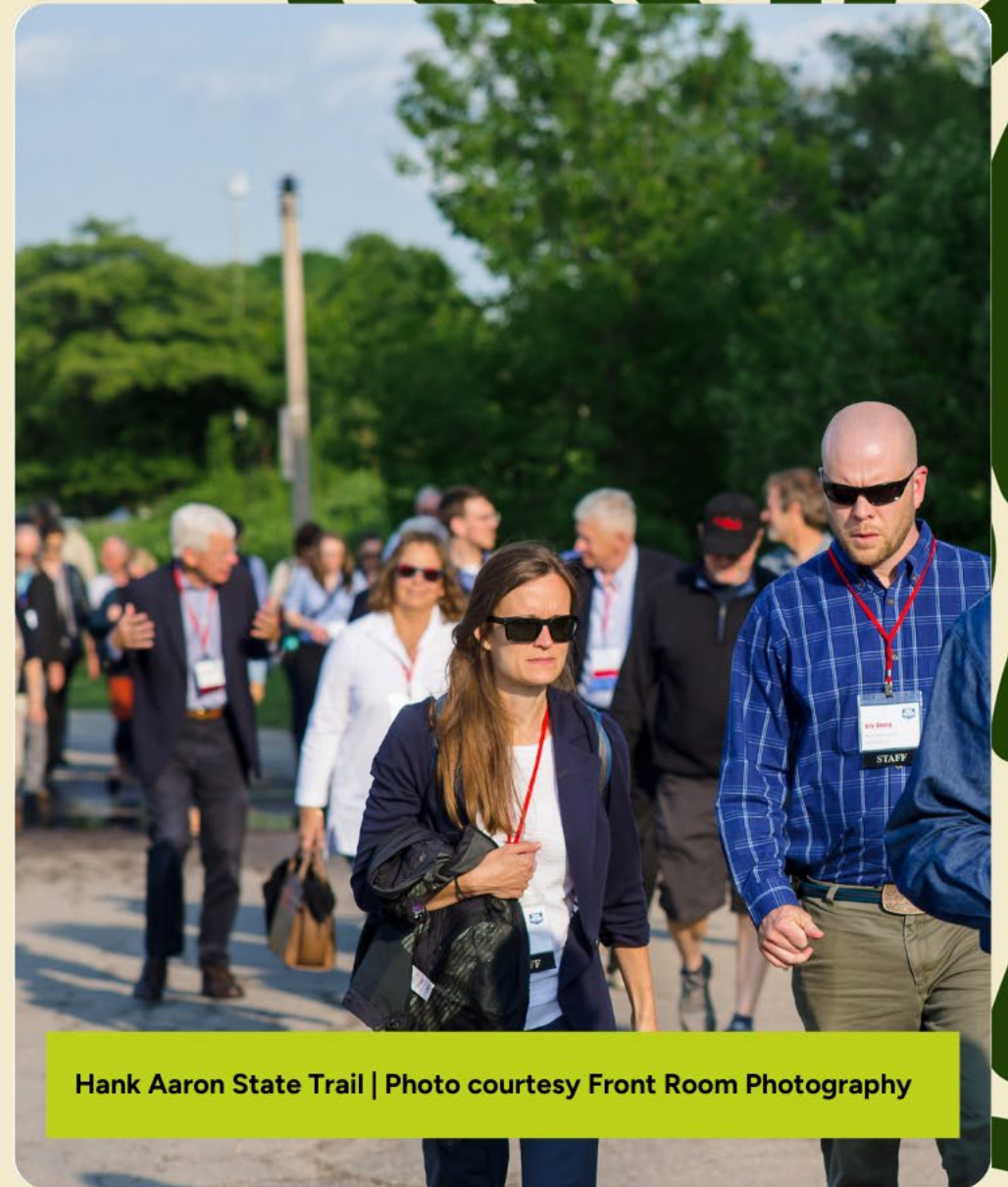


Nov. 20, 2024

# **Pedal Forward: Preparing Advocacy Plans for 2025 State Legislative Sessions**



Hank Aaron State Trail | Photo courtesy Front Room Photography

# TrailNation Collaborative

The TrailNation™ Collaborative is a **peer learning community** from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) where advocates, public leaders and professionals can come together to **share their experiences, their challenges and their strategies** for accelerating the pace of **equitable and connected trail** and active transportation infrastructure.

