



Busy Together, Better Together – MnDOT Revealed

Michael Petesch | Office of Transit + Active Transportation

APBP Conference – August 27, 2019

Walking and Bicycling in Minnesota

Bicycling

- 2 Designated US Bicycle Routes
- 2nd most Bicycle Friendly State in the USA
- 29 Bicycle Friendly Communities
- New Bicycle Facility Design Guide (2019)

Walking

- MnDOT's 1st Pedestrian Plan (coming 2020)
- Rural Pedestrian Research Projects
- New Demonstration Project guidance
- Parklet guidance included in state Right-of-Way manual



Building Partnerships

Partner Organizations



Sister Agency Partnerships

Minnesota Department of Health

- Co-led *Minnesota Walks* – a vision for walking in Minnesota
- Collaboration on statewide planning initiatives that connect to active living
- Bikeable Community Workshops – 6E's, traffic laws, internal connections

Minnesota Department of Public Safety

- Developing new safety education campaign for people driving and walking

Local Partner Relationships

Regional Development Organizations

- Connection between communities and state partners
- (more) Flexible organizations able to take on a variety of projects

Statewide Health Improvement Partnership

- County-level staff promoting active living strategies
- Grants/funding available for improvements that increase active transportation use (fix-it stations, bike parking, walking route development, etc.)

Issue-focused Organizations

- Connections to community champions and local networks
- Critical partners for engaging with stakeholders
- Sometimes offer grants/funding opportunities
- Opportunities to share knowledge and inform constituents





Local Organizing and Support Activities

Making Good on Partnerships

- MnDOT's established relationships with external partners create opportunities for collaboration
- Being open to the possibility of new partnerships
- Be anonymous, but not hidden



Bikeable Community Workshops

- Partnership with Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Health
- Communities apply to host a 1-day workshop including classroom instruction and a bicycle audit
- Selected communities receive technical assistance from BikeMN for 12 months after the workshop



Bikeable Community Workshops

- Program brings together community members, city/county staff, tourism, health practitioners, etc. to all work around a common goal
- Building local capacity and connections to technical experts who can help facilitate further growth



