

# Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan Community Engagement Plan



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# Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan Community Engagement Plan

## Project Team

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# Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan

## Draft Community Engagement Plan

*Updated December 2018*

### Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan - Project Overview

The City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works is updating its 10-year Transportation Action Plan, previously known as [Access Minneapolis](#). The purpose of this planning effort is to identify how, through specific strategies and actions, the City will implement the [transportation policies](#) articulated in the [Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#). Work on the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan began in 2017 and is expected to last into 2020. Engagement around the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan will be coordinated with engagement for the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, which is being developed concurrently. [Vision Zero](#) is the City's commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries on streets in Minneapolis by 2027.

[Access Minneapolis](#) included the following six plan components that were adopted between 2007 and 2011:

- [Downtown Action Plan](#), 2007
- [Citywide Action Plan](#), 2009
- [Pedestrian Master Plan](#), 2009
- [Bicycle Master Plan](#), 2011, and Protected Bikeway Update to the Bicycle Master Plan, 2016
- [Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks](#), 2008
- [Streetcar Planning](#), 2007, 2010

In 2017, Public Works conducted an internal assessment of the Access Minneapolis Plan to identify key accomplishments and shortcomings and to prepare for the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. The full Access Minneapolis Assessments can be found [here](#).

Below are the key directions that will guide the process of developing the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan:

- Develop clear strategies and actions that will contribute to the overarching goals of, and implement the transportation policies outlined in, the [Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#);
- Prepare a single, tightly integrated transportation action plan that emphasizes the City's commitment safety, equity<sup>1</sup> and complete streets by building and operating a complete and integrated public right-of-way;
- Position the City to welcome and enable innovation and new technology that advance city goals; and
- Provide clear guidance and direction for the City of Minneapolis and its partner agencies.

The Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan will be completed as a single, tightly integrated plan encompassing several topics, as described below:

1. **Advanced Mobility:** Advanced mobility will define the approach to proactively harnessing innovation and new technology related to transportation to welcome change and enable the advancement of city goals.
2. **Pedestrian:** The pedestrian topic will develop a pedestrian priority network, identify barriers and develop specific strategies and actions to remove these barriers, to make walking and rolling safe, convenient, and desirable for all.

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<sup>1</sup> Achieving equity in transportation means that the quality of the transportation networks in the city creates fair and just opportunities and outcomes for all people.

3. **Bicycle:** The bicycle topic will establish an all ages and abilities bikeway network that will inform street design that will enable bicycling to be a safe, comfortable, and convenient way to travel year-round, and integrate low-powered vehicles (scooters, electric skateboards, etc.) into the planning framework and action items.
4. **Transit:** The transit topic will set the City’s vision and role in advancing transit frequency, travel time, reliability, and increasing ridership. This topic will also analyze and improve access and connections to transit, working toward greater convenience for system users.
5. **Freight:** The freight topic will update the truck route network and evaluate ways to facilitate the safe and efficient movement of goods within Minneapolis’ multimodal transportation network. The topic will also focus on integration of freight in an urban context, including last mile deliveries and integration into the Complete Streets policy.
6. **Street Operations:** This topic will identify areas of opportunity for improving system efficiency, safety, comfort, and accessibility in alignment with the City’s Complete Streets Policy.
7. **Street Design:** The updated street design guide will provide design guidance for sidewalks, bikeways, roadways, and intersections within the city. The street design guide will advance Vision Zero and Complete Streets policies and meet the needs of a growing city and its dynamic transportation landscape.

The Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan will be coordinated with the Vision Zero Action Plan, a stand-alone document that will develop priority actions to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries on streets in Minneapolis.

The Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan and supporting community engagement will be completed by Minneapolis Public Works staff with technical support by consultants as needed. Technical work will be done in coordination with multiple city departments and county, regional, and state agencies and community partners. Additionally, the following committees will help shape the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan:

- **Work groups:** Individual work groups comprised of internal city staff, external agency and partners, and representation from the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, and the Minneapolis Advisory Council on Aging have been established for each plan topic to guide the content and recommend strategies and action items.
- **Interagency Technical Advisory Committee:** A staff level group of City of Minneapolis departments, partner agencies, and industry representatives (freight, shared mobility, etc.) will inform the technical details and overall approach across all plan topics and provide recommendations to the Steering Committee.
- **Steering Committee:** Leadership from Public Works and Community Planning and Economic Development will guide decision-making for the plan.
- **Policy Advisory Committee:** City Leadership will provide high-level direction and policy guidance on this planning effort.

Between 2016 and 2018, the City conducted significant [community engagement](#) to develop [Minneapolis 2040](#), the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Engagement efforts on the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan will build from this previous work and the [public feedback](#) received on the [transportation topic](#) in Minneapolis 2040.

Development of the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan began in early 2018 and is expected to last into 2020. Engagement will be conducted in three phases:

- **Phase 1 Engagement (Spring - Winter 2018)**
  - Gather high-level community input on key questions related to travel mode choices and mode preferences
  - Document, compile, and share engagement results
- **Phase 2 Engagement (Winter 2019 - Summer 2019)**

- Share input and feedback summarized from Minneapolis 2040 engagement and Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan phase 1 engagement
- Present and gather stakeholder and community input on draft plan materials, including but not limited to:
  - Existing conditions
  - Demographic and travel trends
  - Networks and related criteria used to develop them
  - Strategies and actions
  - Goals and metrics
  - Cross-cutting themes
- Document, compile, and share engagement results
- **Phase 3 Engagement (Fall - Winter 2019/2020)**
  - Present and gather public comment on draft Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan
  - Document, compile, and share feedback collected
- **Upon completion of Phase 3:** Public Works will make final revisions and present the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan to City Council.

