Phase I: 2018

Phase II: January-June 2019

Phase III: March - August 2020



## **Phase I Engagement Summary**

Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan | Department of Public Works | March 2019

## MINNEAPOLIS 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Minneapolis 2040 is the City's Comprehensive Plan which was approved by the City Council in December 2018 to be submitted to the Metropolitan Council. The plan sets the long-term transportation vision for the city. The Phase I Engagement Summary summarizes the transportation direction set in Minneapolis 2040 and highlights input from the public gathered during 2018 at events held throughout the summer and fall, and through an online survey.



## THEMES

We need to aggressively expand clean transportation options to reduce our impact on climate change.

Keep the streets safe for everyone!

The City needs to invest resources into programs that are equitable in supporting people of color and indigenous communities.

Transportation options besides driving should be strengthened before driving is discouraged.

## **MINNEAPOLIS 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Over three years, City staff engaged with thousands of community members about the goals, topics, policies, and actions of the <u>Minneapolis</u> <u>2040 Comprehensive Plan</u>. Feedback collected through Minneapolis 2040 helped form the vision for transportation in the city; this feedback will also inform strategies developed in the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan.

The 2040 Plan engagement effort focused on hearing from people from a variety of backgrounds, with a focus on communities that have been historically underrepresented. The City received **more than 2,200 comments** on transportation in planning process while developing Minneapolis 2040.

Most comments offered support for improving transit, walking, and bicycling, and expressed support for related policy items. Some comments offered concern that a focus on transit, walking, and bicycling would negatively impact people who rely upon driving or was not a realistic future to pursue.

City staff engaged with community members at...

25

Community events

30

Ward & neighborhood events



14

Open houses

City staff received over...

**10,000** online comments, **2,200** 

of which focused on transportation.



The 2040 Comprehensive Plan established the city's long term transportation vision

Minneapolis City of Lakes

## **EARLY CONVERSATIONS ON TRAVEL BEHAVIOR**

In the summer of 2018 Public Works staff engaged with the community in two ways: at in-person events and through an online survey. Staff were at Open Streets events and at farmer's markets throughout the city. Open Streets are events that temporarily close a street to motorized traffic and open it up for general use by the public, notably those walking and bicycling.

To help inform the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan, we asked people their most frequent and most preferred mode of transportation. We collected more than 5,000 responses at events around the city and the online survey.

We heard that driving is the most frequent way that people get around today, yet biking and transit are the top ways people would like to travel. The largest increases in demand were seen for biking, transit, walking, rideshare and carshare options; this feedback aligns with feedback from the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan that people would like more transportation options available.

1%

## WHAT IS YOUR MOST FREQUENT AND PREFERRED MODE OF TRANSPORT?

50% FREQUENTLY use a car

### <u>2%</u> .<u>5</u>% <u>1.5%</u> 2% 749 20% PREFER biking, transit or Most Most walking frequently preferred 15% 50% used used Over engaged around the city personal car biking rideshare other and an online survey transit walking car share My best idea for making our streets safer is... thep encouraging more and more people to us Robic Transit! My best idea for making our streets safer is... \* complete street ' policy \* narower lanes -> slower traffic My best idea for making our streets safer is... more pedentrian focus (wark ( bita) HAVE MORE PROTECTED BIKE Moto transit - some lousing 1\_ANES! BUS 27 The Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan will establish how we plan to achieve this vision.

## **TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SURVEY**

We received 2,744 responses to our online survey conducted between from the end of August through early November 2018.

What would encourage you to walk more than

30%

27%

23%

22%

20%

16%

BICYCLE

trips?\*

**49**%

**59%** 

58%

39%

37%

What would encourage you to use a shared mode,

such as rideshare, bikeshare or electric scooters?\*

36%



WALK

you currently do?\*

Shorter distances to destinations Safer neighborhood Better lighting Fewer cars / calmer streets Slower car speeds Better winter maintenance



More transit options More frequent service Improved reliability



More availability near me Better integration with transit Lower price option



Bikeways and streets that feel safer Better driver behavior More bikeways

\* Respondents could choose more than one response; percentages do not equate 100 percent.

## **STAY UPDATED**







🔀 gompls@minneapolismn.gov

## **FOLLOW US**

@cityofminneapolis

@cityminneapolis



What would allow you to bicycle for more

0

48%

44%

40%

## #gompls @mplsgov

Search and use **#gompls** on social media to stay

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact gompls@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626. Para asistencia 612-673-2700, Yog xav tau kev pab, hu 612-673-2800, Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

In this survey, residents younger than 25, residents in North and the University of Minnesota area, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos were most underrepresented. We will be doing specific engagement to ensure that we hear from underrepresented voices to inform this plan.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Throughout 2019, we will be seeking input and feedback on initial ideas and draft elements of the plan.

Public Works will be hosting a number of engagement events, including:

- Community • workhops
- Cultural dialogues
- Organization workshops
- Additional in-person and online activities

Check out our website to stay involved!



TRANSIT

**SHARED** 



## **Phase II Engagement Summary**

Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan | Department of Public Works | August 2019

Minneapolis Public Works conducted engagement for Phase II of the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan to get input on draft ideas for improving transportation for all people in all the ways they move around Minneapolis. Phase II engagement built off the framework set by the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan (2016–2018) and high-level Phase I Transportation Action Plan engagement (2018). The Phase II Engagement Summary includes feedback received from engagement activities conducted between January and June 2019.



## **PHASE II FEEDBACK IN CONTEXT**

Input received in Phase II is helping shape the draft plan. Phase III engagement will seek feedback on the draft plan through a series of in-person and online events. Phase II was coordinated with engagement for the <u>Vision Zero Action Plan</u>.



## **ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

City staff developed a multi-faceted approach to Phase II engagement, including prioritizing engagement with historically underrepresented groups. The focus of Phase II was sharing information on existing conditions and receiving input on potential approaches to making improvements on our street across seven topic areas. Staff also collected feedback on draft priority bicycle and pedestrian networks.



## PHASE II ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Four main engagement methods were used during Phase II to connect with as many and as diverse a sampling of people who live and work in Minneapolis.





**In-person events** including community workshops, organization workshops, ward forums, and other City-hosted events like "An evening with Janette Sadik-Khan".

2

**Online engagement** including the Transportation Action Plan website, online surveys, social media, and a Facebook Live open house.









**Community dialogues** which were facilitated and customized conversations between City staff and community members of historically underrepresented groups.





