Park District
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Washington County

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* was developed based on furthering the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability. *Thrive MSP 2040* states that the Council will collaborate with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, the regional park agencies, and state partners to:

- Expand the Regional Parks System to conserve, maintain, and connect natural resources identified as being of high quality or having regional importance, as identified in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
- Provide a comprehensive regional park and trail system that preserves high-quality natural resources, increases climate resiliency, fosters healthy outcomes, connects communities, and enhances quality of life in the region.
- Promote expanded multimodal access to regional parks, regional trails, and the transit network, where appropriate.
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents, such as across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability.

## **Key Concepts in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan**

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* includes the following policies, each with specific associated strategies:

- **Recreation Activities and Facilities Policy:** Provide a regional system of recreation opportunities for all residents, while maintaining the integrity of the natural resource base within the Regional Parks System.

- **Siting and Acquisition Policy:** Identify lands with high-quality natural resources that are desirable for Regional Parks System activities and put these lands in a protected status so they will be available for recreational uses and conservation purposes in perpetuity.
- **Planning Policy:** Promote master planning and help provide integrated resource planning across jurisdictions.
- **Finance Policy:** Provide adequate and equitable funding for the Regional Parks System units and facilities in a manner that provides the greatest possible benefits to the people of the region.
- **System Protection Policy:** Protect public investment in acquisition and development by assuring that every component in the system is able to fully carry out its designated role as long as a need for it can be demonstrated.

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* is the metropolitan system plan for regional recreation open space with which local comprehensive plans must conform. This system statement highlights the elements of the system plan which apply specifically to your community. Find the complete text of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* on [the Council's website](#).

## ***2040 Regional Parks System Facilities***

The Regional Parks System is comprised of four main types of facilities: regional parks, park reserves, special recreation features and regional trails.

### **Regional Parks**

Regional parks most notably contain a diversity of nature-based resources, either naturally occurring or human-built, and are typically 200-500 acres in size. Regional parks accommodate a variety of passive recreation activities.

### **Park Reserves**

Park reserves, like regional parks, provide for a diversity of outdoor recreation activities. One major feature that distinguishes a park reserve from a regional park is its size. The minimum size for a park reserve is 1,000 acres. An additional characteristic of park reserves is that up to 20 percent of the park reserve can be developed for recreational use, with at least 80 percent of the park reserve to be managed as natural lands that protect the ecological functions of the native landscape.

### **Special Recreation Features**

Special recreation features are defined as Regional Parks System opportunities not generally found in the regional parks, park reserves or trail corridors. Special recreation features often require a unique managing or programming effort.

### **Regional Trails**

Regional trails are classified as 1) destination or greenway trails and 2) linking trails. Destination or greenway trails typically follow along routes with high-quality natural resources that make the trail itself a destination. Linking trails are predominately intended to provide connections between various Regional Parks System facilities, most notably regional parks or park reserves.



## ***2040 Regional Parks System Components***

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* identifies six components which together comprise the vision for the Regional Parks System in 2040, as described below.

**Existing Regional Parks System Facilities:** include Regional Parks System Facilities that are open for public use. These facilities include land that is owned by regional park implementing agencies, and may include inholding parcels within the boundaries of these parks and trail corridors that have not yet been acquired. Existing regional trails may include planned segments that will be developed in the future.

**Planned Regional Parks System Facilities (not yet open to the public):** include Regional Parks System Facilities that have a Council-approved master plan and may be in stages of acquisition and development, but are not yet open for public use.

**Regional Parks System Boundary Adjustments:** include general areas identified as potential additions to existing Regional Parks System Facilities to add recreational opportunities or protect natural resources. Specific adjustments to park or trail corridor boundaries have not yet been planned.

**Regional Park Search Areas:** include general areas for future regional parks to meet the recreational needs of the region by 2040 where the regional park boundary has not yet been planned.

**Regional Trail Search Corridors:** include proposed regional trails to provide connections between Regional Parks System facilities where the trail alignment has not yet been planned.