## Engagement Design

### Core Values

In alignment with the City of Minneapolis' prior adoption of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Core Values for Public Participation, Public Works is conducting this engagement process in accordance with the core engagement values as defined below:

- Community engagement is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- Community engagement includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- Community engagement promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- Community engagement seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- Community engagement seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- Community engagement provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- Community engagement communicates to participants how their input affected the decisions.

### Code of Ethics

Public Works staff will be responsible for implementing the engagement process for the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. Staff has adopted the International Association for Public Participation Code of Ethics to guide the work. This code of ethics includes the following principles:

- **Purpose.** We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.
- **Role of Professional.** We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.
- **Trust.** We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process and among all the participants.
- **Defining the Public's Role.** We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.

- **Openness.** We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public’s understanding and evaluation of a decision.
- **Access to the Process.** We will ensure that community members have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.
- **Respect for Communities.** We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to “divide and conquer.”
- **Advocacy.** We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for an interest, party or project outcome.
- **Commitments.** We will ensure that all those decisions made by the decision maker are made in good faith.
- **Support of the Practice.** We will mentor new professionals in the field and educate decision makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.

## Engagement Objectives

Through a strategic workshop led by an engagement specialist, Public Works developed the following engagement objectives for the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan process:

- Gather input/feedback on:
  - Issues, topics, and action items that are relevant to this Transportation Action plan update
  - Questions that cross all transportation modes and topics
  - Topics of interest to stakeholders that fit within the broader planning framework of the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan
- Provide community members with information that:
  - Ties this planning effort to the goals, policies and actions of Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan
  - Makes clear the significance and impact of the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan on subsequent transportation decisions, actions, activities and capital project development
  - Helps people understand how the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan affects them and addresses broader transportation issues and trends
  - Explains existing and projected travel and demographics trends
  - Is meaningful and understandable
  - Explains how transportation modes, topics, and issues are connected, interdependent, and necessary to achieve goals related to safety, health, resiliency, sustainability, economic prosperity and more
  - Highlights the intersections of all transportation modes to the overall transportation network
- Deliver a community engagement process that:
  - Engages a broad spectrum of people and stakeholders including residents, workers, visitors, families, youth, students, businesses owners, and more
  - Prioritizes engagement with traditionally underrepresented groups and the people in most need in both process and content
  - Engages people in an intentional, organized, and convenient manner, whether in person or online
  - Is fair, transparent, and inclusive, and helps ensure participants feel welcomed and respected
  - Uses tools and techniques tailored to the participants and content
  - Uses people’s time efficiently and effectively
  - Includes regular monitoring of people being reached and adjusting engagement design as needed

## Key Stakeholders and Engagement Methods

Public Works is committed to working directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood, considered, and reflected in the alternatives developed; Public Works will provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced decisions in the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan.

Public Works staff intends to conduct an inclusive engagement process to develop the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. Public Works collaborated with other city departments and its partner agencies to identify key audiences and will prioritize engagement with groups that have been historically underrepresented in transportation decision-making processes, while partnering with and building off existing community organizations and committees that serve those communities.

Key stakeholders that have been historically underrepresented include, but may not be limited to:

- People living in areas of concentrated poverty
- People living in racially concentrated areas
- People with disabilities
- Seniors and aging population
- People who walk and bike as their primary mode of transportation
- Transit-dependent people
- Families and youth
- Immigrant populations or people whose first language is not English

Aligned with the engagement values, ethics, and objectives outlined above, Public Works staff will:

- **Collaborate with community partners to reach out and directly support people and groups whose perspectives have not historically been included:** Methods are likely to include co-hosting in-person community dialogues in partnership with the City's Neighborhood and Community Relations staff, sessions with neighborhood organizations, online surveys and comment map, and ongoing information to be shared about the project and opportunities to contribute feedback.
- **Develop interactive and informative methods to engage with the larger community:** Methods are likely to include an interactive online website, online surveys and comment map, Open Houses, and ongoing information to be shared with the larger community about the project, and upcoming engagement events.
- **Engage with City committees related to transportation and people with disabilities:** Methods are likely to include in-person sessions, inviting committee members to join relevant plan topic work groups, and sharing information about the plan and opportunities to stay involved with the committees and their members.
- **Work with community organizations, cultural organizations, or artists:** Public Works will seek cultural organizations, community organizations, or artists to develop and lead engagement projects that broaden community engagement efforts with historically underrepresented groups.

## Engagement Documentation and Evaluation

Engagement phases will start with a summary that describes community engagement activities, recurring themes and comments that emerged from each engagement phase, and explain how feedback will be incorporated into the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. These engagement summaries will be posted on the future project website and shared broadly with the public after each engagement phase. The regular monitoring of people being reached and feedback collected will allow Public Works to adjust its engagement strategy as needed to ensure that all plan topics are addressed and key stakeholders are reached.

## **Conclusion**

The feedback gathered through community engagement will directly inform the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. Community engagement for the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan will feature opportunities to provide input and feedback through informative and interactive in-person activities, events, and online tools. Public Works intends to implement an inclusive engagement process and will prioritize engagement with historically underrepresented groups. Additionally, Public Works staff will develop public summaries after each engagement phase that documents engagement activities and feedback collected. To respond to stakeholder needs and foster an inclusive engagement process, the Community Engagement Plan will be a living document. Public Works will evaluate engagement phases, feedback received, and adjust engagement activities as needed to ensure that all plan topics are addressed and key stakeholder groups are reached.

## **Contacts**

For questions about the overall Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan planning process, please email [gompls@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:gompls@minneapolismn.gov)