**Member Benefits:** Monthly webinars and virtual dialogues, dedicated Facebook group, regular newsletter, grant announcements, early warning system alerts,

[railstotrails.org/trailnation/#collaborative](https://railstotrails.org/trailnation/#collaborative) or  
[trailnation.org/#collaborative](https://trailnation.org/#collaborative)



**Join the Collaborative!**



# Agenda

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- RTC "Legislature 101" Presentation
- Move Minnesota Presentation
- Breakout Rooms
- Discussion and Q&A

# Today's Tools

## **In the event you run into technical difficulties, here's how to troubleshoot:**

- Log out and back into the webinar
- Listen by phone: +1 305 224 1968 ; meeting ID: 829 9993 8119
- Browse Zoom Customer Support topics & contact Customer Support: <https://support.zoom.us>
- Use the chat box to interact with attendees and the Q&A box to pose questions to the panelists.
  - Please drop your name, state, and affiliated organization in the chat!

Ex. Yvonne Mwangi, D.C., Rails to Trails Conservancy

- Please remember to MUTE yourself to minimize distractions for others.
- CLOSED CAPTIONING is enabled. Click the "CC" box at the bottom of your screen to utilize this tool.

Meet Our Panelists

# Meet Our Panelists



Elissa Schufman,  
Interim Executive Director  
MoveMN



Abdinasir Nourkadi  
Policy and Community Specialist,  
MoveMN



# State Policy Program Goals

- *Renew, Defend, and Increase State-Generated Funding for Trails, Biking & Walking*
- *Coalition Building*
- *Replicate Innovative Policies from Other States*
- *Promote Trail Connectivity and Protected Bike and Pedestrian Facilities as Essential Infrastructure*
- *Get Legislators and Agency Staff Excited About Trails and Bike and Pedestrian Facilities*



*Indiana's Governor Eric Holcomb on the Big-4 Rail Trail*

RTC

# Billions for Active Transportation



RTC has worked to secure **\$10 billion** in state funding over the past 10 years, supported by Democrats and Republicans



Bipartisan support, funding in GOP-led states (FL, IN, NE, OH, UT), Dem-led states (CA, NY), & divided government states (NC, VA)



Significant increases in state-administered, federal Transportation Alternatives funding



Winning political issue: *voters like trails!*



# 2024 Big Wins: Ballot Campaigns

- Maine: \$30 million bond for Trails
- Florida: \$25 million
- Iowa: Johnson and Story County pass conservation bond
- Ohio: \$60 million annually just for sidewalks, bike facilities, and trails (sales tax for transit)
- California: Climate Initiative (includes funding for trails)
- Washington: Rejected ballot measure

## ELECTIONS

**Story County residents resoundingly approve \$25 million conservation bond to improve trails, water quality**

## Politics & Government

**Central Ohio Transit Authority LinkUs sales tax levy increase passes**

## CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS

**California voters pass Prop. 4, \$10 billion bond to fight effects of climate change**



# Looking Ahead to 2025

- Budget proposals (Fall/Winter)
- Finalize legislative agenda
- Pre-filing & bill sponsors
- Educate legislators *and staff*: trail event invites, Capitol meetings, direct advocacy tools
- Lobbying laws
- Advocacy/lobby days
- *Upcoming*: recurring, 30 min state organizational call to share best practices and challenges during legislative sessions. First call: Wed., Dec. 18, 1 pm EST/10 am PST. Sign-up: <https://forms.gle/aeHDHsNzoKn3C5zy7>



Minnesota Capital Rally

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**Minnesota's  
Legislative Wins:  
Driving Down  
Emissions**



# Move Minnesota

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**Move Minnesota leads the movement for an equitable and sustainable transportation system that puts people first.**

We are passionate about connecting communities, ending the climate crisis, expanding access to jobs and resources, and improving daily life for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities.

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MINNESOTA

# Move Minnesota Action

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Move Minnesota Action is committed to building the grassroots and political power necessary to transform transit.

Launched in 2021 by Move Minnesota, we are growing our movement through **effective organizing, issue education, and electoral advocacy** in Minnesota.

