Chapter 2: Policies and Strategies

The purpose of this *Transportation Policy Plan* is to guide development of the region's transportation system to the year 2030 and to provide for an integrated multimodal transportation system that advances regional land use and growth management goals. This section contains policies and strategies to help achieve the regional vision as defined by the *Regional Development Framework*.

The Council develops broad action policies so regional issues are effectively addressed. Accompanying strategies provide specific methods for implementing those policies. The Council and other partners will implement the policies and strategies to bring about the transportation facilities and services called for in this plan. This chapter contains all of the policies and strategies. Particular policies and strategies are also repeated and if necessary expanded upon in the corresponding chapters of this plan, for instance the highway policies and strategies are contained in Chapter 6: Highways.

Transportation System Investment Policies

Policy 1: Ensure Adequate Resources for Transportation System Investments

The Metropolitan Council will identify and pursue an adequate level of resources for regional transportation investments. The first priority is to ensure that adequate resources are available to preserve, operate and maintain the existing systems and the second is to seek resources to address identified but unmet needs and demands.

Strategy 1a. Resources Available and Needed: The Metropolitan Council will identify (1) transportation resources currently available and reasonably expected to be available in the future, (2) the level of resources needed for transportation investments in preservation, operations and maintenance of existing systems and (3) resources required to meet unmet needs and demands.

Strategy 1b. Adequate Resources: The Metropolitan Council, working with the Governor, Legislature, local governments and others will pursue an adequate level of transportation resources to preserve, operate and maintain existing systems and to meet identified unmet needs.

Policy 2: Prioritizing for Regional Transportation Investments

The priorities for regional transportation investments are to adequately preserve, operate and maintain existing transportation systems and to make additional transportation investments on the basis of need and demand consistent with the policies, strategies and priorities of this policy plan and the *Regional Development Framework.*

Strategy 2a. System Preservation: The first priority for transportation investments for all modes is the preservation, operation and maintenance of existing systems and facilities.

Figure 2-1: Transit ridership is increasing, with investments being made to the system to meet the goal of doubling ridership by 2030.

Strategy 2b. Highway System Investments: After preservation, operations and maintenance, the second priority for highway system investments is to effectively manage the system and third is expansion that optimizes the performance of the system.

Strategy 2c. Transit Capital and Operating Investments: After preservation, operations and maintenance of the existing transit system, regional transit capital and operating investments will be made to expand the local and express bus system and develop a network of rail and bus transitways to meet the 2030 goal of doubling transit ridership and 2020 goal of a 50% ridership increase.

Strategy 2d. Bicycle and Pedestrian Investments: The Council will encourage roadway and transit investments to include provisions for bicycle and pedestrian travel. Funding priority for separate bicycle and pedestrian improvements will be based on their ability to accomplish regional transportation objectives for bicycling and walking.

Strategy 2e. Multimodal Investments: Criteria used by the region to prioritize projects for federal funding will encourage multimodal investments. Examples of such investments include bus-only shoulders, high-occupancy vehicle and high-occupancy toll (HOV/HOT) lanes, priced dynamic shoulder lanes, HOV bypasses at highway interchanges, bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit stations and corridors and rail/truck intermodal terminals.

Policy 3: Investments in Regional Mobility

The Council recognizes that congestion will not be eliminated or significantly reduced in the Metropolitan Area. Therefore, to maximize regional mobility, congestion and demand must be managed to the extent possible and alternatives to congestion provided where feasible.

Strategy 3a. Congestion Management Process: The Council, working with Mn/DOT, has developed the Transportation Policy Plan as the Congestion Management Process (CMP) to meet federal requirements. The CMP incorporates and coordinates the various activities of Mn/DOT, transit providers, counties, cities and TMOs to increase the efficiency of the multimodal transportation system, reduce SOV use, and provide lower-cost / high-benefit safety and mobility projects, where feasible.

Strategy 3b. Apply Person Throughput as a Performance Measure: The region's highway system will be operated, managed, and improved to maximize usage of existing facility capacity, pavement, and right-of-way and to increase people-moving capacity as measured by person throughput.

Strategy 3c. Provide Alternatives to Congestion: The region will continue to develop and implement a system of bus-only shoulders and managed lanes (i.e., high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes and priced or non-priced dynamic shoulder lanes) to achieve travel time savings by providing alternatives to traveling in congested highway conditions.

Strategy 3d. Travel Demand Management Initiatives: The region will promote a wide range of Travel Demand Management (TDM) initiatives that help to avoid and manage congestion. The initiatives will be responsive to changing attitudes and the economy to help reduce automobile use, especially during the most congested times of the day. Local and regional TDM efforts will focus on employment centers and corridors with significant investments in multimodal options (e.g., managed lanes).