**2040 Regional Trail Search Corridor System Additions:** include regional trail search corridors that were added to the Regional Parks System as part of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

## ***Key Changes in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan***

Adopted by the Metropolitan Council in February 2015, the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* incorporates the following changes:

### **Identify all proposed regional trails as regional trail search corridors**

All proposed regional trails that are not yet open to the public and do not have a Metropolitan Council approved master plan are represented as a general regional trail search corridor. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* depicted these trails with a proposed alignment. The alignment of these regional trails will be determined in the future through a planning process led by the regional park implementing agency. The alignment of these trails is subject to Metropolitan Council approval of a regional trail master plan.

**Acquire and develop ten new regional trails or trail extensions to meet the needs of the region in 2040. The 2040 Regional Trail Search Corridor Additions include:**

#### *Carver County:*

- County Road 61
- Highway 41



#### Three Rivers Park District:

- CP Rail Extension
- Dakota Rail Extension
- Lake Independence Extension
- Lake Sarah Extension
- Minnetrista Extension
- North-South 1
- North-South 2
- West Mississippi River

The *2040 Regional Parks System Plan Map* is depicted in Figure 1. Helena Township should consult the complete [2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#) in preparing its local comprehensive plan. In addition, Helena Township should consult *Thrive MSP 2040* and the current version of the Metropolitan Council's [Local Planning Handbook](#) for specific information needed in its comprehensive plan.

## **System Plan Considerations Affecting Your Community**

### *Regional Parks System Components in your community*

The following Regional Parks System Components within Helena Township as identified in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* are listed below.

#### *Regional Parks, Park Reserves, and Special Recreation Features*

**Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park:** This is an existing regional park with an established boundary. The regional park boundary as shown in Figure 2 should be acknowledged in the comprehensive plan.

#### *Regional Trails*

**Elko New Market-Blakeley-Doyle Kennefick Regional Trail Search Corridor:** The regional trail search corridor travels through Blakeley Township, Belle Plaine Township, Helena Township, Cedar Lake Township, New Market Township, Elko New Market in Scott County and Eureka Township in Dakota County. Connects Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve, Southern Scott Regional Trail Search Corridor, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, Elko New Market-Doyle Kennefick Regional Trail Search Corridor and Chub Creek Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor. Scott County will lead a planning process in the future to determine the alignment of the regional trail. When preparing its comprehensive plan, Helena Township should verify whether a master plan has been approved by the Metropolitan Council. If a master plan has been approved, the planned regional trail alignment should be acknowledged in the comprehensive plan. Otherwise, the general search corridor as shown in Figure 2 should be acknowledged in the comprehensive plan.

**Southern Scott Regional Trail Search Corridor:** The regional trail search corridor travels through Spring Lake Township, Cedar Lake Township, Helena Township, Sand Creek Township, Jordan, St. Louis Township, Belle Plaine, and Blakeley Township. Connects Cleary Lake Regional Park, Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, Spring Lake Regional Trail, and Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve. Scott County will lead a planning process in the future to determine the alignment of the regional trail. When preparing its comprehensive plan, Helena Township should verify whether a master plan has been approved by the Metropolitan Council. If a master plan has been approved, the planned regional trail alignment should be acknowledged in the comprehensive plan. Otherwise, the general search corridor as shown in Figure 2 should be acknowledged in the comprehensive plan.

Please contact Scott County for more information regarding Regional Parks System Components in Helena Township.

### *State lands in your community*

State park and open space units that provide outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resource conservation for the public complement the Regional Parks System and are recognized in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The following State lands as shown in Figure 2 are within Helena Township and should be acknowledged in its comprehensive plan.

- Marsh Wildlife Management Area — Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Please contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for more information about State lands.

