

## INTRODUCTION

MRCCA plans must provide for public transportation facilities and public utilities in a manner consistent with Chapter 6106. Public transportation facilities are defined as all transportation facilities provided by federal, state, or local government and dedicated to public use, such as roadways, transit facilities, railroads, and bikeways. Public utilities are defined as electric power facilities, essential services, and transmissions services. Electric power facilities, essential services, and transmission services are further defined in the rules.

Transportation and utilities can have negative impacts on scenic views, habitat and soil erosion. Development of these facilities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts. MRCCA plans should describe methods for minimizing impacts to the corridor's resources from transportation and utility facilities.

## MINIMUM MRCCA PLAN REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Map and Describe

- Map and describe existing and future planned public transportation facilities within the MRCCA. This requirement can be met by including these facilities on the relevant “Roadways,” “Transit,” and “Bicycling and Walking” maps required under the Metropolitan Council’s Transportation and Parks and Trails Plan elements. The MRCCA boundary must be shown on these maps in order to identify existing and planned facilities in the MRCCA.
- Map and describe existing and future planned public utilities within the MRCCA. Specifically:
  - Electric power generating facilities: **Map** existing and planned power generating facilities, including solar farms and wind generation and **describe** impacts to primary conservation areas (PCAs) and public river corridor views (PRCVs). If there are no existing or planned facilities or they are prohibited in your community, or if there are existing or planned facilities but no impacts to PCAs or PRCVs, please state so.
  - Describe any existing or planned zoning districts where these facilities would be allowed and identify any areas within these zoning areas where these facilities could negatively impact PCAs and PRCVs. If none, please state so.
  - Essential services and transmission services: Describe impacts of existing and planned underground and overhead facilities that impact primary conservation areas (PCAs) and public river corridor views (PRCVs). For example, key facilities causing impacts include pipelines, transmission lines, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and water systems, and intake and outfall structures, or other surface structures associated with these systems. If there are no existing or planned facilities or if there are existing or planned facilities but no impacts to PCAs or PRCVs, please state so.

### 2. Policies

#### A. Required Policies

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Minimize impacts to PCAs and PRCVs from solar and wind generation facilities, public transportation facilities and public utilities.

#### B. Examples

The following example policies are from existing MRCCA plans, and are meant to provide ideas for developing policies related to transportation and public utilities (not all requirements identified above have a corresponding example):

- Ensure future development emphasizes continuous open space, minimizes utility and infrastructure needs and crossings (including transportation river crossings and concentrates them at existing crossings where possible), and allows for scenic vistas, trails and walkways. (Ramsey)
- Work with federal, state, and local government agencies and environmental protection groups to study the need for a potential bridge crossing. This includes studying alternatives such as expansion of existing bridges, adding additional lanes to existing crossings, and considering a greater reliance on intermodal transportation. (Ramsey)
- In planning and designing construction or reconstruction of all public transportation facilities in the corridor,

consideration shall be given to provision for scenic overlooks, safe pedestrian crossings, public riverfront access, and reasonable use of land between the river and roadway. (Ramsey)

- Minimize utility crossings and encourage location of necessary crossings along existing bridges and utility crossings. If feasible, crossing should be underground and should not negatively impact natural or cultural significant resources. (Fridley)
- Property within the Hastings MRCCA/MNRRRA Corridor shall not be utilized as rights-of-way for new or modified above ground utility facilities unless it can be demonstrated by the proponent of a utility that the utility cannot be feasibly be place underground and it will not substantially impact the planned land and water uses of the area. (Hastings)
- Encourage, where practical, the placing of utilities underground. (Denmark Twp.)

### 3. Implementation Actions

#### A. Required Implementation Actions

These can be used verbatim or customized as appropriate:

- Include transportation facilities in the capital improvement program. If applicable, identify which facilities, or portions of facilities, are in the MRCCA.
- Incorporate specific design and placement conditions that minimize impacts to PCAs and PRCVs into local permits for solar and wind generation facilities and essential and transmission services (if allowed or within the community's permitting authority). (**Note:** Permit conditions will be a required element of MRCCA ordinance review and approval.)

#### B. Examples

None provided.

## MRCCA ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Following is a summary of the types of MRCCA ordinance requirements that local governments must adopt. Understanding these requirements will help guide development of the MRCCA plan for effective ordinance administration.

### General Development Standards for Public Facilities

1. Facilities must be designed and constructed to:
  - a. Minimize visibility of the facility
  - b. Comply with structure and bluff setback, height, and lot area standards, unless subject to applicable exceptions.
  - c. Be consistent with the vegetation management, land alteration, and stormwater standards
  - d. Avoid Primary Conservation Areas (PCAs)
  - e. Minimize disturbance of spawning and nesting times
2. In conducting facility right-of-way maintenance
  - a. Natural vegetation must be maintained to the extent feasible
  - b. When natural vegetation is removed, it must be replaced with native plants
  - c. Chemical control of vegetation must be avoided.
3. Specific standards for recreational facilities:
  - a. Scenic overlooks.
  - b. Safe pedestrian crossings.
  - c. Access to the riverfront in public ownership
  - d. Use of land between the river and the transportation facility

## MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Matthew Bauman ([matthew.bauman@state.mn.us](mailto:matthew.bauman@state.mn.us)) at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for additional information.

Content prepared by:



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Metropolitan Council  
390 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

[metro council.org](http://metro council.org)

Main: 651.602.1000  
TTY: 651.291.0904  
Public Information: 651.602.1500  
[public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)