Figure 2-2: Monitoring and mitigating congestion will continue to be a priority

Strategy 3e. Parking Pricing and Availability: The Council will continue to work with its TDM partners to help define the relationship of parking supply (including minimum/maximum requirements), demand, location, and cost relative to the use of SOVs versus transit and other modes.

Strategy 3f. Promoting Alternatives: The Council and its regional partners will promote and market transportation choices that allow travelers to avoid and help manage growth in congestion by riding transit, bicycling, walking, vanpooling and carpooling, or using managed lanes.

Strategy 3g. Alleviate Highway Construction Impacts: The Council, regional transit providers, and TMOs will work with Mn/DOT and local units of government to determine where and when transit service improvements and TDM actions may be appropriate to alleviate traffic delays and impacts related to highway construction.

Strategy 3h. Monitor Congestion Mitigation: Mn/DOT, working with the Council and other partners, will monitor and evaluate, through the CMP, the spectrum of congestion mitigation and avoidance actions put in place in the region and modify future investments accordingly.

Policy 4: Coordination of Transportation Investments and Land Use

Regional transportation investments will be coordinated with land use objectives to help implement the *Regional Development Framework's* growth strategy and support the region's economic vitality and quality of life.

Strategy 4a. Accessibility: The Council will promote land use planning and development practices that maximize accessibility to jobs, housing and services.

Strategy 4b. Alternative Modes: Transportation investments and land development will be coordinated to create an environment supportive of travel by modes other than the automobile including travel by transit, walking and bicycling.

Strategy 4c. Increased Jobs and Housing Concentrations: Transportation investments and land development along major transportation corridors will be coordinated to intensify job centers, increase transportation links between job centers and medium-to-high density residential developments and improve the jobs/housing connections.

Strategy 4d. Transit as Catalyst for Development: Transitways and the arterial bus system should be catalysts for the development and growth of major employment centers and residential nodes to form an interconnected network of higher density nodes along transit corridors. Local units of government are encouraged to develop and implement local comprehensive plans and zoning and community development strategies, including parking policies, that ensure more intensified development along transitways and arterial bus routes.

Strategy 4e. Local Comprehensive Plans: Local comprehensive plans must conform to the *Transportation Policy Plan* and should recognize the special transportation opportunities and problems that various *Development Framework* planning areas present with regard to transportation and land uses.

Strategy 4f. Local Transportation Planning: Local governments should plan for and implement a system of interconnected arterial and local streets, pathways and bikeways to meet local travel needs without using the Regional Highway System. These interconnections will reduce congestion, provide access to jobs, services and retail, and support transit.

Strategy 4g. Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA): Local governments within the MUSA should plan for a prospective 20 years and stage their transportation infrastructure to meet the needs of forecast growth. Outside the Metropolitan Urban Service Area transportation plans and facilities and land use patterns must be compatible with the region's need for future sewered development and protection of agriculture.

Policy 5: Investments in Regional, National and Global Connections

The Metropolitan Council, Mn/DOT and other agencies will pursue transportation investments that will strengthen the Twin Cities connections with other regions, the nation and other countries and contribute to the economic development and competitiveness of the Twin Cities region.

Strategy 5a. Interregional and National Highway Connections: Mn/DOT, the Council and other agencies will pursue a strong and efficient highway system that connects travelers and freight with other regions in Minnesota and other states.

Strategy 5b. Intercity Passenger Rail and Bus Connections: Mn/DOT, the Metropolitan Council and other agencies will pursue improved regional and national connections using alternative transportation modes such as intercity passenger rail (including high-speed rail) and bus service.

Figure 2-3: Work will be done to maintain Minneapolis-St. Paul airport as a major passenger hub.

Strategy 5c. Freight Connections: Mn/DOT, the Metropolitan Council and other agencies will pursue improved freight connections between the Twin Cities and other regions through improved state highways, interregional rail service, a strong air freight system and the Mississippi River system.

Strategy 5d. Connections by Air: The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), the Metropolitan Council, Mn/DOT and other agencies will work to maintain a strong airport system, including maintaining the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport as a major passenger hub.

Policy 6: Public Participation in Transportation Planning and Investment Decisions

The Council and its regional partners will promote public participation in formulating transportation policy, developing transportation plans and making transportation investment decisions.

Strategy 6a. Public Participation: The Metropolitan Council, the Transportation Advisory Board and Mn/DOT will foster a variety of public participation activities and methods to communicate with the public to solicit broad participation, comment, review and debate on proposed plans and implementation proposals.

Strategy 6b. Interjurisdictional Coordination and Participation: The Council will coordinate with cities, counties and government agencies in planning and implementing regional investment and policy through the Transportation Advisory Board and its Technical Advisory Committee and subcommittees, as well as by participating in some local planning initiatives and providing technical assistance.