MOVE MINNESOTA  
***ACTION***



# What we won

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MOVE MINNESOTA  
**ACTION**

# COMPONENTS

The Driving Down Emissions Law...



**CURBS HIGHWAY  
EXPANSION**

The Driving Down Emissions Law...



**CONNECTS URBAN  
PLANNING TO CLIMATE  
GOALS**

The Metropolitan Council—the Twin Cities’ regional planning organization—must now adopt **land use and development guidelines that require more than 180 cities to stop engineering our lives around cars**, and make sure the way our communities grow meets our state climate protection and driving reduction goals.





2023-2024 Report on

## Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group

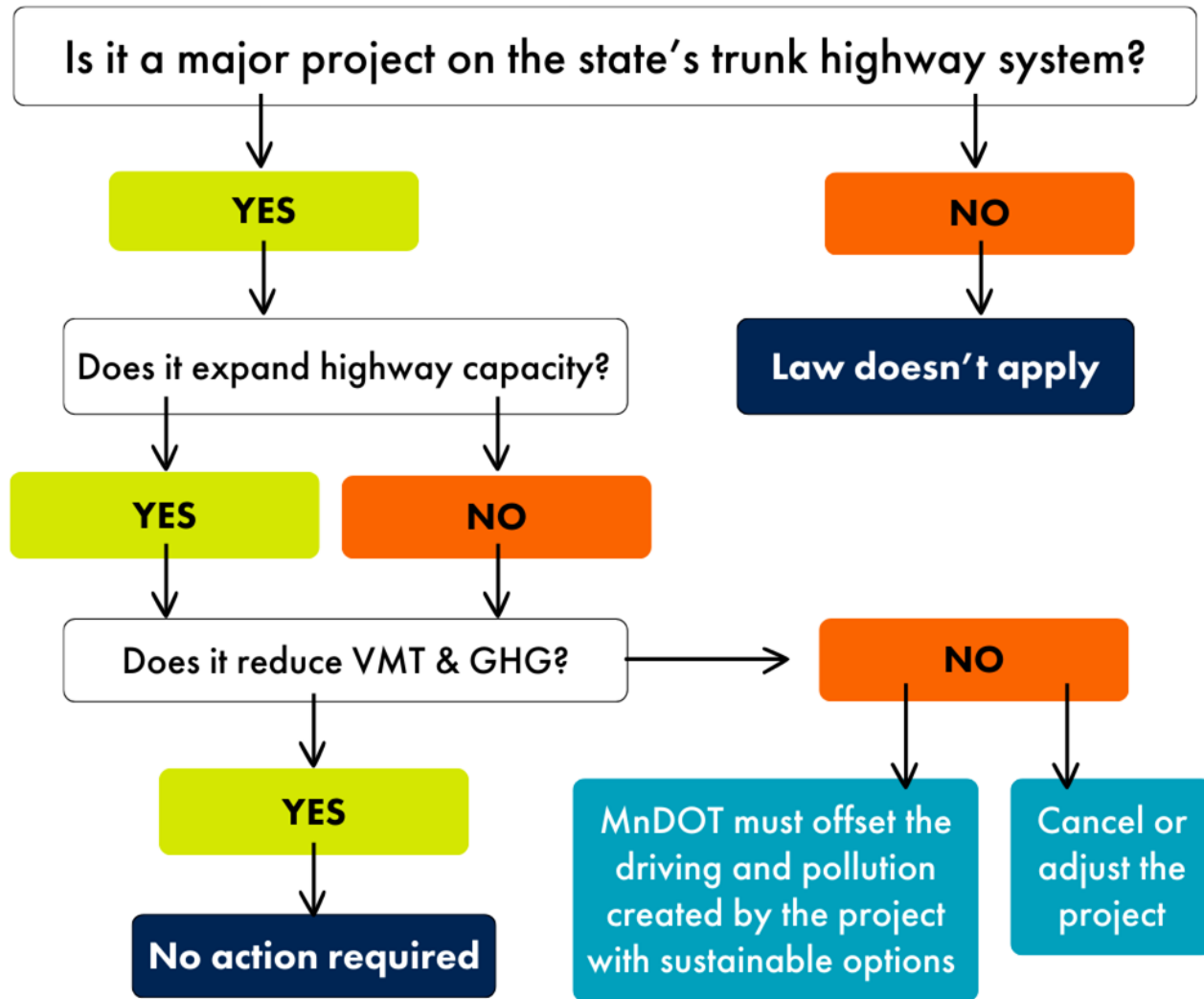
February 2024



## Working Group

- Assessing impact of single project on VMT is challenging with existing models
- Assessing projects together in portfolio approach would allow more accurate analyses
- Local and regional governance bodies need technical assistance implementing this law
- Technical advisory committee would provide accountability and flexibility as implemented

