

2030

TRANSPORTATION *Policy Plan*



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2030 TRANSPORTATION *Policy Plan*

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Contents

Preface	ix
Chapter 1: Overview	1
Chapter 2: Policies and Strategies	7
Chapter 3: Regional Transportation Finance	25
Chapter 4: Transportation and Land Use	39
Chapter 5: Regional Mobility	48
Chapter 6: Highways	55
Chapter 7: Transit	86
Chapter 8: Freight and Goods Movement	139
Chapter 9: Pedestrians and Bicyclists	149
Chapter 10: Air Transportation	165
Chapter 11: Federal Requirements	198
Chapter 12: Work Program	213

2030

TRANSPORTATION *Policy Plan*

Tables

Table 3-2:	MVST Phase-In Distribution FY 2008 - FY 2012	26
Table 3-4:	Gas Tax and Debt Service Surcharge	28
Table 6-3:	Highway Projects Implemented or Advancing Since 2004	58
Table 6-19:	Congested Lane Miles, 2005 and 2030	67
Table 6-18:	Vehicle Trips and Miles Traveled, 2005 and 2030	67
Table 6-21:	Major Highway Projects Under Construction or Included in 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	71
Table 6-24:	Total Metro Area Target Funds Available	73
Table 6-25:	Portion of Federal Target Funds Available for Regional Solicitation	73
Table 6-26:	State Road Construction Funds, Mn/DOT Metro	74
Table 6-27:	TSP Investment Plan: State Road Construction 2013 – 2030 (<i>in millions</i>)	74
Table 6-28:	Major Tier 1 Bridges – Metro Area	75
Table 6-31:	Other Tier 1 and Tier 2 Bridges Requiring Investment before 2018	76
Table 6-34:	List of Congestion Management Planning Study Projects	79
Table 6-37:	Expansion Projects to be Reassessed	83
Table 7-13:	Twin Cities Transit Ridership	94
Table 7-45:	Estimated Capital Costs and Revenues to Maintain the Transit System	134
Table 7-46:	Estimated Capital Costs to Expand the Transit System	135
Table 7-47:	Estimated Revenues to Expand the Transit System	136
Table 7-48:	Estimated Annual Operating Costs to Maintain and Expand the Transit System	137
Table 7-49:	Estimated Sources of Revenues to Maintain and Grow the Transit System	138
Table 7-50:	Summary of Estimated Capital and Operating Costs	138
Table 10-4:	Airport Facility Status	168
Table 10-5:	Summary of Key System Accomplishments	169

2030 TRANSPORTATION *Policy Plan*

Table 10-22:	Airport Classifications	181
Table 10-24:	Airport Functional and Operational Characteristics / Classification of Metro Region Airport System Facilities	182
Table 10-30:	Estimated Landside Capacity Utilization	188
Table 10-31:	Air Service Available at Region’s Airports	190
Table 10-32:	Comparison of Metro Growth and Commercial Aviation Activity	191
Table 10-33:	MAC 2007 - 2009 Capital Improvement Program Funding (Dec. 2007)	193
Table 11-1:	Cross-Reference of Eight SAFETEA-LU Planning Factors with Metropolitan Council Policies, Procedures and Solicitation Criteria	198

Figures: Maps

Figure 5-6:	Freeway Transit Passengers and Highway Throughput	52
Figure 6-1:	Metro Highway System	56
Figure 6-2:	Regional Highway System	57
Figure 6-20:	2030 Congested Principal Arterial Segments	68
Figure 6-32:	Required Bridge Investments	77
Figure 6-36:	Expansion Projects to be Reassessed	82
Figure 7-7:	Regular Route Bus Service	90
Figure 7-10:	Current Transit Passenger Infrastructure	92
Figure 7-15:	Freeway Transit Passengers and Highway Throughput	96
Figure 7-19:	Transit Market Areas	107
Figure 7-20:	Potential 2030 Local Bus Routes	108
Figure 7-21:	Potential 2030 Arterial Network	109
Figure 7-22:	Potential 2030 Express Bus	110
Figure 7-23:	Planned 2030 Park & Rides	113



2030 TRANSPORTATION *Policy Plan*

Figure 7-28:	Existing Transit Support Facilities	116
Figure 7-29:	Existing Transit Advantages	117
Figure 7-30:	Planned 2030 Bus Shoulders	118
Figure 7-39:	Potential 2030 Arterial Streets BRT Routes	126
Figure 7-42:	Proposed 2030 Express Service Corridors	129
Figure 7-44:	2030 Transitway System	133
Figure 8-4:	Regional Freight System	140
Figure 8-10:	Average Daily Truck Traffic	142
Figure 9-3:	Existing Metro Bike Trails	150
Figure 10-20:	Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA)	179
Figure 10-21:	Regional Aviation System Policy Framework Areas	180
Figure 10-27:	Typical Aircraft One-Hour Flight Access	186
Figure 10-35:	Jurisdictional Areas Twin Cities Aviation System	196
Figure 11-5:	Population in Poverty & Hwy Expansion Projects to be Reassessed	207
Figure 11-6:	2000 Minority Populations & Hwy Expansion Projects to be Reassessed	208
Figure 11-7:	Population in Poverty & Proposed 2030 Transitways	209
Figure 11-8:	2000 Minority Populations & Proposed 2030 Transitway	210