Strategy 6c. Participation of Underrepresented Populations: The Council will recruit representatives of groups traditionally underrepresented in regional policymaking and provide enhanced participation opportunities to encourage people who belong to underrepresented groups to share their unique perspectives, comments and suggestions.

Strategy 6d. Public Awareness of Transportation Issues: The Council will utilize a variety of media and technologies to actively engage and inform the public regarding important transportation issues.

Strategy 6e. Transit Customer Involvement: The Council will continue to solicit community, municipal and customer involvement in transit planning and service restructuring to ensure that transit is tailored to meet community needs and markets for travel.

Policy 7: Investments in Preserving of Right-of-Way

Rights-of-way for future transportation infrastructure are difficult to obtain, and as they become available should be preserved as corridors for public use. The Council will facilitate and promote cooperation among the implementing agencies regarding funding priorities, ownership, maintenance and near- and long-term use of linear rights-of-way.

Figure 2-4: Transportation options are an important design consideration for all investments

Strategy 7a: Preservation of Railroad Rights-of-Way: The Council will support an interagency approach to preserving abandoned railroad rights-of-way which can accommodate a variety of public uses for transportation, recreation and habitat preservation.

Strategy 7b: Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF): The Council's Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund will be used to preserve right-of-way for the highway projects consistent with this policy plan.

Strategy 7c. Identification of Right-of-Way in Local Plans: Local transportation plans should identify future right-of-way needs for roads, transit, bikeways and walkways and describe procedures to preserve them, including official mapping.

Policy 8: Energy and Environmental Considerations in Transportation Investments

Transportation planning and investment decisions will consider and seek to minimize impacts on the environment.

Figure 2-5: Parks represent a long standing value of Twin Cities residents

Strategy 8a. Reduction of Transportation Emissions: The Council will promote strategies to reduce transportation emissions of pollutants identified in the federal Clean Air Act and its amendments.

Strategy 8b. Compliance with Federal Standards: Projects that help the region maintain compliance with federal air quality standards will have funding priority over projects that do not.

Strategy 8c. Preservation of Cultural and Natural Resources: Regional transportation projects should give special consideration to the preservation and enhancement of the region's cultural and natural resources, and should be consistent with regional plans and policies for parks and open space to the extent feasible.

Strategy 8d. Protection of Surface Water: The Council will work to ensure that surface water management programs and policies are implemented in the metropolitan area when transportation facilities are planned and implemented.

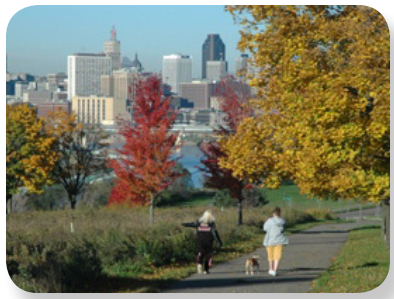

Figure 2-6: Transportation projects must adhere to federal standards, such as air quality

Strategy 8e. Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The Council will support and implement initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including programs that reduce the impact of transit on energy usage and the environment such as Metro Transit's "Go Greener" initiative.

Strategy 8f. Transit Priority for Fuel: In times of limited resources, the Council will advocate that transit be given priority for available fuel.

Figure 2-7: New fuel options are already being implemented

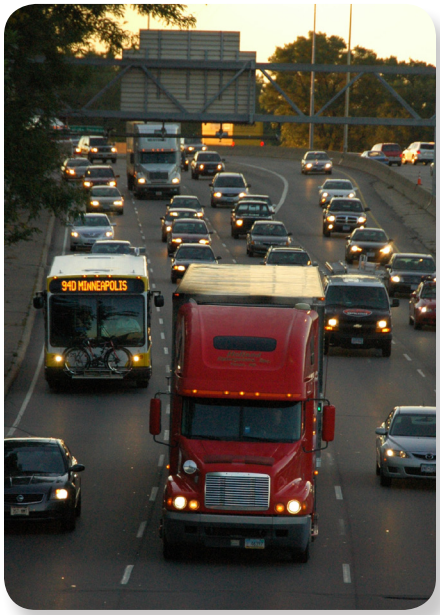

Figure 2-8: A highway is a multimodal facility capable of carrying cars, buses and trucks.

Figure 2-9: HOT lanes represent a method to add market forces to manage congestion.

Highway System Policies

Policy 9: Highway Planning

The Council, Mn/DOT, and local governments will plan the Metropolitan and Regional Highway Systems and local roads to provide a cost-effective, multimodal and safe roadway system that reflects the needs of a growing population and economy.