# HIGHWAYS



**2024 Law**

## 2024 law also



Allows the Minnesota Department of Transportation to collect greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled **data from cities and counties across the state**—a major first that will enable Minnesota to expand this law to *all roads in the state* in the future

California officials calculated that 16 miles of new toll roads would “induce” 100 million additional VMT per year. To offset those increases, the agencies would have to allocate **another \$442 million** for new transit, bus passes, housing densification, and bike lanes — **more than doubling the cost of the project.**





## Now until 2027:

MnDOT will **develop a model** to measure and predict vehicle miles traveled impacts of new highway projects—this model will be able to measure the ripple effects of highway projects on road systems throughout the state

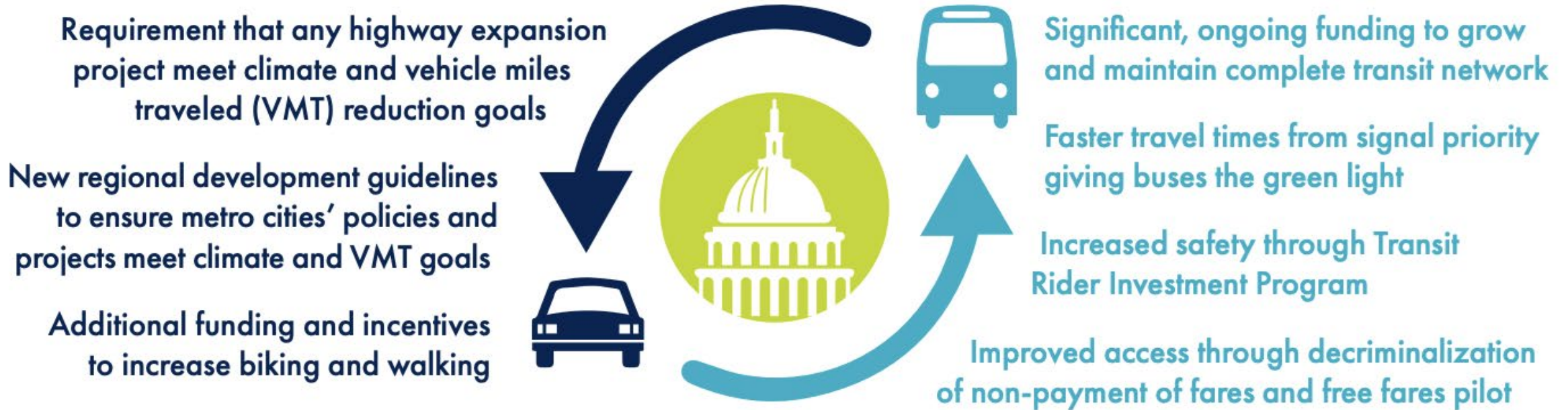
## February 1, 2025:

Assessment and mitigation requirements for trunk highway capacity **expansion** projects take effect

## August 1, 2027:

Assessment and mitigation requirements for the full **portfolio** of Minnesota trunk highway projects take effect