## **PHASE II ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS**

## **Engagement events map**

Transportation Action Plan

Minneapolis





responses to multiple-choice questions

City staff and partners engaged with community members through

## **ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY CONTRACTS FOR ENGAGEMENT**

To expand the reach of engagement, Public Works partnered with six community-based organization and artists for creative engagement projects. These partners were selected after an open solicitation in early 2019 which generated 15 proposals. The six partners engaged with 758 people around the Transportation Action Plan through a series of 30 different activities.



High school students used historic letterpress to make postcard art related to transportation.



Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) focused conversations on access to food and transportation issues



Residents in Minneapolis talked about public housing and transportation needs.

City staff worked with the following organizations and artists.



**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)**, who did focus groups with Latino families on transportation access



Harrison Neighborhood Association, who did outreach and engagement sessions with residents with an extra focus on reaching East African and Southeast Asian residents



Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council, who engaged with public housing residents



**Move Minnesota**, who engaged with Minneapolis Community and Technical College students



Seward Redesign and West Bank Community Development Corporation, who led conversations with Somali community members



**Streetcorner Letterpress**, who did screen print transportation visioning with high school students

Feedback from this engagement is incorporated in this summary, and a separate summary detailing this engagement is available on the Transportation Action Plan website.



## **OVERARCHING FEEDBACK**

City staff asked three overarching questions throughout Phase II engagement. Collectively, more than 2,500 responses to these questions were received. The questions attempted to gauge how people can help support the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, what success of this plan would look like 10 years in the future, and what is the largest opportunity to transform transportation in Minneapolis.

To reach the City's greenhouse gas reduction goal, we need to reduce driving by more than 33 percent. What are two things that would support you driving less? (1,893 responses)







# **3** Dream big. What would transform transportation in Minneapolis in the next decade? (333 responses)

Improving or reducing the cost of transit was the most common response. Some respondents shared future technology ideas such as electrifying transportation, automated vehicles, or flying cars. Reducing or slowing cars was also a common theme.

This graphic illustrates the frequency of words given in the responses.





## **ADVANCED MOBILITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**

Engagement for advanced mobility focused on shared and electric vehicles as the top two areas to gather public input on. Connected and autonomous vehicles were topics discussed during Phase I, which are two other major themes covered in the advanced mobility topic.

What is most important when using shared mobility services? Choose up to three. (358 responses)

These modes are available near me when I need them

There is allocated street space for me to feel safe taking this mode

My personal safety is maintained when I use this mode

 49%

 or

 27%

 ed

 23%

Staff also engaged on the topic of mobility hubs, which provide a physical space to find multiple mobility options (scooters, bikes, transit, car share, etc.). Mobility hubs use transit as a backbone, and help foster first and last mile transit connections. Feedback on mobility hubs included the desire for potential locations within walking distance of destinations such as grocery stores, schools, parks and the airport, and to include features such as benches, lockers and kiosks that provide real-time connection information.





More widely distributed, predictable and reliable shared mobility options, especially outside of downtown, that are accessible by all



Dedicate space for new mobility options to coexist safely with other modes through pick up/ drop off zones for ride hailing and parking zones for bikes and scooters



Support for moving more people in less space in shared and electric capacities





## PEDESTRIAN ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Engagement for the pedestrian topic focused on ways the City can prioritize walking as a more viable option for everyday trips for more people. Staff also presented the draft Pedestrian Priority Network. Most people were supportive of the proposed network and provided recommendations for potential uses, including year-round maintenance, public realm improvements, and safe crossings.

Participants were asked what the top three most important things the City should prioritize to make walking a more viable option. While there was fairly equal distribution among the (612 respondents) different answer options, winter maintenance received the most votes (18%), with a particular focus on transit stops and intersections. Improving driver behavior, such as encouraging people to drive more slowly and yield to pedestrians (10%), as well as providing more safe places to cross (8%) were also noted as important improvements. Answers also varied somewhat by section of the city.

Include more benches,

## Top recommendations for improving walking conditions by area





"I would walk more if there was more pedestrian scale lighting."



## **BICYCLE AND LOW-POWERED VEHICLES ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**

Engagement for the bicycle and low-powered vehicle topic asked what would allow people to bike or use low-powered vehicles for more trips. Staff also asked for feedback on the draft All Ages and Abilities network, which would include a network of low-stress bikeways to be built by 2030. Staff received hundreds of comments about individual streets and other ideas to improve the network.

Most people were very supportive of more low-stress bikeways, but wanted to ensure they would be wellconnected and easy to navigate. People stressed the importance of connecting the network to existing bikeways, in addition to commercial areas and activity centers like downtown, bus stops, parks, and schools were received and documented.

Comments showed that many people want to bike or bike for more trips, but need more comfortable routes that connect to destinations. People are also interested in using bike share and scooter share, but feel there are not enough stations throughout the city, they are limited by payment or age restrictions, or do not know how to use the services.

# What destinations should the bike network connect to? Choose up to three. (262 responses)





Increase access to



## TRANSIT INPUT SUMMARY

Engagement for the transit topic focused on ways to improve transit through increased access, reliability, and safety. Most people expressed a desire for more transit options with faster travel times and supported the idea of adding more high frequency service throughout the city.

Participants were asked to choose the top three options that they think would encourage people to use transit. More frequent service or additional high-frequency lines received the highest overall ranking from the various in-person events and the online survey.

## What do you think would encourage people to use transit more? Choose up to three. (397 responses)





"Having benches, heated shelters and lighting at more bus stops would encourage me to use transit more."



## FREIGHT ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Freight engagement activities focused on providing feedback on potential freight strategies such as requiring trucks to have improved safety features, incentivizing carbon-neutral delivery vehicles and incentivizing smaller truck vehicle sizes. Engagement activities also gauged the impact of e-commerce and the interest in consolidated delivery options.

Attendees viewed freight vehicles, specifically large trucks, as unsafe for bicyclists and pedestrians, environmentally hazardous, and consuming too much physical space in the street. Attendees were in favor of strategies and policies focused on improving the safety of trucks, limiting truck sizes, incentivizing carbon-neutral freight vehicles, and providing more on-street and off-street loading options to better organize freight delivery.

## How much do you support these freight management ideas? (139 responses)



Attendees also indicated an interest in reducing the externalities of e-commerce deliveries by utilizing clustered drop-offs such as delivery lockers. Attendees were not supportive of testing drones or other new devices for personal delivery.





Use smaller trucks and break down bigger loads into smaller loads for delivery on city streets

3

Design streets for smaller trucks instead of semitrucks



"We should encourage smaller trucks in place of large semi-trucks."