Strategy 9a. Planning in the Context of Congestion: The Council, Mn/DOT and local units of government will plan for the Metropolitan Highway System with the understanding that congestion will not be eliminated or significantly reduced. However, congestion should and can be mitigated if travel alternatives are provided, travel demand patterns are changed and appropriate land use configurations are implemented.

Strategy 9b. Multimodal System: The Council, Mn/DOT, local governments and transit providers will plan for and implement a multimodal roadway system. Highway planning and corridor studies will give priority to alternatives that include high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) and managed lanes (high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, bus-only shoulders, priced dynamic shoulder lanes) and other transit advantages that help mitigate congestion.

Strategy 9c. Optimize Metropolitan Trunk Highways: The Council, working with Mn/DOT, will define the most cost-effective techniques and types of projects to optimize the performance of the highway system as measured by person, rather than vehicle, throughput. Optimization techniques and projects will maximize utilization of existing system capacity, pavement and right-of-way and may include, but are not limited to, managed lanes such as high-occupancy vehicle and toll (HOV/HOT) lanes, bus-only shoulders and priced dynamic shoulder lanes.

Strategy 9d. Congestion Management Process: A Congestion Management Process (CMP) that meets federal requirements is included in this plan (Chapter 5 Regional Mobility). The CMP incorporates and coordinates the various activities of Mn/DOT, transit providers, counties, cities and Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) in increasing the efficiency of the multimodal transportation system, reducing vehicle use and providing lower-cost safety and mobility projects where feasible.

Strategy 9e. Interconnected Roadway Network: Local and county governments shall plan a system of multimodal interconnected collector roads and minor arterials to serve short and medium-length trips.

Strategy 9f. Roadway Jurisdiction: The agency with jurisdiction over, and responsibility for a roadway should be matched to the role the roadway plays in the regional roadway system. For example, Mn/DOT should be responsible for principal arterials.

Strategy 9g. Corridor Studies: Any corridor study or sub-area study focused on a trunk highway and conducted by a local government or interagency task force must be accepted by Mn/DOT and

Figure 2-10: Road maintenance will continue to be a high priority in the region

adopted by the Metropolitan Council as consistent with this policy plan prior to implementing the study recommendations or making regional highway investments.

Strategy 9h. Context-Sensitive Design: All new and reconstructed roads will be planned and designed in a way that protects and enhances the environment and is sensitive to community attributes and objectives.

Strategy 9i. Coordination with Adjacent Counties: The Council will work cooperatively with Mn/DOT, adjacent area transportation partnerships and local units of government to support connections between the Metropolitan Highway System and the counties surrounding the seven-county metropolitan area.

Policy 10: Preserve, Operate and Maintain the Metropolitan Highway System

A high priority for the region is to continue focusing highway investments toward the safe operation, preservation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Highway System.

Strategy 10a. Budget for Preservation: Mn/DOT should regularly budget adequate resources for existing facilities preservation, operations and maintenance to fully utilize the design life and minimize the investment required over the life-cycle of facilities.

Strategy 10b. Diversified Investments: Mn/DOT should strive to meet its preservation performance targets while also recognizing the need for a diversified investment plan that allows for safety and congestion mitigation so as to optimize system performance.

Strategy 10c. Integrate Preservation with Congestion Mitigation and Safety: Mn/DOT should regularly review planned preservation and maintenance projects to determine if there are opportunities to include lower-cost congestion mitigation and safety improvements.

The existing process to identify opportunities to integrate preservation projects with congestion mitigation and safety projects is more important than ever. A similar approach should be used by cities and counties as they undertake local highway projects.

Policy 11: Highway System Management and Improvements

The Metropolitan Highway System and “A” minor arterial system will be managed and improved to provide for maximum person throughput, safety and mobility using existing facility capacity, pavement and right-of-way where feasible.

Strategy 11a. Investments in Managing the Highway System: After preservation, operations and maintenance, investments to manage and optimize performance of the highway system and improve safety are the region’s next highest priority.

Strategy 11b. Embracing Technology: The Council and Mn/DOT will use and implement cost-effective technology solutions to manage and optimize the performance of the existing highway system as measured by person throughput.

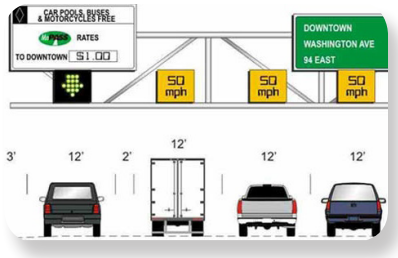

Figure 2-11: Technology represents one method to mitigate congestion

Strategy 11c. Affect Travel Patterns: The Metropolitan Highway System should be managed with the understanding that congestion may be mitigated with greater efficiencies in the highway system performance and changes in travel patterns.