# How it all works together



# How We Got There

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MOVE MINNESOTA  
**ACTION**



# Ongoing grassroots advocacy



# Building coalition



**SIERRA CLUB**  
NORTH STAR CHAPTER



Minnesota  
Environmental  
Partnership





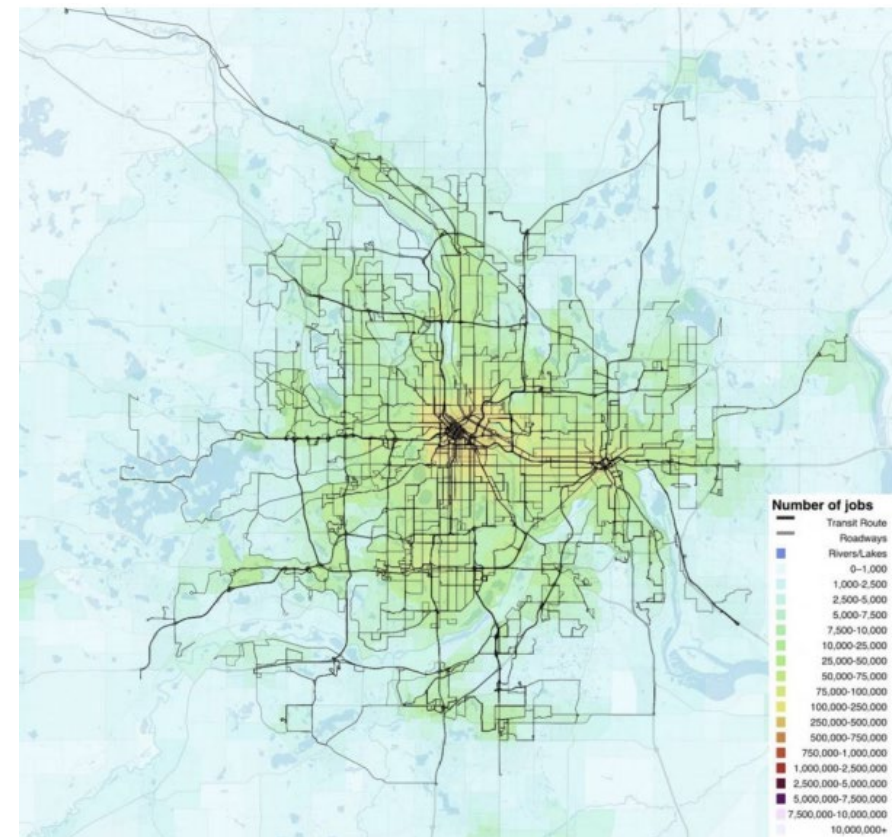
# Changing narratives



**EQUITY**



**CLIMATE**

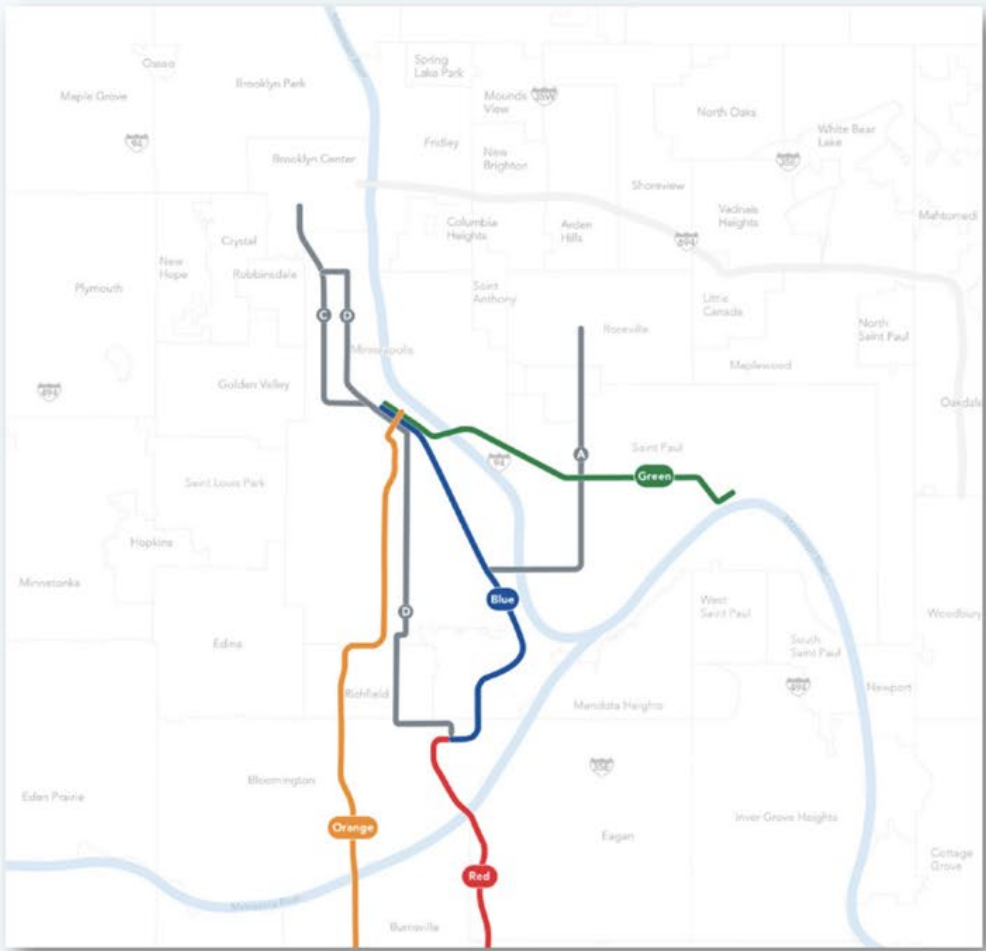