THE PARTY OF THE

## STREET OPERATIONS INPUT SUMMARY

Engagement for street operations addressed how to achieve the City's modal and environmental goals through a wide range of multimodal strategies. Comments ranged across all the ways people get around (walking, biking, taking transit, driving, etc) with specific concerns about mobility needs for each mode. Participants were asked to consider how they would reallocate space within the right of way to achieve the City's goals. Many people expressed an interest in driving less if other options were more convenient and comfortable. There was a sense that prioritizing transit service would best achieve mode shift away from driving, while improvements to bikeways and the pedestrian realm were also essential.

As stated in Minneapolis 2040, the city is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. City staff asked what policies would incentivize travel behavior change.





"Let's prioritize transit by installing bus only lanes."



## STREET DESIGN ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Engagement for the street design topic focused on how the design of sidewalks, bikeways, roadways, and intersections can support the City's Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies and reduce greenhouse gases. The feedback received on street design was largely supportive of rethinking how we design our streets to reduce crashes and provide more transportation options. People across all engagement activities were supportive of reducing the speeds of cars and trucks through design and providing more dedicated space for people walking, biking, and taking transit.

## What options do you think have highest potential to reduce motor vehicle speed? (347 responses)







## Phase III Engagement Summary

Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan | Department of Public Works | November 2020

Minneapolis Public Works conducted engagement on the draft Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan after its release on March 9, 2020 to solicit feedback on the strategies and actions in the plan to guide transportation decisions over the next 10 years. Phase III engagement built off the framework set by the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan (2016–2018), Phase I (2018) and Phase II (2019) engagement activities. The Phase III Engagement Summary includes feedback received from activities conducted between March and August 2020.

## PHASE III FEEDBACK IN CONTEXT







## **GENERAL COMMENT THEMES**



There was more general support expressed than opposition to the plan; 82% (294) of the 358 total general comments supported the TAP. Commenters commended the strong vision, actions and strategies in the plan, while offering specific suggestions for improvement across all areas of the plan.

Safety





Prosperity



Mobility



Active Partnerships

Many general comments on the draft plan focused on impacts of transportation related to climate. While most comments stated support for the direction of the plan, there were a number of comments that wanted the plan to go farther in terms of addressing climate change. Over 85% of the 250+ comments that addressed climate shared their opinion that the TAP should be drafted around a city-wide carbon neutrality goal by 2050.

The draft plan was based on an 80% reduction by 2050. This goal was set by the City's Climate Action Plan and reinforced in Minneapolis 2040. Climate trends will likely require the City to take an even more aggressive stance on carbon emissions during the next 10 years, and we will update this plan to reflect future goals on carbon neutrality.

There was broad support for setting a mode shift goal to have 3 of every 5 trips made by walking, bicycling or transit by 2030. An extensive number of comments called for the City to be more aggressive with this goal. The importance of winter maintenance for walking and biking was noted as being key to reach this goal.

• The final plan keeps the same mode share goal as the draft. We received updated data (2019 vs 2010 in draft plan) from the Metropolitan Council which showed little change from 2010; 3 of 5 trips made by walking, bicycling or transit remains an ambitious yet realistic goal over the next 10 years.

Several people made comments on the plan's connection to equity. The majority of comments expressed support of the plan's ability to improve racial and economic equity outcomes in the city, while a few commenters thought the planned approach to winter maintenance and not doing more to discourage driving did not do enough to advance the equity goal. Several commenters voiced concern for equity; though they recognized the draft plan addressed it, they wanted to see more of a focus on low-cost, quick changes to our streets, greater access to safe places to walk, bike and take transit, and better transit.

The Progress section of the TAP was expanded to include three strategies and related actions to more explicitly address equity through the creation of a racial equity framework and a focus on engagement and evaluation.

"Climate change is the #1 most important issue of our lifetimes. We need to make radical changes to our energy and transportation systems rapidly if we are to avert catastrophic environmental destruction. Let's do our part as citizens of this great city!"

"This plan will go a long way toward clean air in our cities; transportation equity for people of all walks of life, and help for a growing climate crisis."

*"I support re-prioritizing what modes of transportation we emphasize - centering on low income and disability populations and improving transportation for them."* 



## WALKING COMMENT THEMES



# 366 comments received. Approximately three-quarters (276 comments) were generally supportive, 83 comments were neutral/mixed and 7 comments were generally opposed.

About one-quarter of commenters noted the importance of improving winter maintenance practices in the city, and many conveyed that the proposed actions within Strategy 4 should include additional consideration of a sidewalk snow and ice clearing program led by the City.

• Two new actions were added to **Pedestrian Strategy 4: Improve winter walking and rolling:** 

» 4.9: Evaluate corner clearing program and pedestrian pushbutton design guidance to improve approach to better clear snow and ice adjacent to pedestrian pushbuttons.

» 4.10: Conduct review of Pedestrian and Bicycle Winter Maintenance Study on a biennial basis to review and suggest changes to City-led snow and ice clearing.

Many commenters suggested additions to the proposed Pedestrian Priority Network, including extending connections to parks, schools and along corridors in need of pedestrian improvements

Proposed changes to the Pedestrian Priority Network were evaluated based on network criteria, including access over major barriers, connections to high-frequency transit and destinations, and alignment with future land use and corridor plans. Over fifteen miles of streets were added to the Pedestrian Priority Network as a result of this evaluation.

There was support for increasing lighting within the city to better illuminate street crossings, trails and sidewalks as well as the need to balance light levels and design to avoid contributing to light pollution.

• No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme as majority of comments supported plan direction. Feedback received will be used to inform a planned update to the Street Lighting Policy.

There was an overall emphasis on the importance of providing a safe, accessible and welcoming pedestrian network year-round on all streets and pedestrian corridors within Minneapolis.

• No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme as majority of comments supported plan direction.

"I think that winter sidewalk clearing should receive a lot of attention as an area for innovation. I support this action and want it to be strengthened to enable the City move faster to ensure safe, equitable access to walking in winter."



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## **BICYCLING COMMENT THEMES**

444 comments received. 134 of them were related to the All Ages and Abilities Network. Of the comments on bicycling, 208 comments were generally supportive, 74 comments were neutral/mixed and 28 comments were generally opposed.

Most of the concerns about the bicycling topic were in the spirit of wanting to improve existing conditions for bicycling in Minneapolis. Often the concerns would be addressed by implementing the plan, particularly by building the All Ages and Abilities network.

• No change in the plan was made based on this comment theme as the plan is to build the All Ages and Abilities network by 2030.

There was significant support for the All Ages and Abilities network in general and a sense of urgency to have it built and the improvements to be high quality.

• No change in the plan was made based on this comment theme.

There was strong support for robust physical protection from motor vehicles. Specifically, people felt that bollards are not a robust enough form of physical protection. People prefer a solid barrier, such as a curb, that keeps cars out of the bike lane.