Strategy 11d. Optimize Highway System Performance: Mn/DOT and the Council will implement techniques to optimize performance of metropolitan highway facilities as measured by person throughput. These optimization projects will maximize use of existing facility capacity, pavement and right-of-way and may include, but are not limited to, implementation of HOV and HOT lanes, priced dynamic shoulders and other roadway pricing initiatives, freeway ramp meters with HOV bypasses, and bus-only shoulders.

Strategy 11e. Access Management: State, county and local governments will manage access to the Regional Highway System. The capacity, safety, and utility of principal and "A" minor arterials are dictated in large part by how access to these roadways is provided and managed. Managing the location and design and new or reconstructed street and driveway connections to these arterials is a key strategy to preserve the existing capacity and enhance the safety of these roadways. Managing access consistently throughout the system will require a cooperative effort among Mn/DOT, counties, cities and townships. (See Appendix D and E)

Strategy 11f. Pricing: The Council supports roadway pricing, including HOT lanes and priced dynamic shoulder lanes, to provide an alternative to congestion and will consider implementing pricing on any expansion project.

Strategy 11g. Highway Expansion: Strategic capacity expansion projects can mitigate congestion in the region. Because of financial constraints, however, highway expansion projects should not be implemented at the expense of system preservation and management.

Transit System Policies

Policy 12: Transit System Planning

Regional transit providers should plan, develop and operate their transit service so that it is cost-effective, reliable and attractive, providing mobility that reflects the region's diverse land use, socioeconomic conditions and travel patterns and mitigating roadway congestion with the goal of doubling regional transit ridership by 2030 and a 50% increase in ridership by 2020.

Figure 2-12: In areas of lower population and employment density, express bus service from park-and-ride locations provides transit options for commuters.

Strategy 12a. Transit Services Tailored to Diverse Markets: Diverse transit markets need different transit service strategies, service hours, operating frequencies, and capital improvements. To tailor transit service to these diverse market needs, regional transit providers will follow the standards and service delivery strategies as outlined in Appendix G: Transit Market Areas and Service Standards.

Strategy 12b. Transit Service Options: Transit providers will pursue a broad range of transit service options and modes to match transit services to demand.

Figure 2-13: Hiawatha LRT is integrated with the bus system to provide easy transfers to other modes.

Strategy 12c. Transit Centers and Stations: Regional providers will plan and design a transit network that utilizes Transit Centers and Stations to connect various types of transit service options. Transit Centers and Stations will also link transit to local land use and enable the network to provide efficient service to a wider geographic area through timed transfers.

Strategy 12d. Park-and-Rides: Transit providers will work with cities to expand regional park-and-ride facilities to support service expansion as expected growth occurs within express corridor areas and along dedicated transitways.

Strategy 12e. Underrepresented Populations: Regional transit providers will continue to ensure their transit planning fairly considers the transit needs of all populations and is compliant with the environmental justice directives outlined in various federal legislation, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Policy 13: A Cost-Effective and Attractive Regional Transit Network

Regional transit providers will preserve, operate, maintain and expand the transit system in a cost-effective manner that optimizes existing and future investments. The Council will continue to improve transit service coordination, travel speed, passenger safety, financial incentives and customer amenities to make the system more attractive, visible, travel time competitive and user-friendly.

Strategy 13a. Coordination Among Services: The Council will promote coordination among the different transit services provided by various authorities throughout the region to ensure that the overall regional transit system functions as a seamless and user-friendly regional network, and to avoid inefficiencies and duplication.

Strategy 13b. Transit Fare Structure: The Council will support a regional transit fare structure that balances ridership and fare revenue, relates the fare to the cost of providing service and to other transportation costs, is easy to understand and administrate, and convenient to use.

Strategy 13c. Marketing Transit: The Council will increase the value, benefits and usage of transit services through a variety of advertising and promotional programs. Annual transit marketing plans will be developed by the Council based on input from stakeholders.

Strategy 13d. Transit Technologies: The Council and regional providers will implement new technologies to improve customer information, service reliability and the delivery of transit service.

Strategy 13e. Transit Safety and Security: Working with transit operators and communities, the Council will continue striving to provide a secure and safe environment for passengers and employees on vehicles and at transit facilities through provision of transit police services, employee awareness, public education, security partnerships and security investments.

Strategy 13f. Ridesharing: The Council will promote programs that encourage shared vehicle usage including carpooling, vanpooling and car sharing.

Policy 14: Transit System Operations and Management

The regional transit providers will promote innovation, efficiency, flexibility and greater diversity of options in operating and managing transit services.