**JOB ACCESS**

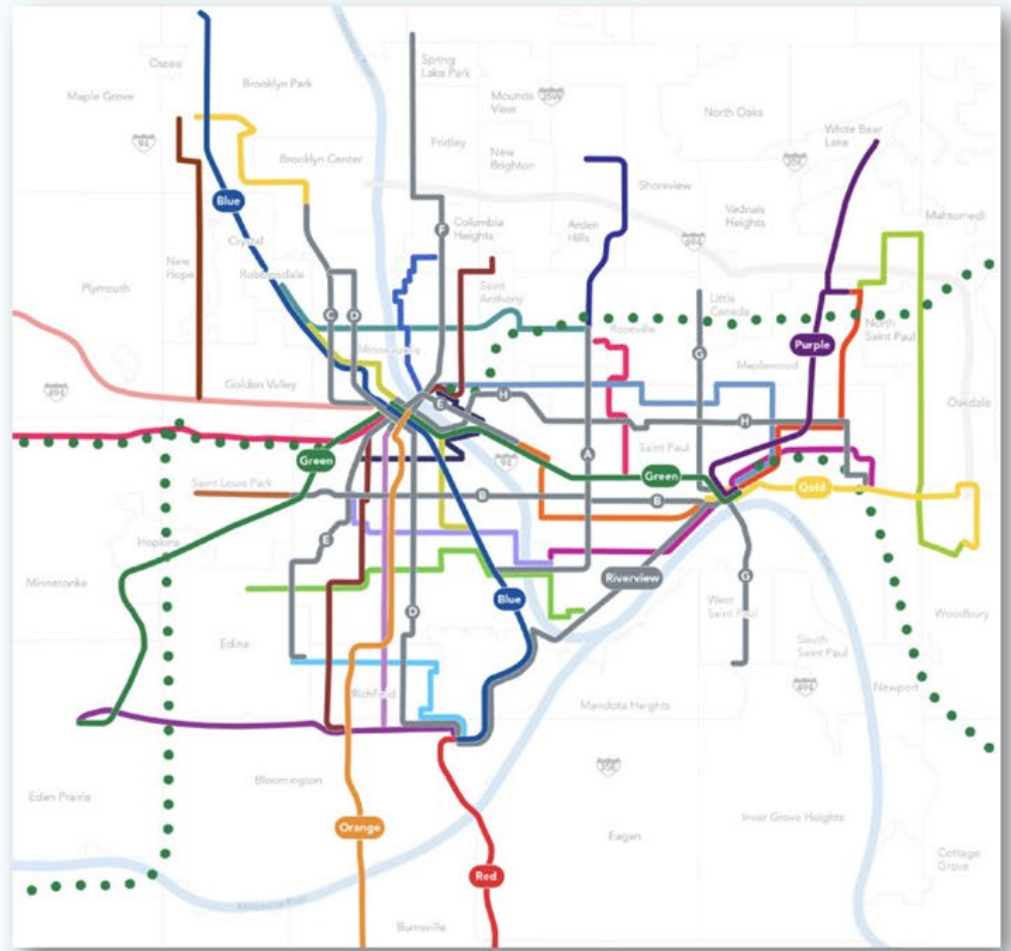
# Advancing a vision



**CURRENT** BRT network with decades of underinvestment



**FUTURE** BRT network with dedicated funding





# Leveraging plans



**Build and EV Market and Provide More EV Options**

**Fund EV Infrastructure**

**Promote Biofuels to Reduce GHG Emissions**

Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council (STAC):

