

Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee

Twin Cities Regional Bicycle Barriers Study

June 27, 2016




Study Background

Regional Bicycle Transportation Network

- Established in 2040 Transportation Policy Plan
 - Goal of the RBTN:
To establish an integrated seamless network of on-street bikeways and off-road trails to effectively improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level.
 - TPP Strategies:
Regional transportation partners should
 - *Focus investments on improving the RBTN.*
 - *Fund projects that provide for bicycle and pedestrian travel across or around physical barriers & improve continuity between jurisdictions.*

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






Other Trail Systems

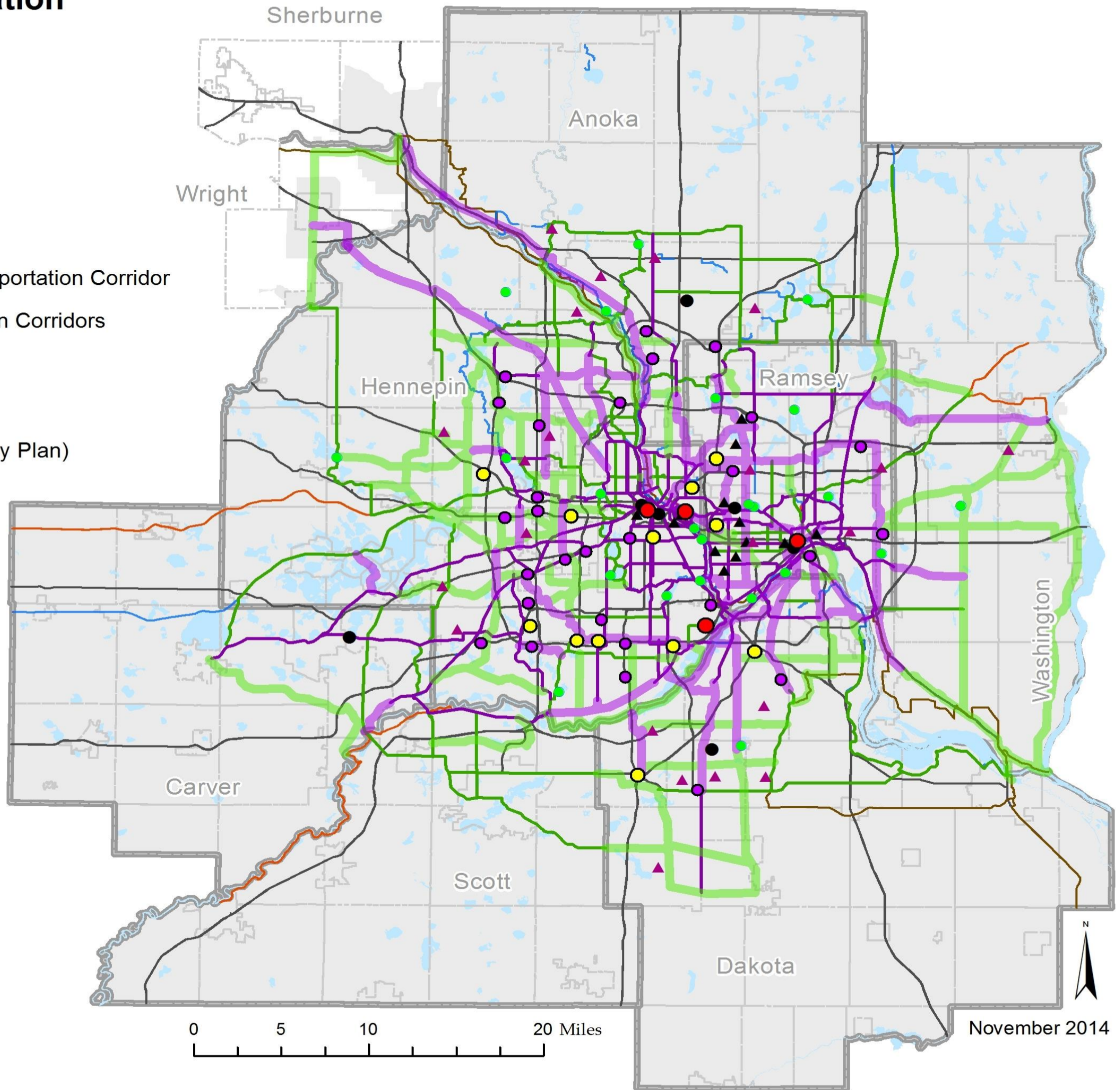
-  Regional Trails (Regional Parks Policy Plan)
-  Mississippi River Trail (US Route 45)
-  State Trails (DNR)