Figure 2-14: The Hiawatha LRT facilities have spawned new development in the adjacent neighborhoods

Strategy 14a. Competitively Procured Services: Some transit services within the region will be competitively procured to increase flexibility, potentially reduce costs, maximize efficiencies and enhance service effectiveness.

Strategy 14b. Jointly Procured Services and Products: The Council will promote and facilitate the joint procurement of goods and services among providers to improve the coordination of transit service and increase cost-effectiveness.

Strategy 14c. Service Improvement Plan: Every two years, regional transit providers in consultation with customers and stakeholders, will prepare a short-term Service Improvement Plan that identifies their priorities for transit service expansion over the following two to four years. The plans will be submitted to the Council, which will prepare a Regional Service Improvement Plan.

Strategy 14d. Review Service Performance: All providers will review their transit service annually based on the performance standards outlined in Appendix G to ensure operational efficiency and consistency. Providers will annually submit their performance reviews to the Council for inclusion in a regional service performance review.

Strategy 14e. Fleet and Facilities Policy: The Council will develop and maintain policies, in consultation with regional providers, CTIB and other partners, to guide investments in regional fleet and facilities.

Policy 15: Transitway Development and Implementation

As one element of an overall transit network, the Metropolitan Council will strongly pursue, in coordination with CTIB, county regional railroad authorities and transit providers, the cost-effective implementation of a regional network of transitways to provide a travel-time advantage for transit vehicles, improve transit service reliability and increase the convenience and attractiveness of transit service.

Strategy 15a. Transitway Modes: Transitway modes will include commuter rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and express buses with transit advantages. Other transitway technologies may be considered as they become proven, reliable and cost-effective. Intercity passenger rail services could develop rail improvements that could also be used by commuter rail transitways within the region.

Strategy 15b. Criteria for Transitway Selection: Transitway investment decisions will be based on factors such as ridership, mobility improvements, operating efficiency and effectiveness, environmental impacts, regional balance, economic development impacts and cost-effectiveness. Readiness, priority and timing will be considered when making transitway investments, as will local commitment to transitway implementation and land use.

Strategy 15c. Process for Transitway Selection: Every transitway corridor will be studied in-depth before investments are made. Every potential commuter rail and light rail project will undergo an alternatives analysis and develop an environmental impact statement before seeking funding for implementation. All bus rapid transit corridors will be studied and a range of implementation alternatives developed.

Strategy 15d. Transitway Coordination: Transitway implementation will be coordinated with other transit, highway, bicycle and pedestrian projects, facilities, and investments.

Strategy 15e. Enhanced Transit Service Along Transitways: The Council will support enhanced transit service along transitways and the integration of existing routes along transitway corridors as appropriate to take full advantage of transitway improvements.

Strategy 15f. Transitway Coordination with Other Units of Government: The Council will coordinate transitway planning and implementation with other jurisdictions including Mn/DOT, CTIB, regional railroad authorities, local units of government and transit providers.

Strategy 15g. Transitways and Development: The Council will work with local units of government to ensure that transitways promote efficient development and redevelopment.

Strategy 15h. Transitway Operations: Transitway infrastructure investments will not occur unless operating funds have been identified.

Policy 16: Transit for People with Disabilities

The Council will provide transit services for persons with disabilities in full compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act including the accessible regular-route transit system, comparable ADA, and other dial-a-ride programs.

Strategy 16a. Accessible Vehicles: The Council will ensure that all new transit vehicles and facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Strategy 16b. Provide Comparable Service: Paratransit service comparable to the region's local regular-route transit system will be provided to individuals who are certified by the Council under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

Figure 2-15: Metro Mobility satisfies federal ADA requirements

Figure 2-16: Metro Mobility provides over 1.5 million regional ADA trips a year

Strategy 16c. Access to Transit Stops and Stations: Local communities and transit providers shall coordinate their efforts to assure that all fixed-route transit stops are accessible year-round, including snow removal.

Strategy 16d. Transfers Between Fixed-Route and ADA Services: The Council will encourage transfers between regular-route services, dial-a-ride and ADA paratransit services utilizing transit centers and rail stations as transfer points.

Other Surface Transportation Policies

Policy 17: Providing for Regional Freight Transportation

The region will maintain an effective and efficient regional freight transportation system to support the region's economy.

Strategy 17a. Freight Terminal Access: The Council will work with its partners to analyze needs for freight terminal access.

Strategy 17b. Congestion Impacts on Freight Movement: The Council will work to reduce the impacts of highway congestion on freight movement.

Policy 18: Providing Pedestrian and Bicycle Travel Systems

The Council, state, and local units of government will support efforts to increase the share of trips made by bicycling and walking and develop and maintain efficient, safe and appealing pedestrian and bicycle transportation systems.