The plan was adjusted to clarify the role of bollards and commit to more robust physical protection. Strategy 1 was updated with a new action in response to these comments.

» 1.2: Improve existing bollard protected bike lanes with more permanent separation, such as curb barriers and planters or other green infrastructure.

There were many specific comments on the All Ages and Abilities network map itself.

• Adjustments resulted in six miles of bikeways added to the network.

Winter maintenance was a notable theme in the comments. People supported improving winter maintenance practices along the entire bikeway network – not just the All Ages and Abilities network as described in the plan.

• A change was made to Action 6.11 in response to these comments.

» 6.11: Conduct review of Pedestrian and Bicycle Winter Maintenance Study on a biennial basis to review and suggest changes; focus on improvements to snow and ice clearance on standard bicycle lanes.

*"Thank you so much for prioritizing neighborhood greenways. I can't wait to see these built, they will be so helpfu!"* 



Bicycling

Transportation Action Plan



## **TRANSIT COMMENT THEMES**

# 305 comments received. Two-thirds (206 comments) were generally supportive, 93 comments were neutral/mixed and 6 comments were generally opposed.

Many commenters expressed that the high-frequency network should target transit wait times of five minutes or less to in line with other transit systems that have 25% transit ridership.

• No change was made to the plan on the current goal of 10 minutes or less, but the narrative indicates the hope that even more improvement over time is desired so that more people are able to rely on transit without the need to refer to a schedule for their everyday needs.

Several comments suggested transit route changes, route consolidations, recommended connections, and network extensions. Many, but not all, comments applied to the Transit Priority Projects identified in the plan.

 Based on the comments, Glenwood Avenue/Penn Ave – N 10th St to Olson Memorial Highway was added as a Transit Priority Project. Other minor adjustments to the map and actions were included in 1.6, 2.2 and 2.3.

Many commenters communicated concerns about real and perceived safety and security issues related to transit such as the need to regulate ridership/fare enforcement, the presence of Metro Transit staff and police, as well as the desire to strengthen partnerships with community-based efforts and organizations.

No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme. The City is committed to supporting Metro Transit in safety and security efforts.

There was debate about enforcement in terms of enforcing fares, enforcing bus lanes and other similar themes.

• No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme. Action 2.8 references enforcement only in terms of clearing bus only lanes to ensure transit speed and reliability, and supporting automated enforcement to support transit operations. The city is not involved in fare enforcement and has no plans to do so.

### There was significant support for reduced and fare free trips.

• No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme. Existing actions encourage and reinforce exploration of this topic in partnership with Metro Transit.

*"I have been a regular user of public transportation and do not own a car so clean affordable transportation means a lot to me."* 

*"Access to transit also means access to jobs. It matches job seekers to job opportunities and improves lives and economic function."* 







111 comments received. 51 were in support, 24 were in opposition, 10 were neutral/mixed and 26 were neither supportive, opposed or neutral.

Generally, comments were in support of most actions and strategies in this section. Most comments focused on protecting the most vulnerable users of the road and prioritizing shared mobility over autonomous vehicles. There was some support for electrifying all vehicles.

No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme as majority of comments supported plan direction.

Commenters expressed an overwhelming support for mobility hubs (Technology 3.1 & 3.2), car sharing (Technology 2.6), allocating space for shared mobility services and protection from single occupancy vehicles (Technology 1.3), and Mobility as a Service (Technology 3.3).

No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme as majority of comments supported plan direction.

A number of comments expressed concern over including autonomous vehicle technology in the plan due to climate and equity concerns and wanted to allocate those resources elsewhere.

A change was made to the narrative to emphasize technological benefits to walking, bicycling and transit such as signal timing, automated enforcement and smart lighting, etc. and reduce the emphasis of City's role in autonomous vehicles.

# Concerns around mentioning electrification strategies and actions were raised in the plan as it was thought to perpetuate car culture.

• No change was made to the plan based on this comment theme. The plan includes narrative around emphasizing shared modes and the acknowledgment that the adoption of electric vehicles alone will not get us to the goals outlined in the plan.

"Make sure that bikeshare and micromobility options include people of various bodies, including smaller people and people with disabilities who are currently completely excluded by NiceRide. Ensure options that include cargobikes, carriers, and various cart rentals."

"Minneapolis needs to be ahead of the curve in mitigating negative impacts associated with the future introduction of autonomous vehicles. Street design and operations needs to prioritize pedestrians, cyclists and transit users above all else. We should regulate autonomous vehicles ahead of their introduction."





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## **FREIGHT COMMENT THEMES**

100 comments received. Half of the comments were generally supportive, another 30 comments were neutral/mixed and 20 comments were generally opposed.

There was general support to reduce the utilization of large vehicles within the city. Such methods include implementing urban consolidation centers, establishing low-emission zones, and piloting after-hour deliveries. Comments explicitly requested that more prohibitive measures should be explored to reduce large vehicles.

Action 1.6 was modified to include the revision of ordinance 486.50 which restricts certain size vehicles in certain locations of the city during certain times. The revision of this ordinance will provide the opportunity to more directly address large vehicles.

Comments showed a desire to not have the Truck Route Network overlap with the Pedestrian Priority Network and the All Ages & Abilities Network. Strong desire was expressed to prohibit the Truck Route Network from residential areas, especially within areas of concentrated poverty with greater than 50 percent people of color.

• Action 3.3 states that the Truck Route Network and its related ordinance(s) will be modified to align with the goals of the Transportation Action Plan. This action was modified to link the goals to specifically mention equity, safety and climate. Action 3.1 was modified to call out the need to create a new Truck Route Network that is not disproportionately in areas of concentrated poverty with majority people of color.

Multiple comments confirmed a desire to enforce penalties for vehicles that idle in bicycle lanes.

• No change was made to the freight section, however <u>Bicycling Action 1.4</u> calls to improve the design of bicycle facilities to minimize vehicle obstruction.

"Please add/require truck guards on side of trucks so people don't get swept under. Please separate walking and freight network. Please ban large trucks from the city. Please require delivery companies to use zero emission vehicles. "

"I support developing package consolidation centers. Delivering packages in smaller vehicles like cargo bikes will help reduce traffic and improve safety conditions."







## **STREET OPERATIONS COMMENT THEMES**

219 comments received. Approximately 40% (83 comments) were generally supportive, 46 comments were neutral/mixed and 12 comments were generally opposed.

Comments expressed the theme that streets should be able to be comfortably used by all modes.

No changes made as comments support plan direction.

20% of responses criticized the use of traditional enforcement mechanisms to meet the TAP goals while other comments requested more enforcement for all modes.

