



Overview Discussion – Challenges & Opportunities

TAB

Oct. 18, 2017

Overview Content - Generally

- Introduction and background about the plan, the Council
- Summary of transportation in the region (TBI data, trends in development)
- Summary of existing transportation system
- **Regional Transportation Challenges and Opportunities**
- Goals, Objectives and Strategies
- Investing in Transportation
- Performance Outcomes
- Engagement Summary
- Mandated information, other administrative content

Challenges and Opportunities

Key Themes

- Pairing what we know with an uncertain future
- Investment and stewardship
- What we know about travel patterns
- Workforce and the economy
- Development and land use
- Congestion
- Technology
- Environmental impacts

Challenges and Opportunities

- Our highway and transit systems are at different stages of development – investment priorities will reflect these lifecycles.
 - Our highway system is essentially complete, is aging, and requires reconstruction
 - Our transit system is relatively new and still developing
- Travel patterns are changing
- We need many solutions, working together, to address the region's congestion
- Technology will continue to influence travel in the region
 - Automated vehicles, other technology
- Transportation affects equity and environmental justice, the environment, and the economy

Key Questions

- Is there anything missing?
- Are there particular themes that should be reflected in this section?

Outline
Transportation Policy Plan Overview (2018)
Section D: *Regional Transportation Challenges and Opportunities*

- **Our highway and transit systems are at different stages of development. Our investment priorities will reflect these different lifecycles, and these differences pose both challenges and opportunities.**
 - *Our highway system is essentially complete, is aging and requires reconstruction.*
 - ✓ Most of the metro's 700 miles of highway is 40 to 60 years old.
 - ✓ Pavement and bridges are deteriorating.
 - ✓ Preserving the existing highway system will be the priority into the foreseeable future.
 - ✓ Though the framework for the highway system is essentially in place, there will likely be significant reworking of existing highways – including prominent corridors that are aging (e.g. I-35W and I-94).
 - Changes to the highway system create the opportunity to modernize highways and improve how they function.
 - Highway reconstruction opens the door to revive and improve community engagement and include improvements desired by the community.
 - Original highway system was planned and built with little consideration for residents and the impact on their communities
 - Today: Planned reconstruction of I-94 between Minneapolis and St. Paul is an opportunity to engage residents and consider their needs, concerns and recommendations, particularly focusing on including improvements that help reconnect communities.
 - *Our transit system is relatively new and still developing.*
 - ✓ As a developing system, the region will primarily be investing in new transitways, facilities, and service to build out a more complete network.
 - ✓ Most of the system is relatively new, so a smaller overall percentage of the investments will be for maintenance and reconstruction.
- **Travel patterns are changing**
 - The region's demographic trends and anticipated changes suggest our region will need to adapt to changing lifestyles and choices across the generations – from housing, to employment, to transportation.
 - Youth, Millennials, Gen X, Baby Boomers – all will have different needs in the future.
 - Boomers and Millennials will likely have a larger impact simply because there is a higher number of people in these groups.
 - Data show the dramatic increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) of the past won't be repeated.
 - Millennials and young people have different travel patterns than previous generations, i.e., lower vehicle ownership, auto usage and percentage of driver licensure. We don't yet know
 - New housing development is increasing population density, which increases the use of alternative transportation modes (e.g., transit, walking, biking)
 - One-third of new job growth is expected to occur within ½ mile of existing and planned transitways.

- **We need many solutions, working together, to address the region’s congestion.**
 - Congestion reflects our region’s population growth and prosperity.
 - The region’s population has grown by 150,000, with 165,000 added jobs in since 2010.
 - We’re investing significant resources into our highway system to address congestion and improve how the system works.
 - As our region continues to grow, we will need to be more creative and use all the tools at our disposal. As we invest, we will need to assure a truly multi-modal system.
 - Investments that improve travel within and through congested corridors
 - More reliable, predictable travel options along congested corridors
 - Integrate all modes of transportation, i.e., single-occupancy vehicles, shared vehicles, transit, high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes (MnPASS) throughout the system.
 - Improved access for commuters to job locations via multiple modes
 - Encourage land use and development that supports multi-model transportation
 - Providing alternatives that encourage travel outside traditional commuting times
 - Support efficient freight movement

- **Technology will continue to influence travel in the region**
 - Technology is interwoven into nearly all travel today in the region
 - Electric vehicles
 - Changing freight patterns due to automation and consumer choices (e.g. Amazon orders, versus shopping in stores)
 - There are technologies that will influence travel in the future that we may not even know about yet. The Council is studying the impacts and monitoring trends so we can help shape the conversation as it evolves.
 - Autonomous vehicles could have the most significant impact on travel in our region.
 - Availability of automated vehicles is expected soon, although actual timing is unknown. This makes planning more of a challenge.
 - Automated vehicles will bring changes in the near term and over time. Possible realities include:
 - An extended period of transition with both automated and driver controlled vehicles;
 - A need for funding to update traffic management;
 - A shift in marketplace economics for many sectors, affecting purchasing, travel patterns and jobs;
 - An impact on land and facility use; and
 - New opportunities for those who have limited mobility.
 - Automation influences access to destinations, particularly if it is costly – both on the positive and the negative.
 - The Metropolitan Council, along with state and federal partners, is conducting ongoing studies of the potential affects of automated vehicles, both in the short term and long term, so we will be ready when it is a reality in our region.
 - We are studying how a number of different possible scenarios would affect the region’s transportation system.
 - We’re also compiling other emerging trends and research to apply to what we know about our region.

- **Transportation affects equity and environmental justice, the environment, and the economy**
 - Equity – transportation policy affects access to opportunities
 - The Twin Cities must deal with the region’s socio-economic disparities in education, employment, income and homeownership, balanced with the costs of transportation.
 - Poverty in suburban and rural areas has increased substantially; owning a vehicle can be prohibitive and transit accessibility declines considerably beyond the boundaries of Minneapolis and St. Paul.
 - By 2040, the region’s population will be older and include 40% people of color, demanding policies, action and funding that deliver equity.
 - Environment – significantly impacted by transportation behavior
 - Greenhouse gas emissions from on-road vehicles are decreasing, but still cause nearly a quarter of air pollution emissions in Minnesota.
 - Transportation systems also contribute to the overall levels of standard air pollutants in the region – we need to do more to reduce emissions.
 - Use of electric vehicles will improve overall emissions.
 - Low income and minority populations have higher than average exposure and risks from air pollution, due to proximity to roadways.
 - Addressing standards set forth in the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act.
 - Economy – Jobs aren’t close to the people who need them; transportation costs affect choices.
 - Congestion has a significant impact on the region’s economy. We must address it to minimize and mitigate these impacts.
 - Access to job vacancies via transit varies greatly by employer and location
 - More entry level job vacancies today are in suburban areas
 - Unemployed workers are heavily concentrated in inner cities and lack transit access to suburban employment opportunities. Without a car, opportunities plummet.
 - Transitway investments will improve access to jobs.