Regional Destinations

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

Reference Items

-  Principal Arterial Roads
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  City Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  2040 Municipal Urban Service Area MPO Area



November 2014

Study Background

Critical Bicycle Transportation Links serve one or more of the following functions:

- *Close a gap in the RBTN or connect a local bikeway to a major regional destination.*
- *Improve continuity and connections between jurisdictions (on or off the RBTN)*
- *Improve or remove a physical barrier (on or off the RBTN)*

Study Purpose




- Assess existing and potential bicycle crossing opportunities of regional barriers
- Analyze major physical barriers to bicycling and where they most impact continuity of the RBTN and local bicycle networks
- Inform the TPP update

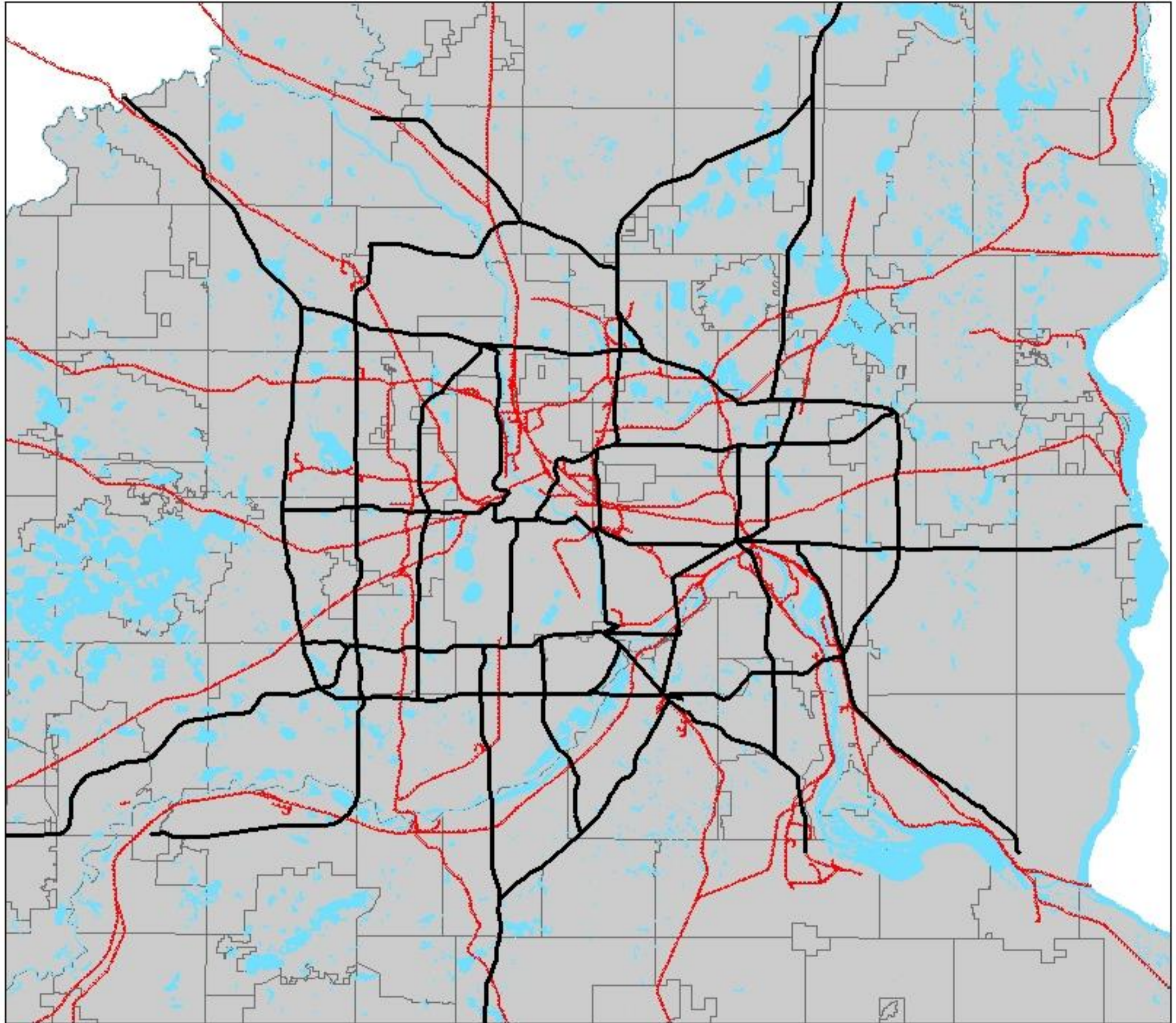
Scope of Study

Study will consider major *physical* regional barriers to bicycle travel including:

- Rivers and streams
- Railroad corridors
- Freeways and expressways

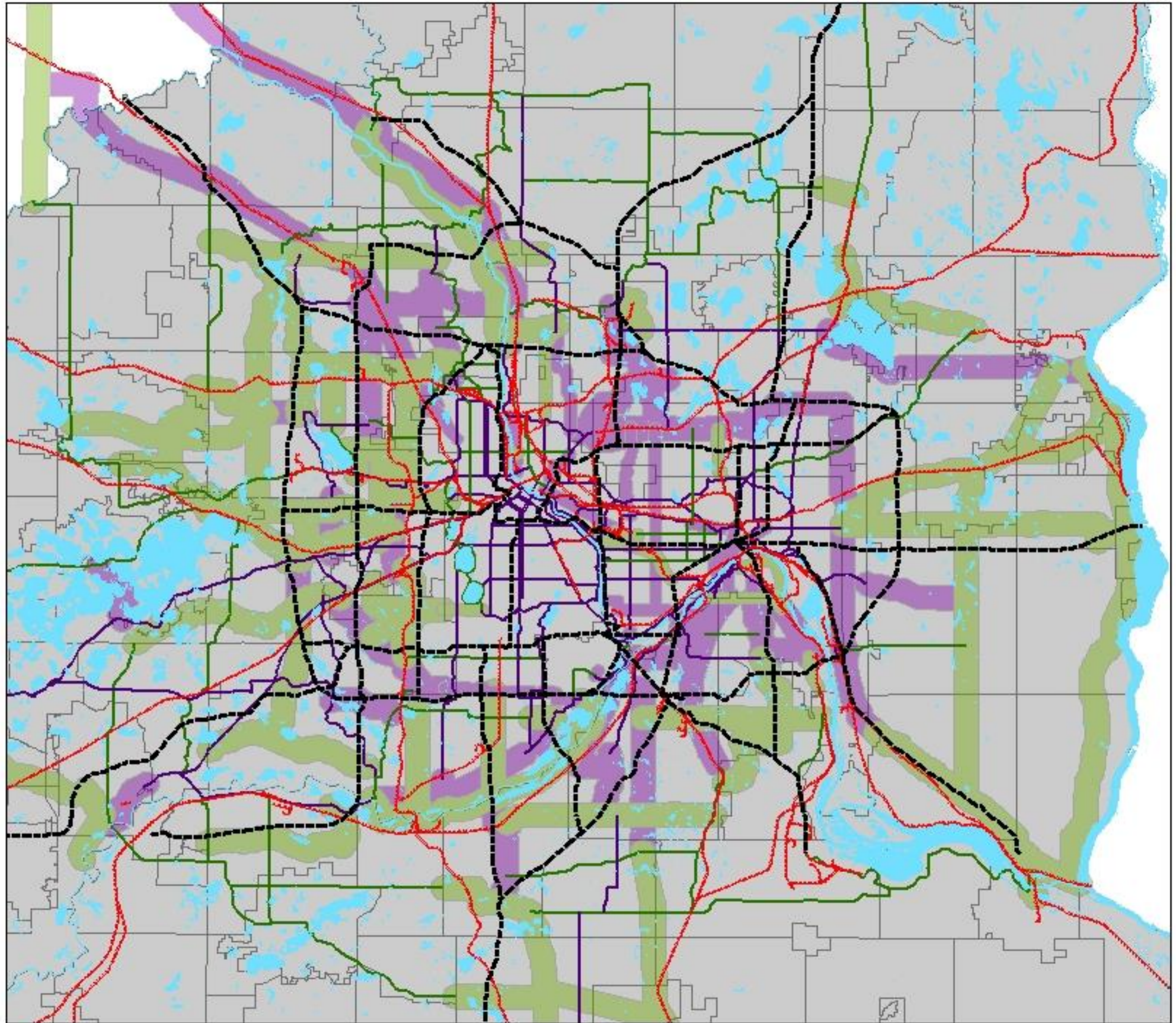
Regional Bicycle Transportation Barriers