No changes made to plan. The actions in the plan that address enforcement are either administrative in nature (Walking Action 4.3 on snow clearing), involve parked vehicles (Transit Action 2.8 on bus only lanes) or have the goal of eliminating traffic stops that involve officer interaction (Street Operations Action 6.6 on automated enforcement).

A handful of commenters suggested that COVID-19 will change travel patterns in favor of car-centered mobility.

• No changes were made to the plan. The City is committed to reducing car trips.

All comments that referred to 4 lane streets wanted them eliminated, and many wanted to reduce or eliminate the influence of the County and State in street ownership.

• No changes were made to the plan as comments supported plan direction.

Several comments suggested changes to the City's policies on parking.

• Street Operations action 5.14 was added in response to comments.

» 5.14: Manage off-street parking supply, demand and pricing in downtown. Partner with others in pursuit of City policies, including the reduction of single occupancy vehicle use.

"Let's create more parklets, pedestrian plazas, bike storage, scooter storage, gardens, etc. on public right of way. We are inefficiently using public space by allowing free or underpriced car storage."



Transportation Action Plan



## **DESIGN COMMENT THEMES**

394 comments received. 81 were generally supportive, 9 were generally opposed, 9 were mixed, and 295 were neutral and offered a specific idea or suggestion.

Many commenters on the Design section asked for expanding training around use of salt for winter maintenance to reduce the amount of salt used to protect water quality.

• Design Action 3.4 was updated to include continuing to train staff in related topics on alternatives to traditional salt and sand winter maintenance.

While there was a wide variety of comments on the Design topic, the most prominent additional themes included: prioritizing space and design for walking, biking, and transit; supporting safety; and improving environmental sustainability/greening. More than twice as many people expressed comments saying the actions do not go far enough than expressed opposition to the direction of the actions.

- Adjustments were made to 11 actions in the Design section to respond to specific suggestions in comments. Those include:
  - » specifically referencing context of schools and parks for street types in Action 1.1

» adding greening and green infrastructure as part of a future Minneapolis Plaza Program in Action 2.1

» adding specify to the action around car-free streets;

» adding Action 4.4: Explore creating a program to proactively install street trees or other greening elements in underutilized parking spaces, either permanently and/or temporarily.

"Absolutely prioritize design over enforcement to prevent wide violations in the first place."

"More trees and malls like Nicollet Mall."



## EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION CONVERSATIONS

Post-release of the draft Transportation Action Plan, COVID-19 and the death of George Floyd had dramatic impacts on Minneapolis. Wanting to intentionally relate the moment we are in to this plan, Public Works staff held conversations with 9 community organizations to discuss their work in the community as it relates to racial justice and equity in transportation as well as best practices for community engagement. The conversations helped in a final equity-driven review of the draft Transportation Action Plan and informed the development of the strategies and actions in the Progress section.

Two guestions were used to guide the conversation; major themes heard are summarized below.

### What does racial equity in transportation mean to you/your organization?

- » Frequent, reliable, and convenient transit service
- » Lower fares/fare-free transit and solutions for unbanked customers
- » A transportation system where users feel safe
- » Transportation access to jobs and housing
- » Reduced costs associated with access to a vehicle

## What kind of engagement should the City be doing around transportation?

- » Build capacity and foster long-term partnerships with the community
- » Establish feedback Loop with the community
- » Be culturally sensitivity via tailored engagement
- » Use age and audience appropriate tools to attract various audiences
- » Develop and use community-based metrics on transportation projects

### Organizations that engaged in these conversations include:

- » Avivo
- » Asian Media Access
- » CLUES Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
- » The Alliance
- » Little Earth Residents Association
- » Voices for Racial Justice
- » Hope Community
- » Encouraging Leaders
- » Urban League Twin Cities

A full summary of the equity in transportation conversations is available online at http://go.minneapolismn.gov/get-involved.

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@cityminneapolis



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Three committees and eight workgroups were established to help develop and guide the work of creating the Transportation Action Plan. The members identified below were critical to the development of this plan. Many agencies are represented in these committees and groups; while their participation was instrumental to the final plan, not all strategies and actions align completely with those agencies' practices and procedures; their jurisdictional responsibilities are acknowledged, respected and identified throughout the action plan.

Thank you for the partnership, collaboration and conversation to all the community members, agency partners and staff who helped shape this plan.

\* Entities represented by only one member at each meeting.

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- Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)
- Minneapolis Committee on Aging (MACOA)
- Minneapolis Fire Department (MFD)
- Minneapolis Health Department (MHD)
- Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR)
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)
- Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Minneapolis Public Works Transportation Engineering and Design (TED)
- Minneapolis Public Works Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP)
- Minneapolis Surface Water and Sewers (SWS)
- Minneapolis Traffic and Parking Services (TPS)
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## **Minneapolis 2040 Goals**

## **Eliminate disparities**

Goal 1: In 2040, Minneapolis will see all communities fully thrive regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, country of origin, religion, or zip code having eliminated deep-rooted disparities in wealth, opportunity, housing, safety, and health.

## More residents and jobs Goal 2. In 2040, Minneapolis will have

more residents and jobs, and all people will equitably benefit from that growth.

## **Aligned Transportation Action Plan**



Equity

**Prosperity** 



Equity

**Prosperity** 

Mobility

## Affordable and accessible housing Goal 3. In 2040, all Minneapolis residents will be able to afford and access quality housing

**Prosperity** 





## Living-wage jobs

throughout the city.

Goal 4. In 2040, all Minneapolis residents will have the training and skills necessary to participate in the economy and will have access to a living-wage job.

Healthy, safe, and connected people Goal 5. In 2040, the people of Minneapolis will be socially connected, healthy, and safe.







**High-Quality Physical Environment** 

Goal 6. In 2040, Minneapolis will enjoy a high-quality and distinctive physical environment in all parts of the city.





Equity





## **History and Culture**

Goal 7. In 2040, the physical attributes of Minneapolis will reflect the city's history and cultures.



13

# Proactive, Accessible, and Sustainable Government

Goal 13. In 2040, Minneapolis City government will be proactive, accessible, and fiscally sustainable.