Figure 1. 2040 Regional Parks System Plan Map

## Regional Parks System Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

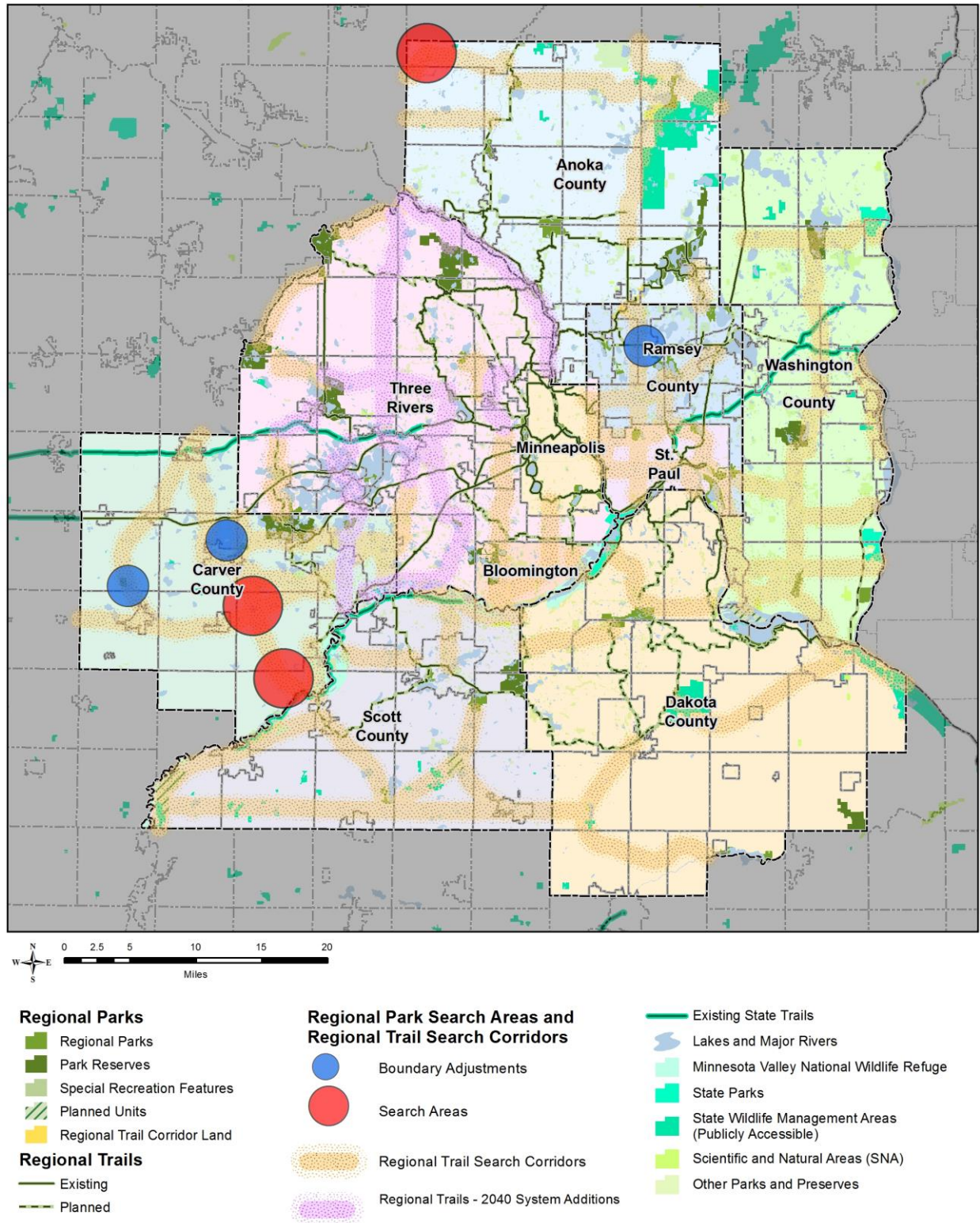


Figure 2. Regional Parks System Facilities in and adjacent to Helena Township

## Regional Parks System Helena Township, Scott County