# Influencing committees



June 22, 2020

## Charter: Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council (STAC)

Climate change is impacting Minnesota and transportation is the #1 source of carbon pollution

*Climate change is an existential threat. If Washington won't lead on it, Minnesota will. Minnesota's future is in the green economy. - Governor Tim Walz*

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>1</sup> found that if greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue at the current rate, the atmosphere will warm by up to 2.7° Fahrenheit (1.5° Celsius) by 2040, inundating coastlines, intensifying droughts and poverty, and increasing global insecurity. The report concluded that if we keep burning fossil fuels like we have been, temperatures could rise by more than 3° Fahrenheit, which would be catastrophic globally given how interdependent

2023-2024 Report on

## Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impact Mitigation Working Group

February 2024



# Policy development

## STATEWIDE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Minnesota's highest level policy plan for transportation

DECEMBER 2022

- **Work with transportation partners to identify and advance statewide strategies for reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) 20% by 2050.** Opportunities to reduce vehicle miles traveled vary by geography, community and context. Work with partners to determine



# Replicating successes



But widening highways and paving new roads often just spurs people to drive more, [research shows](#). And as concerns grow about how tailpipe emissions are heating the planet, Colorado is among a handful of car-dominated states that are rethinking road building.

In December, Colorado [adopted a first-of-its-kind climate change regulation](#) that will push transportation planners to redirect funding away from highway expansions and toward projects that cut vehicle pollution, such as buses and bike lanes.

# Engaging national partners



**Because RMI was able to leverage the lessons they had learned, one year later Move Minnesota was able to put our state on the map as a national leader in the movement for transportation justice.**



# Using & causing distractions



POLITICS

## Businesses raise alarm about 75-cent retail delivery fee proposal at Minnesota Legislature

WCCO NEWS

By Caroline Cummings  
May 5, 2023 / 5:48 PM CDT / CBS Minnesota

## MINNPOST

Community Voices

## Suburban mayors call for support for transit funding

by **Marylee Abrams**, **Mike Krachmer** and **Shep Harris**

05/04/2023





# Strategic champions

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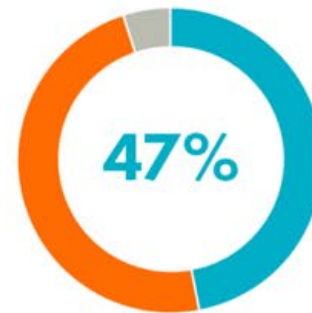
**Rep. Larry Kraft**  
St. Louis Park

# Polling for winning narrative

There is strong support across demographics to shift funding from highway expansion to improve other transportation options



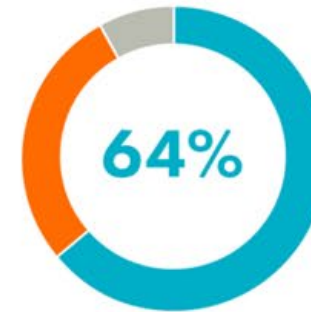
Democrats



Republicans



Black



White



Non car owner



Car owner



Urban



Suburban



Rural



# Summary

Grassroots Advocacy

Building Coalition

Changing Narratives

Advancing a Vision

Leveraging Plans

Influencing Committees

Policy Development

Replicating Successes

Engaging National partners

Using & Causing Distractions

Choosing Strategic

Champions

Polling for Winning Narrative

# Thank you!



**Contact:**

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**Elissa Schufman**

**elissas@movemn.org**

**Learn more at:**

**[www.movemn.org](http://www.movemn.org)**

# Breakout Rooms

- What legislative priorities are you focused on in your state?
- Are there examples of legislative best practices or wins in your state?
- Is there something/an issue you are struggling with in developing your legislative agenda?



# **Takeaways & Audience Q&A**

# Upcoming TrailNation Collaborative and Policy Events

Working with Railroads, Pt. 2: RTC Expert Panel

Thursday, Nov. 21

Post-Election Landscape: Next Steps for the Trail and Active Transportation Movement

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Advocating for a High Performing Transportation Alternatives Program

Monday, Dec. 9

Find registration information for all sessions on [railstotrails.org/webinars](https://railstotrails.org/webinars)

**TRAIL  
NATION**  
COLLABORATIVE