Equitable Civic Participation System

Goal 14. In 2040, Minneapolis will have an equitable civic participation system that enfranchises everyone, recognizes the core and vital service neighborhood organizations provide to the City of Minneapolis, and builds people's long term capacity to organize to improve their lives and neighborhoods. **Active Partnerships** 



Active partnerships: supports all TAP goals

## Walking snapshot in Minneapolis

## MORE PEOPLE ARE WALKING OR ROLLING

Reliable data for counting pedestrians in Minneapolis comes from two sources: the U. S. Census Bureau and the City of Minneapolis' annual counting program. The two data sources measure different things: the way people travel to work or school (U.S. Census Bureau) and the number of people walking at select locations throughout the city (City of Minneapolis Count Program). Together, they give us an idea of trends for people walking in Minneapolis. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 3,567 more people walked or rolled to work or school between 2007-2017.<sup>1</sup> Over the same time, the number of people walking or rolling increased by 21% at annually counted city benchmark locations.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 1: People are walking more



This figure represents the change between 2007 and 2017.

### SEVERE AND FATAL PEDESTRIAN CRASHES ARE INCREASING

After years of decline, pedestrian injuries and deaths have been rising in recent years in Minneapolis. From 2007 to 2016, a pedestrian was severely injured or killed on Minneapolis streets every 13 days on average. Most of the crashes (80%) involving pedestrians occur on, and are concentrated along, a small number of streets (see Figure 2 on the next page). Pedestrian crashes disproportionately impact lower-income neighborhoods where the majority of residents are people of color.

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable street users; 11% of reported pedestrian crashes lead to a life-altering injury or death.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 1-year Estimates (2007-2017) <sup>2</sup> 30 annual benchmark locations; Annual Minneapolis Bicyclist and Pedestrian Count data

## Figure 2: High Injury Street map



### **DESIGNING FOR PEDESTRIANS FIRST**

In recent years, there has been an increased focus on improving pedestrian infrastructure. In 2017, the city upgraded 3,000 crosswalk markings from <u>parallel line crosswalk</u> to <u>Minneapolis Zebra crosswalks</u> that will improve the visibility of pedestrian crossings. The city has also implemented, and continues to evaluate the effectiveness of, leading pedestrian signal intervals (LPI) that allows a pedestrian to begin crossing the street before vehicles receive a green light. This ensures that pedestrians are more visible within the crosswalk before vehicles begin moving.

There are multiple ways to improve safety and comfort for those walking and rolling. Curb extensions, sometimes called bumpouts or bulbouts, extend the sidewalk area into the street to shorten pedestrian crossing distances and improve visibility. Wide sidewalks allow people to pass each other comfortably and can also provide space for public realm improvements such as pedestrian lighting, trees, benches or other features that help to buffer pedestrians from moving vehicles and contribute to a walkable environment. Reducing the number of four lane streets, multiple lane one-way streets, and slowing motor vehicle speeds are also important for safety and comfort for people walking, particularly as they cross the street.

### Figure 3: Street design for pedestrians

eating



boulevard)

Lighting

### **ACTIVATING PUBLIC SPACES**

Programming public spaces with events and activities encourages people to be active and demonstrates alternative uses for street space. Minneapolis has many programs oriented to improving the pedestrian environment. One of the more successful programs is Open Streets. Open Streets is a series of events when a street is closed to vehicular traffic for part of the day (typically 6 hours) and opened up to those walking and bicycling; street vendors are out, activities like yoga and dancing are organized, and there are spots with live music and other activities. Open Streets focuses on promoting healthy living, sustainable transportation, civic pride and discovering local businesses. The event started in 2011 with one event and an estimated 5,000 attendees. It has since expanded to 7 or 8 events annually, with an estimated 103,500 attendees in 2019.<sup>3</sup>

Parklets and street cafés are other programs that activate streets through partnerships with businesses and community organizations. Parklets provide amenities like seating, plantings, bike parking and public space for people to linger and enjoy through the conversion of on-street parking spaces. The City currently operates three public parklets, and organizations or businesses can also apply to host a parklet. The street café program is offered to local businesses to expand their outdoor seating areas into the street. A survey from 2017 showed that all businesses that hosted parklets would recommend hosting a parklet to another business, and they agreed that the parklet contributed to increased sales and foot traffic. Both hosts and users agreed that the parklet improved the streetscape and enhanced neighborhood identity.4

### Figure 4: Parklet



Figure 5: Open Streets event



<sup>3</sup> Our Streets Minneapolis. <sup>4</sup> City of Minneapolis Parklet Program Survey (2017).

## Bicycling snapshot in Minneapolis

## **BICYCLING IS GETTING SAFER**

Bicycling in Minneapolis is safer than it was 25 years ago, in part due to more bikeways and more people bicycling. Between 1993 and 2017, the miles of bikeway have increased 199%<sup>5</sup> and the average number of bicycle commuters increased 212%.<sup>6</sup> During that same time, the bicycle crash rate decreased by 75%.<sup>7</sup> While bicycling is getting safer, people biking are the most overrepresented in severe and fatal crashes in Minneapolis.



Figure 6: Bikeway miles vs bicycle crash rate

### **EXISTING BIKEWAY NETWORK**

The existing bikeway network is not comfortable for all people. Over the last 10 years, the city's bikeway network doubled in size to 255 miles of bikeways (through 2019). However, only 49% of this network meets the criteria of an all ages and abilities bikeway (protected bike lanes and trails) and most of this mileage does not connect to schools or commercial areas. To encourage people of all ages and abilities to bicycle, we must build a connected network of comfortable bikeways.

<sup>6</sup> <u>Means of Transportation to Work for Workers 16 Years and Over. U.S. Census Bureau, 1993 to 2017 American Community Survey</u> <sup>7</sup> As reported to Minneapolis Public Works by the Minneapolis Police Department and Minneapolis Park Police.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works.



### **DESIGNING FOR NEW USERS**

If we want bicycling an attractive transportation option for more people, it is important to consider how we can support more children, seniors, women, people of color, low-income people, people with disabilities and people with multiple passengers to bicycle as we design bikeways and streets.

We also need to support a growing fleet of low-powered vehicles. From cargo bicycles to adaptive bicycles, and electric assist bicycles to electric scooters, these new vehicles can expand who is able to bicycle and what trips bicycles can be used for.

Figure 8: Types of bicycle and micromobility



### **DESIGNING FOR COMFORT**

City of Minneapolis traffic counts show that bicycling is growing six times faster on protected bike lanes and trails than on other bikeway types.<sup>8</sup> Conventional bike lanes and well-designed neighborhood greenways (also called bicycle boulevards) on less busy streets can also be attractive places to bike. Protected bike lanes and neighborhood greenways will be prioritized as a part of the All Ages and Abilities Network to improve and expand the existing network.

Figure 9: Existing bikeway mileage



<sup>8</sup> <u>Minneapolis Public Works Pedestrian and Bicyclist Traffic Counts, 2007-2017</u>

## Transit snapshot in Minneapolis

## TRANSIT RIDERSHIP OVER TIME

Metro Transit, as a part of the Metropolitan Council, operates most of the local transit service in the region. Despite increases in light rail (LRT) and rapid bus (BRT) use, the overall number of Metro Transit trips in the region declined by 9% between 2014 and 2018,<sup>9</sup> after previous years of gains.