Strategy 18a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Regional Investment Priorities: The Council will prioritize federal funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements based on their ability to accomplish regional transportation objectives for bicycling or walking in a cost-effective manner and improving access to major destinations.

Figure 2-17: The Council will prioritize federal funding allocated for bike and pedestrian improvements
Bike lockers at regional park-and-ride

Strategy 18b. Connectivity to Transit: Recognizing the importance of walking and bicycling to a multimodal transportation system, the Council will strongly encourage local units of government to develop a safe and attractive pedestrian environment near major transit corridors and stations with linkages for pedestrians and bicyclists from origins and destinations to buses and trains.

Strategy 18c. Local Planning for Bicycling and Walking: The Metropolitan Council encourages local planning for bicycle and pedestrian mobility by requiring that a local bicycle or pedestrian project must be consistent with an adopted plan to be considered eligible for federal transportation funding.

Strategy 18d. Interjurisdictional Coordination: The Metropolitan Council, along with local and state agencies, will coordinate planning efforts to develop efficient and continuous bikeway systems and pedestrian paths, eliminate barriers and critical gaps and ensure adequate interjurisdictional connections and signage.

Strategy 18e. Complete Streets: Local and state agencies should implement a multimodal roadway system and should explicitly consider providing facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists in the design and planning stage of principal or minor arterial road construction and reconstruction projects with special emphasis placed on travel barrier removal and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians in the travel corridor.

Strategy 18f. Education and Promotion: The Council encourages educational and promotional programs to increase awareness of and respect for the rights of pedestrians and bicyclists by motorists and to educate bicyclists on the proper and safe use of public roadways.

Aviation Policies

Policy 19: Aviation and the Region's Economy

Availability of adequate air transportation is critical to national and local economies in addressing globalization issues and airline alliances that have increased competition and the need for improved international market connectivity.

Strategy 19a. MSP as a Major Hub: Public and private sector efforts in the region should focus on continued development of MSP as a major international hub.

Strategy 19b. Region as Aviation Industry Center: State and regional agencies, in cooperation with the business community, should define efforts to be a major aviation-industry center in terms of employment and investment, including the ability to compete for corporate headquarters and specialized functions.

Strategy 19c. Air Passenger Service: The MAC should continue to pursue provision of a mix of service by several airlines with frequent passenger flights at competitive prices to all regionally-preferred North American markets and major foreign destinations.

Strategy 19d. Air Cargo Service: The MAC should pursue provision of air cargo infrastructure and air service for the region with direct air freight connections to import/export markets providing trade opportunities for the region's economy.

Strategy 19e. Provide State-of-the-Art Facilities: State-of-the-art facilities should be made available by airport sponsors at the region's airports, commensurate with their system role, to induce additional aviation services and provide additional jobs, thereby enhancing the region's economy.

Strategy 19f. Competition and Marketing: Decisions by aviation partners on provision of facilities and services to improve regional economic capabilities, should be based upon periodic updating and refinement of airport economic impact studies and surveys, a MAC commercial air-service competition plan and on-going airport marketing efforts.

Policy 20: Air and Surface Access to Region's Airports

Provision of adequate local access by air service providers and system users to the region's airports is essential to realizing the advantages of air transportation to the region's businesses and citizens.

Strategy 20a. Use of Technology: Airport sponsors should provide facilities that are safe and secure, affordable and technologically current for all facets of the aviation industry.

Strategy 20b. User Friendly: Airport sponsors and service providers should make flying convenient and comfortable for everyone using regional aviation facilities.

Strategy 20c. Airport Service Area Access: The Council will work with Mn/DOT, counties and airport sponsors to achieve high-quality multimodal ground accessibility, appropriate to the airport's role and function, to all portions of each airports service area within regionally defined travel times.

Policy 21: Consistency with Federal and State Plans/Programs

The planning, development, operation, maintenance and implementation of the regional aviation system should be consistent with applicable Federal and State aviation plans and programs.

Strategy 21a. Project Eligibility: Project sponsors, to improve chances of successful outcomes, should meet funding eligibility requirements, design standards and operational considerations.

Strategy 21b. Consider Alternatives: Project sponsors need to consider impacts of alternatives, such as telecommunications and other travel modes, in regional aviation planning and development.

Strategy 21c. Responding to National Initiatives: Project sponsors need to include the following in their planning and operational activities;

- Environmental sustainability efforts.
- Security needs as identified by National Homeland Security through the Transportation Security Administration.

Policy 22: Airport Development Plans

Long-term comprehensive plans (LTCPs) should be prepared by the airport sponsor for each system airport according to an established timetable and with required contents as defined in this policy plan.

