

# REGIONAL BICYCLE BARRIERS STUDY

## LOCAL PLANNING HANDBOOK

The Council is updating its *2040 Transportation Policy Plan (2040 TPP)*, as required by federal law every four years. The Regional Bicycle Barriers Study will be part of the *2040 TPP* (Summer 2018). The Study will include identifying physical barriers to bicycle routes in the region and rank new barrier crossing improvements needed for better connection and continuity. The Study findings will be linked in the Local Planning Handbook's "Get More Out of Your Plan" section of the [Transportation plan element](#), Bicycling and Walking.

### What is the Study about?

The Study is a regional-level evaluation of existing physical barriers as they affect bicycling for transportation (i.e., commuting, shopping/errands, entertainment). Major physical barriers to bicycle travel include rivers and streams, railroad corridors, freeways, and expressways. The study will:

- Assess existing and potential bicycle crossings opportunities over regional barriers and prioritize a list of such barriers;
- Analyze the region's major physical barriers to bicycling and how they impact the continuity of the RBTN and local networks;
- Help determine the preferred minimum spacing of such barrier crossing opportunities;
- Identifying deficiencies in spacing and frequency of barrier crossing opportunities;
- Evaluate and rank potential new barrier crossing improvement locations;
- Identify six demonstration sites with high potential for a barrier crossing project.

The Study began in 2016 and includes coordination with a transportation advisory workgroup that includes both public and private contributors. The study is anticipated to be completed summer 2017.

### Regional Bicycle and Transportation Network

The Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) is an important component of the overall regional transportation system. It consists of [prioritized alignments and corridors](#) (where specific alignments are yet to be designated) that were developed for and adopted into the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan (2040 TPP)*.



Midtown Greenway bike corridor in Minneapolis

The goal of the RBTN is to establish an integrated seamless network of on-street bikeways and off-road trails to improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level and to encourage planning and implementation of future bikeways by cities, counties, parks agencies, and the state, to support the network vision.

For the 2040 comprehensive plan updates, the Local Planning Handbook includes minimum requirements related to the RBTN, which include addressing physical barriers to the RBTN and local networks. The Council will be doing a Regional Bicycle Barriers Study to further evaluate barriers to bicycle transportation and identify prioritized barrier improvements.



Major roads and rail corridors can be significant barriers to bicyclists.