

Chapter 7/Work Program

The Metropolitan Council will carry out or participate in the following studies over the next two to three years. These will be used to help define changes to the various policy plans of the Council.

1. Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI)

The household travel surveys were conducted in 2001. The data collected will continue to be analyzed to provide a better understanding of travel today. Special attention will be given to travel in adjacent counties and bicycle and pedestrian trips, which is information not collected in previous TBIs. Some of this research will be done in conjunction with the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies.

2. Corridor Studies

The Metropolitan Council participates in all major corridor studies conducted in the region. MnDOT will be initiating further interregional corridor studies over the next two to three years, which will determine improvements necessary to link Greater Minnesota with the Twin Cities area.

3. Park-and-Ride Facility Site Location Study

The study will identify potential sites for future park-and-ride facilities on a travel corridor basis in response to the estimated future need and existing supply in those corridors. Preferred locations, as well as any potential alternative locations, will be identified based on a defined set of criteria, which will include such things as land acquisition cost, site accessibility and future expansion possibility. This work will be used to help inform the 2008 Comprehensive Plan review process.

This study will be completed by May 2005 to be included in the Transportation System Statements, which will be issued to cities and counties in July 2005.

4. Regular Route Overhead Allocation Analysis

This analysis will begin within the next year and be completed prior to the next Transportation Policy Plan update. It will include identification of overhead components (e.g. planning, street supervision, police, facility maintenance, customer information) and analysis of appropriate allocation to various types of regional regular route service (e.g. local, express, peak, off-peak). This work will be used to more accurately estimate operating costs in the future.

5. Functional Classification Study of the Regional Highways

Local governments have requested that several roads such as TH 13, TH 55, Washington CR 15, and Dakota CR 70 be upgraded to principal arterials. As soon as this plan and MnDOT's Transportation System Plan (TSP) are completed, the Council's Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) will undertake a functional classification study of the regional streets and highways. This study will review the characteristics and criteria that determine into which functional class highways fit. These modifications will be consistent with the updated policy direction provided in this plan and the TSP.

6. Define Highway Needs to Accommodate 2030 Growth

The Council, working with MnDOT, the counties and cities, will conduct an analysis to determine highway needs on Principal Arterials and "A" Minor Arterials to accommodate the regions growth to 2030. This analysis will include the need for new and/or expanded Principal Arterials, new or expanded "A" Minor Arterials. The 2030 Transit Plan defined in this document will be assumed in place for the purpose of the analysis. MnDOT's TSP will be utilized to the extent possible.