Figure 10: Average weekday transit ridership

## LOCAL AND HIGH FREQUENCY TRANSIT ROUTES

Transit routes are distributed throughout the city and operate as either local or high frequency bus routes or light rail lines. High frequency routes mean buses or light rail arrive every 15 minutes or better.<sup>10</sup> High frequency routes (bus and light rail) have the highest ridership in the city, operating most of the day and throughout the week. A total of 153 total transit routes, including 11 high frequency routes, serve residents, workers and visitors in the city.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Metropolitan Council Boardings and Alightings Data, 2013-2018. <sup>10</sup> Metropolitan Council (2018)

## Figure 11: Existing and planned high frequency transit routes



### **HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLES**

More than one of every six people in Minneapolis (16.5%) live in households without access to an automobile,<sup>11</sup> by choice or necessity. Car-free households are more common in densely-populated urban areas and high poverty neighborhoods where vehicle ownership is challenging. Less auto dependence typically correlates with higher transit ridership.



Figure 12: Percent of households without a vehicle, 2014-2018

Source: 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

"Household Size by Vehicles Available, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

0% - 10% 10% - 20% 20% - 30% 30% - 40% 40% - 50

## Technology snapshot in Minneapolis

## THE PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION

The pace of change in technology that impacts transportation options has been increasing. Transportation options have been increasing due to new models enabled by a few technological improvements that have enabled all new shared modes – smartphones, wifi and 5G network. The impacts of innovation can mean something that was not on our streets five years ago (scooters) are now commonplace. Focusing on preparing and setting goals allows us to effectively regulate and manage these service models through policies and design.

### Figure 13: Timeline of advanced mobility

The pace of local adoption of national advancements is nearing a balance LOCAL NATIONAL 1997 The transportation landscape has rapidly evolved in the last twenty years and at a rate not experienced since the introduction of the automobile. Growth in Vehicle | December 1997 1998 shared mobility, electrification, and connected/automated vehicle technologies Toyota Prius debuts as the first mass-produced gasoline electric and services are introducing more mobility choices, and changing people's hybrid vehicle transportation behavior. Carshare Portland launches as the nation's first car share 1999 Shared onnected Infrastructure | March Connected Infrastructure | march 2007 The City of San Francisco installs the nation's first large-scale system of Audi-ble Pedestrian Signals (APS) with countdown timers 2000 Electric 2001 Automated/ Connected 2002 2003 Bike Share | August 2008 2004 SmartBike DC launches in Washington DC as the nation's first modern bike Connected Infrastructure | December 2009 Marq2 transit corridor features NextTrip signs with real-time bus share arrival/departure information 2005 Nice Ride Launches bike share 2006 ected Infrastructure | 2011 The City of Minneapolis installs state of the art Traffic Management Center 2007 Autonomous Vehicles | January 2009 Google begins testing autonomous vehicles The City of Mineapolis installs its first push-button activated bicycle traffic signal at the intersection of 5th St NE & Broadway St NE 2008 Uber launches ride hailing service in Minneapolis Washington, Oregon and California become the first corridor coalition to 2009 Two-year car share pilot begins with HOURCAR, Zipcar and car2go commit to building a multi-state highway electric charging corridor along I-5 from Canada to Mexico 2010 Lyft launches ride hailing service in Minneapolis Uber launches ride hailing service 2011 Metro Transit smartphone app allows electronic payment Lyft launches ride hailing service Ride Hail | Nov 2012 MnDOT joins the Great Lakes Emission Corridor to facilitate electric vehicle Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority launches the nation's first commuter rail ticketing smartphone app usage along Interstate 94 2013 The City of Mineapolis installs video-detection bicycle traffic signals along Washington Ave S from Hennepin Ave to 5th Ave S rastructure | 201 The City of Los Angeles becomes the first major city in the world to synchro-nize its entire traffic signal system (4,500 signals) 2014 AV shuttle (EZ mile) available for public demonstration on Nicollet Mall during Super Bowl LII (52) Zyp BikeShare launches in Birmingham, AL as the nation's first large-scale e-bike pedal assist bike share 2015 City of St. Paul awarded federal funding to deliver electric vehicle carsharing Chevy Bolt debuts as a zero-emission all-electric vehicle with a 200+ service in partnership with the City of Minneapolis, HOURCAR and Xcel Energy mile range 2016 ehicles | April 2018 AV shuttle (EZ mile) available for public demonstration on Midtown Greenway Bluegogo launches in San Francisco as the na-tion's first dockless bike share ous vehicles | May 2018 2017 City of Minneapolis implements multi-modal counting program (Miovision) us Freight | January Starship Technologies tests sidewalk delivery robots in Washington DC through video software imagery evaluation ous Freight | March 2017 Auton 2018 City of Minneapolis launches shared electric scooter pilot program with 400 scooter cap Amazon begins testing drone delivery Connected infrastructure | August 2018 MnDOT connected corridor project begins installing Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) technology along Olson Memorial Highway MN-55, allowing optimized signal timing Electrify America begins development of national electric vehicle charging 2019 station network; a \$2 billion, 10-year investment for snow plow and other service vehicles. July 2017 Los Angeles Country Metro Transportation Authority adopts plan to trans tion entire bus fleet to zero-emission all-electric by the year 2030 Xeel Energy Jaunches the Electric Vehicle Service Pilot Program, which provides at-home installation of level-2 electric vehicle charging stations (4-6 hour full charge time) Bird launches in Santa Monica, CA as the nation's first scooter share Nice Ride adds dockless bikes to their bike share program Los Angeles Mayor Jerry Brown signs executive order committing the state of California to a goal of 5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030 Metro Transit begins transition to zero-emission all-electric bus fleet by debuting new electric bus for BRT C-line Autonomous Vehicles | Decemb ar 2018 Waymo announces the nation's first commercial autonomous ride hail se MnDOT announces plans to increase electric vehicle registration statewide to 200,000 vehicles by the year 2030, up from almost 7,000 electric vehicles will operate in multiple cities in Arizona registered in the state in the year 2018 ous Freight | Dece Nuro launches pilot for autonomous delivery cargo vehicles City of Minneapolis relaunches shared electric scooter pilot program with 2,000 scooter cap ous Vehicles | January 2019 Uber Elevate announces an aerial ride hailing service with plans to offer rides in the next 5-10 years