Strategy 22a. Preparing LTCPs: Regional aviation facilities are under different types of public and private ownership. Therefore, the scope, application and content, for preparation of a LTCP is defined for different sponsors in this TPP.

Strategy 22b. Updating/Amending LTCPs: The LTCP should be periodically updated according to the timetable established in this TPP. If a substantial change to the approved plan is recommended and cannot be addressed as part of the periodic update it should be amended.

Strategy 22c. Transitioning the Airport: The development of system airports must be carried out in a way that allows for continued growth in operations and uninterrupted services for an overall smooth transition to new, expanded or enhanced facilities. Airport LTCPs should describe how this will be accomplished.

Strategy 22d. Providing Metro Services: Airports straddling the boundary between the rural service area and the MUSA should be included in the MUSA so metropolitan facilities and services can be provided when they are available.

Policy 23: Agency and Public Coordination

The regional aviation planning partners will promote public participation and awareness of aviation issues including involvement of non-traditional populations, system users and individuals.

Strategy 23a. Enhance Public Awareness: The region's aviation partners will utilize a variety of media and technologies to bring aviation planning into the mainstream of public decision-making so all interested persons have an opportunity to participate in the process and become acquainted with major development proposals.

Strategy 23b. Governmental Roles Defined: The region's aviation partners will have a regional aviation management system that clearly defines government roles and responsibilities for planning, development, operations, environmental mitigation and oversight.

Policy 24: Protecting Airspace and Operational Safety

Safety is the number one priority in the planning and provision of aviation facilities and services. Local ordinances should control all proposed structures 200 feet or more above ground level at the site to minimize potential general airspace hazards.

Strategy 24a. Notification to FAA: The local governmental unit is required to notify the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prior to approving local permits for proposed tall structures.

Strategy 24b. Locating Tall Structures: Structures over 500 feet tall should be clustered, and no new structures over 1,000 feet tall should be built in the region unless they are replacements or provide for a function that cannot otherwise be accommodated.

Strategy 24c. Airport/Community Zoning: Joint Airport/Community Zoning Boards should be established at each of the region's system airports to develop and adopt an airport safety zoning ordinance.

Policy 25: Airports and Land Use Compatibility

In areas around an airport, or other system facilities, land uses should be compatible with the role and function of the facility . The planning, development and operation of the region's aviation facilities must be conducted to minimize impacts upon the cultural and natural environment, regional systems and airport communities.

Strategy 25a. Surface-Water Management: Airport LTCPs should include a plan for surface-water management that contains provisions to protect surface and groundwater. The LTCP must be consistent with plans of watershed management organizations and the state wetland regulations. The water management plan should also include provisions to mitigate impacts from construction and include the pretreatment of runoff prior to being discharged to surface waters.

Strategy 25b. Protecting Groundwater Quality: Airport LTCPs should include a management strategy to protect groundwater quality that indicates proposed policies, criteria and procedures for preventing, detecting and responding to the spill or release of contaminants on the site. The plans should identify the location, design and age of individual/group/central sewer systems on-site and all well location sites, and evaluate system deficiencies and pollution problems.

Strategy 25c. Providing Sanitary Sewer: Airport LTCPs should include detailed proposals for providing sanitary sewer services. Reliever airports should be connected to the sewer system when service is available near the airport. Whenever connecting is not practical, the airport owner and the local governmental units must adopt and implement ordinances and administrative and enforcement procedures that will adequately meet the need for trouble-free on-site sewage disposal in accordance with the Council's guidelines in its water resources management policy plan.

Strategy 25d. Monitoring Air Quality: The MAC should periodically evaluate the air quality impacts of MSP operations and report to the Council on air quality problems or issues through the MAC annual environmental review of the capital improvement program.

Strategy 25e. Aircraft Noise Abatement and Mitigation: Communities and aviation interests should work together on noise abatement and mitigation. Local comprehensive plans and

ordinances for communities affected by aircraft noise should incorporate the Land Use Compatibility Guidelines for Aircraft Noise.

Policy 26: Adequate Aviation Resources

Public investments in air transportation facilities should respond to forecast needs and to the region's ability to support the investments over time.

Strategy 26a. Maximize Existing Investments: Airport sponsors should maintain and enhance existing facilities to their maximum capability, consistent with the *Development Framework*, prior to investing in new facilities.

Strategy 26b. Quality, Affordable Services: Airport sponsors and air-service providers should establish airport business plans and agreements in order to deliver high-quality services at affordable prices to users.

Strategy 26c. Long-Term Financial Plan: Airport sponsors should operate within a long-term financial plan that stresses maximizing non-regional funding sources, avoiding or minimizing financial impacts on regional taxpayers and maintaining a high bond rating for aviation improvements.