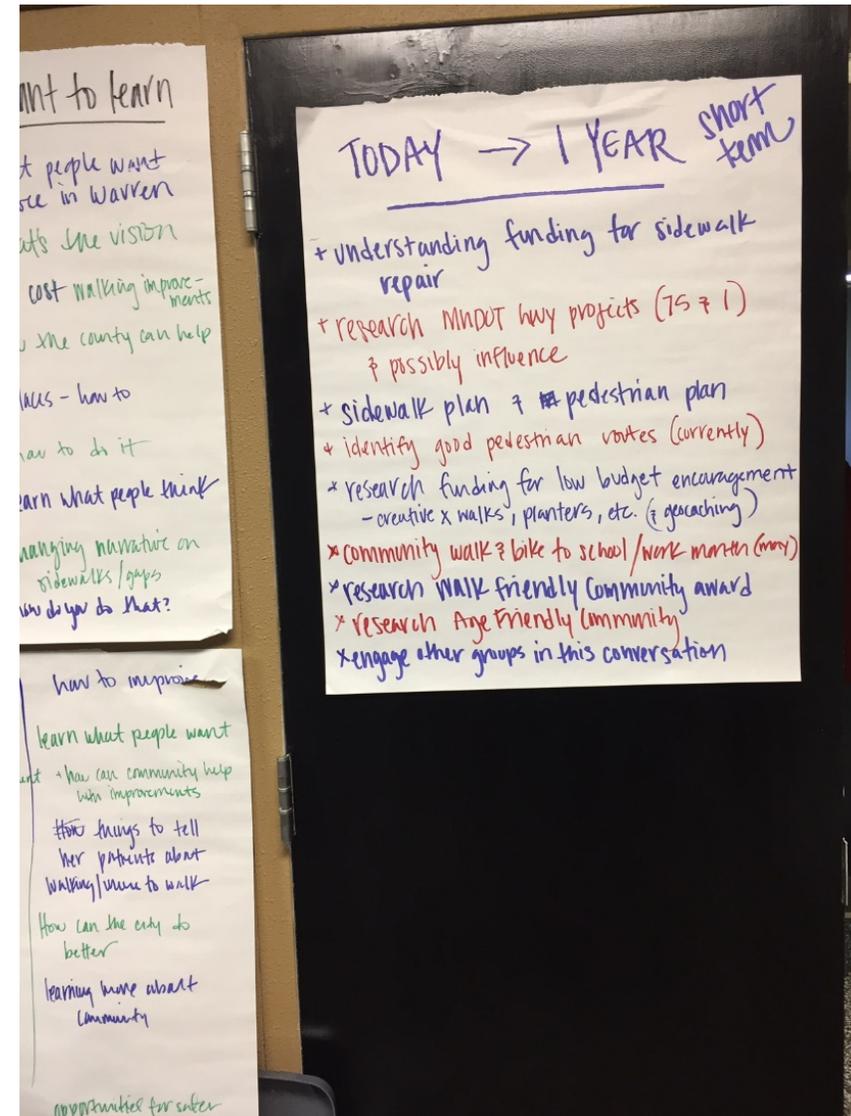
Walkable Community Workshops

- Organized and facilitated by MDH
- Follows a similar model to Bikeable Community Workshops
- Selected communities bring together a group of stakeholders for a half-day workshop
- Selected communities receive a \$5,000 through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Walkable Community Workshops

- Stakeholder teams develop a short-term workplan with next steps over the coming year
- Local planning can be used to inform future infrastructure projects



Safe Routes to School

- MnDOT staff provides technical support and guidance to planners who work on Safe Routes to School
- Grant programs award funding for infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects
- Safe Routes to School tends to be the gateway into active transportation planning for communities (do it for the kids!)



Research Projects

- Opportunities to deepen working relationships with key partners
- Example: Understanding Pedestrian Travel Behavior + Safety in Rural Settings





Statewide Initiatives

Local Control of Speed Limits

LEAGUE OF
MINNESOTA
CITIES

Minnesota Cities &
The League

Governing &
Managing

Risk
Management

Legislative Action
Center

Legislative Updates

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► Focus on New Laws



Focus on New Laws: Cities Authorized to Set Certain Speed Limits

Effective Aug. 1, two new laws allow cities to set speed limits on certain city streets without a Minnesota Department of Transportation traffic study.

(Published Jul 22, 2019)

Walk/Bike Scoping Field Walks

- Traffic Engineering partnership with Transit + Active Transportation
- Walk project limits with project manager 4-6 years before construction
- Begin identifying needs and community desires before key decisions are made on projects
- ~60 walks in 2018-19