2030

TRANSPORTATION *Policy Plan*

Figures: Charts and Graphs

Figure 3-3:	Changes in State MVST Forecasts	27
Figure 3-8:	State Highway User Fund and Federal Highway Aid Historical and Forecast Revenues	34
Figure 3-9:	Metropolitan Council 2008 Transit Revenues and Expenses	35
Figure 3-10:	MVST Transfers to Metro Area	36
Figure 6-22:	Metropolitan Highway System Investment Strategy (MHSIS) Process	72
Figure 7-11:	Regional Transit Rides and Goal	93
Figure 7-18:	Ridership by Mode 2003 - 2030 (Including rides changing modes)	105
Figure 8-1:	Freight Movement by Tonnage and Value	139
Figure 8-5:	Forecast Increase in Minnesota Freight Movement to 2020	141
Figure 10-1:	Modal Advantages by Trip Distances	166
Figure 10-19:	Aviation Planning Process	178

A	Land Transportation Glossary
B	2009 - 2012 TIP
C	Public Participation Plan
D	Functional Classification Criteria
E	Highway Interchange Requests: Evaluation Criteria and Review Procedure
F	Clean Air Act Conformance <i>Conformity Documentation of the 2008 TPP to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments</i>
G	Regional Transit Standards
H	2007 MAC Planning Environment
I	National and State Airport Classification
J	Airport Service Areas
K	MSP Class B Airspace
L	Land Use Compatibility Guidelines for Aircraft Noise
M	2007 Preliminary System Airport Assessments
N	Aviation Glossary
O	Conformity Documentation of Potential Economic Stimulus Projects

2030

TRANSPORTATION

Policy Plan

Preface

Purpose

This document presents the Metropolitan Council’s policies and plans to guide development of the region’s transportation system to the year 2030. It addresses problems and issues in preserving the region’s mobility and describes actions which will be undertaken to preserve, improve and expand the region’s highways, transit and other transportation modes.

Authority

This *Transportation Policy Plan* fulfills provisions of federal and state law.

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of the Twin Cities seven-county region, the Metropolitan Council conducts transportation planning to meet the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). It does so with the involvement of local elected officials through the Council’s Transportation Advisory Board and the participation of the region’s residents. The *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* conforms to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) as required by TEA-21.

State law (Minn. Stat. sec. 473.145 and 146) directs the Council to prepare a comprehensive development guide for the seven-county Twin Cities region. The guide consists of the 2030 Regional Development Framework and regional plans for water resources, regional parks and transportation, including aviation. This policy plan fulfills this state requirement for transportation.

Public Participation Process

The Council provided a variety of methods for interested parties and the public to participate in the formulation of the region's *Transportation Policy Plan*. Described below are the specific activities undertaken to encourage public participation in the development of this regional transportation plan. These activities are consistent with the Council's Public Participation Plan, found in Appendix C of this plan.

- Preliminary plan drafts were presented and discussed with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and their subcommittees.
- Outreach meetings were held with all seven county boards between February and May 2008 to present issues and the schedule for system plan preparation.
- The draft policy plan was presented to the TAC Planning and Funding and Programming Committees, the TAC, and the TAB Policy Committee and TAB.
- Sept 10, 2008 – Council adopted the draft plan for purpose of public hearing. Notice of the hearing was provided in the State Register, two daily newspapers, seven Council designated county newspapers, and on the Council website.
- September and October 2008- Six public open houses were held throughout the region to present the draft plan.
- October 22, 2008 – Public hearing on draft plan.
- November 6, 2008– Record closed on public comments.
- Copies of the draft plan and background material were posted on the Council's Web site, and hard copies were provided free upon request. The draft plan was sent to the Legislative library, St. Paul, Minneapolis and five county libraries for public access.
- Comments were accepted at the public hearing, at open houses via comment cards, mail, facsimile, a comment telephone line, email and a web-based comment site set up especially for this purpose.
- Copies of all comments received are available for review at the Council's Data Center.
- The Council's Transportation Committee considered the public hearing comments and report at its December 8 meeting.
- One change that was proposed to the plan as a result of the public comments, the addition of several highway expansion projects for potential federal stimulus funding, triggered an additional public comment period between December 8, 2008 and January 12, 2009, which noticed in the State Register and on the Council website.
- The Council's Transportation Committee considered the additional comments and the revised plan at its January 12, 2009 meeting.
- The Council accepted the public hearing report at its January 14, 2009 meeting and adopted the plan with recommended changes.