## **ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY**

Access to technology is critical to ensuring everyone benefits from new transportation options. As shared mobility services grow in popularity, solutions for those without smartphone and banking access are needed. In the City of Minneapolis, 23.3% of households do not have access to a smartphone.<sup>12</sup>



Figure 14: Households without smart phone access

Additionally, in the Twin Cities metro region, 1.5% of households are categorized as unbanked, meaning they are not a member of a bank or similar financial institution.<sup>13</sup> These groups are limited in their ability to utilize popular shared mobility services which typically require a smartphone and banking access. For this survey, the term underbanked refers to households that had an account at an insured institution but also obtained financial products or services outside of the banking system.<sup>14</sup>

4.5%

4.1%

Figure 15: Banked and underbanked households



- <sup>12</sup> FDIC, 2017 Banking Status Survey
- <sup>13</sup> FDIC, 2017 Banking Status Survey
- <sup>14</sup> FDIC, 2017 Banking Status Survey

### **AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY**

Done correctly, automated vehicles could be a tool for future mobility that can be applied to a variety of service models, including transit, urban delivery and ride sharing. Despite much speculation around when the fully autonomous vehicle will enter the mainstream market, it is important to consider that the transition to full automation is an evolution. Vehicles currently operate on our streets that already have a certain level of automation inherent to them. Level 1 vehicles are those where the driver is in control, but some assistance is given – tools like adaptive cruise control, lane-departure assistance and automated braking to avoid collisions. Some new models of vehicles integrate Level 2 technologies, which automate both speed and steering. The integration of higher levels of automation will continue to impact all people who use the public right of way, including those walking, biking, taking transit and operating analog vehicles.

### Figure 16: Levels of automation



## Freight snapshot in Minneapolis

## **FREIGHT: A LONG JOURNEY**

Have you ever wondered how coffee makes its way to your mug? Coffee, and most other goods in your home and office, were transported via freight. Figure 17 shows a supply chain of how coffee moves through the international freight system before it gets to you.

## Figure 17: From bean to cup



### **E-COMMERCE IS ON THE RISE**

People are doing an increasing proportion of their shopping online. E-commerce, defined as the sale or purchase of goods or services through the internet, has grown rapidly throughout the United States in recent years. In 2016, e-commerce accounted for 8% of national retail sales, a percentage which has been growing steadily since 2010.<sup>15</sup> With this growing use of online shopping and growing customer demand for fast deliveries, delivery vehicles are using residential streets more often. We need to plan for this consumer demand for convenience delivery and understand its impact on our streets and the ability to incentivize smaller scale delivery vehicles like electric cargo bikes.



Figure 18: Growth of e-commerce in the U.S.

Estimated Annual U.S. Trade Retail Sales - Total and E-Commerce: 1998-2016. U.S. Census Bureau

### **EXISTING FREIGHT NETWORK IN MINNEAPOLIS**

The safe, efficient and reliable movement of freight is vital to a healthy local and regional economy. All industries, especially manufacturing, construction, wholesale and retail trade, rely on a multimodal freight system to transport goods. The existing truck route network and long-established freight railway network are closely tied to these types of land uses. As land uses and freight needs change, we need to ensure our truck routes are in the right place and that locations where our streets intersect with the freight railway are redesigned and mitigated for a people first approach in accordance with our Complete Streets Policy.



## Street operations snapshot in Minneapolis

## AN EXTENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Within Minneapolis there is an extensive transportation system that includes networks of streets, sidewalks, bikeways and transit routes that offer people many options for getting around. The same person may need to use, or choose to use, a different part of this system depending upon the time of the day, day of the week or by season. No matter the way one travels, these networks come together on our streets. The City of Minneapolis owns and operates some, but not all, of this transportation system. In Minneapolis you can find:

- 1,062 miles of streets and 394 bridges (Minneapolis owns 107 of the bridges)
- More than 2,000 miles of sidewalks
- 150 miles of on-street bikeways and 105 miles of off-street bikeways and trails
- 811 traffic signals, operated and maintained by the City of Minneapolis
- 207 local transit routes and 11 high frequency transit routes
- Many street trees, boulevards and public spaces

### STREETS HAVE MANY DEMANDS

The space available on our streets is a fixed resource with many competing needs. Streets are spaces for people walking, biking, taking transit, driving and places that accommodate parking, deliveries, trash collection and more. Additionally, these public spaces are often the shared living rooms of our communities, including the realm between the street and the sidewalk that houses our trees and crucial drainage.

Planning a safe and efficient transportation system for everyone within this limited space is complex. The City of Minneapolis' <u>Complete Streets Policy</u> helps to give preference and guidance for how to manage those competing demands. This modal priority framework prioritizes people as they walk, then those on bicycle and transit, over people when they drive.

Figure 20 shows the many different uses that are often accommodated within the limited public space available for streets, or public right of way. The typical street right of way width within the city is between 60 feet and 80 feet, although constraints often make the usable right of way narrower. However, a few larger streets in the city have a right of way of 100 feet or more.



### Figure 20: Typical Minneapolis street

## Figure 21: Minneapolis transportation system



### **REDESIGNING OUR TRANSPORTATION FOR A GROWING CITY**

Minneapolis is growing faster than it has since 1950. Between 2010 and 2016, the city added an additional 12,000 housing units and more than 37,000 residents. While our population is increasing, the space within our streets is not. If all new residents and commuters in Minneapolis traveled as we do today, the number of cars on our streets, and the resulting congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions would all increase in unison. To manage this growth in a way that meets our transportation and climate goals, we need to make strategic investments that allocate space on our streets in a more efficient way. This means prioritizing transportation options that have less impact on our environment and that are able to move more people more efficiently.

Figure 22 illustrates that people walking, or traveling by bus, bike or scooter results in a much more efficient use of limited street space compared to people driving alone. Transit-only infrastructure like Marquette Avenue and 2nd Avenue S are part of an efficient commute for many of the 205,000 people<sup>16</sup> working daily in downtown Minneapolis.



### Figure 22: Use of street space by 38 people

<sup>16</sup> Minneapolis Downtown Council, Downtown Facts. <u>https://www.mplsdowntown.com/facts/</u>

## Snapshot of street design in Minneapolis

## **GOOD STREET DESIGN**

Good street design is many things – most effectively shown through images. Good street design:

- Is for people
- Helps meet climate goals
- Is accessible for all people
- Includes space for all users
- Encourages safer, slower speeds

## Figure 23: Good street design





Encourages safer, slower speeds





Is accessible for all people



The Street Design Guide will be finalized in early 2021, separate from and guided by the Transportation Action Plan.

- Supports commerce and retail
- Is comfortable and welcoming
- Is flexible
- Moves many people effectively