-  Freeways
-  Railways
-  Lakes and Rivers



Regional Bicycle Transportation Barriers

-  Freeways
-  Railways
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  Tier 1 Alignment
-  Tier 2 Alignment
-  Tier 1 Corridor
-  Tier 2 Corridor



Scope of Study

To minimize the extent of barriers and potential crossings examined, some limitations are applied:

- Only consider secondary rivers and streams
- Railroad corridors, but not at-grade public crossings
- Freeways as conveyors of new bicycle crossings will not be considered

Scope of Study

Key Study Tasks:

1. Identify existing barrier crossings
2. Determine preferred minimum spacing of barrier crossings
3. Provide opportunities for public input from diverse user groups
4. Identify deficiencies in barrier crossing opportunities
5. Evaluate and rank potential new crossing locations
6. Identify 6 high potential demonstration sites for planning level concept/development

Public Engagement

- Round one public workshops:
 - Two workshops to review regional barriers map, preferred spacing of barrier crossings, crossing evaluation criteria and weights.
- Round two public workshops:
 - Two workshops to review solution concepts at six demonstration sites for potential barrier crossing improvements.
- Ongoing interactive web page

Agency Engagement

Technical Advisory Work Group

- Met Council
- Each of seven counties
- MnDOT
- Saint Paul and Minneapolis
- Several suburban cities
- One or more bicycle advocacy organizations
- One or more parks agency representatives

Study Outcomes

1. Determination of insufficient opportunities to cross regional barriers by bicycle
2. Ranked critical barrier crossing locations based on relative need to reduce distances between crossings
3. Opportunities to increase awareness of barrier crossing needs on the RBTN and local networks
4. Opportunity to identify and highlight new barrier crossing improvement locations
5. Selection of six high-potential barrier crossing improvement sites for planning level analysis

Potential Uses of Study Results

- List of critical crossing locations to be incorporated into TPP bicycle chapter
- Use of data and/or identified rankings may be applied in project selection process for Regional Solicitation funding
- Elevate importance of local bicycle network connections needing improvement
- Assist in planning for RBTN implementation
- Elevate visibility of local barrier crossing opportunities in local bicycle plans and potential for implementation.

Next Steps

- Study to commence in September
- Nine to 10 month timeline to conduct
- First public workshops in Dec/January
- Will update Transportation Committee next Spring
- June 2017 completion

Thank you

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