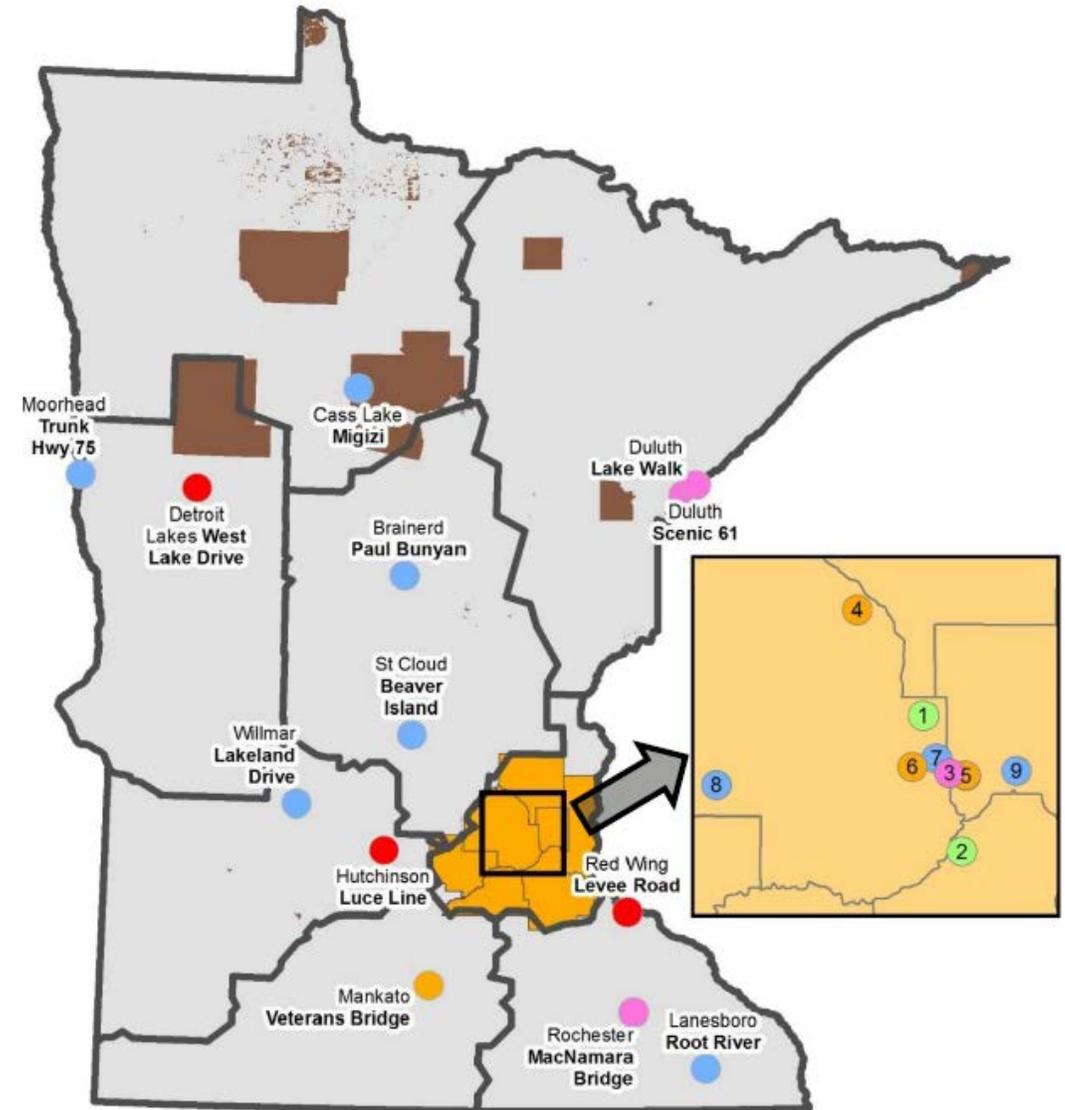
Pedestrian + Bicycle Data Program

Permanent:

- 29 people counters installed at 22 sites between 2013-2017
- 13 trail locations
- 9 on road locations
- Collaborative Placement
- MnDOT maintains, analyzes and creates factors

Portable:

- 8 sets of portable counters
- Free to use for local data collection needs
- Data accessible to locals and MnDOT



MN's Pedestrian + Bicycle Data Program – Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Use data to inform policy, planning and design

Goal 2: Coordinate to improve quality and quantity of data

Goal 3: Produce average estimates for all roads and trails in Minnesota

These are from the DRAFT. Final Strategic Plan will be released Fall 2019.

