



Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation: Proposed Policy Direction

For confirmation September 4, 2013

Overall direction

The Metropolitan Council recognizes the essential role that bicycle and pedestrian trips play in the transportation network and quality of life in the region, allowing people to access jobs and education, to reach other means of travel (such as transit), and to live healthy and active lifestyles without contributing to congestion and air pollution.

The Council also recognizes that most bicycle and pedestrian planning, design and construction occurs at the city, county or park agency level. The Council will focus its bicycle and pedestrian efforts on regional-scale issues and coordination among jurisdictions in the region. The Council will work with its partners, including MnDOT, the Transportation Advisory Board and local jurisdictions, to expand the regional bicycle and pedestrian system and increase these modes' share of the regional trips over the coming decades. The Council encourages local jurisdictions to recognize planning and building pedestrian facilities as a component of new development.

The Council also recognizes that bicycle and pedestrian facilities often serve as the "last leg" of a regional transit trip and will work with local communities to ensure continuity for users.

Bicycle Facilities

The Council will collaborate with local communities, MnDOT, the Transportation Advisory Board and other partners to connect and improve bicycle facilities. Activities:

- Collect and share information, such as the Travel Behavior Inventory.
- Aggregate local bike plans into a shared format.
- Identify regionally important bicycle corridors in the TPP.
- Identify and work to eliminate gaps, barriers and links across jurisdictional borders.
- Identify opportunities to address health disparities by providing bicycle infrastructure.
- Provide technical assistance to communities, such as best practices or mapping.
- Encourage adoption of Complete Streets solutions by local communities where appropriate.
- Encourage local communities to include a bicycle plan in their comprehensive plan.

Pedestrian Facilities

The Council will:

- Identify important pedestrian connections to regional systems (such as transit stations, highways or regional parks).
- Work with partners to plan, construct and maintain pedestrian networks through transit project planning and development.
- Encourage local communities to acknowledge the importance of walking as a travel mode in their comprehensive plans, and to provide pedestrian plans and facilities where appropriate.

Additional detail about bicycle and pedestrian systems will be developed and adopted in the Transportation Policy Plan and the Regional Parks Policy Plan.