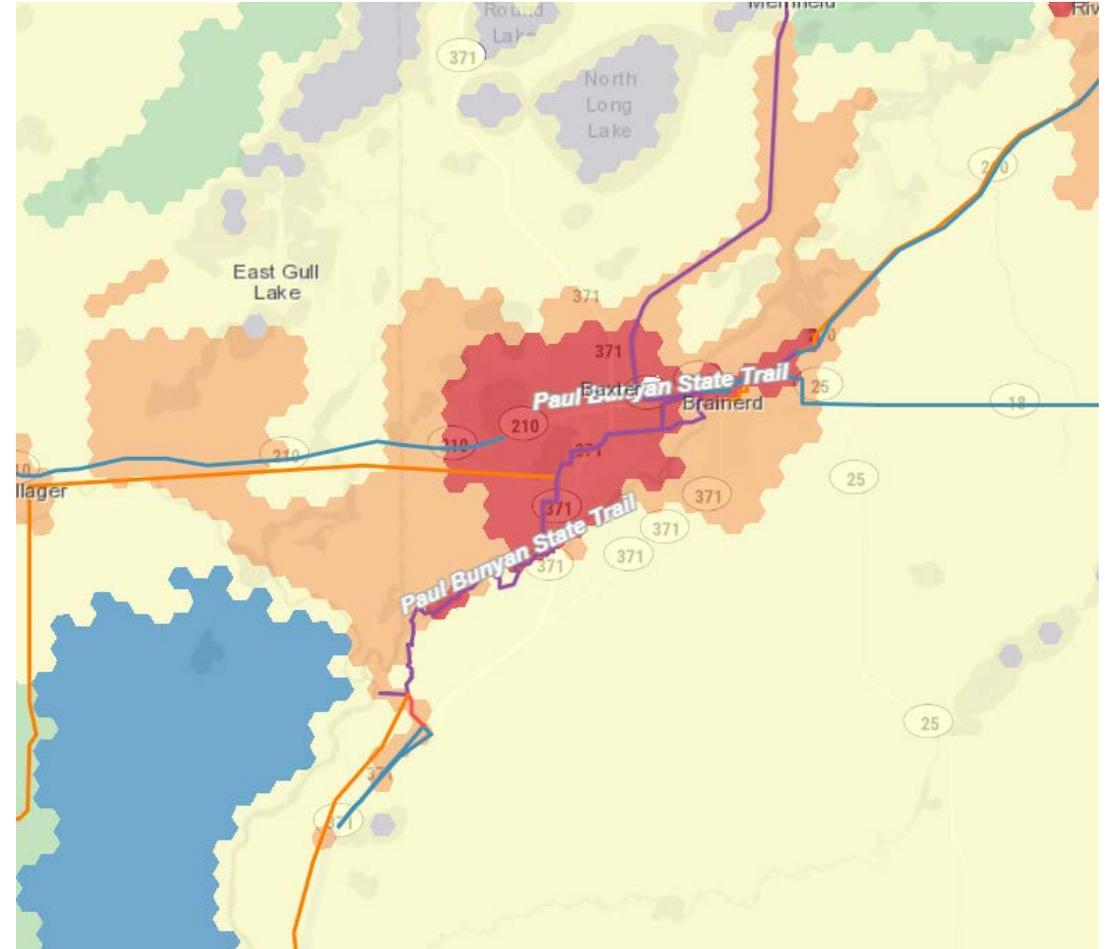
- Strategy 1: Develop a strategic deployment plan for MnDOT and non-MnDOT counters
- Strategy 2: Build a central data warehouse to store data from MnDOT and partner agencies and organizations
- Strategy 3: Develop factor groups, adjustment factors, and models
- Strategy 4: Lead interagency coordination for count data collection and use
- Strategy 5: Monitor and communicate count data performance measures and applications

Statewide Planning Initiatives



MnDOT District Bicycle Plans

- Brought MnDOT Districts and local partners together to discuss bicycle improvements
- Developed prioritization system to help target bicycle investment where it will have the greatest impact
- Identified agreed-upon “bicycle investment routes” to coordinate local and state investment in bicycle facilities





What's next?

Statewide Pedestrian System Plan

- September 2019: 3 month community engagement phase mostly complete
- Spring 2020: Draft plan developed and phase 2 engagement begins
- December 2020: Final plan completed and adopted



Additional Upcoming Initiatives

- US Bicycle Route Designation
- “Gap Year” for Bikeable Community Workshops
- End of year: New MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Manual, and Strategic plan for Statewide B&P Data Collection
- 2021: Statewide Bicycle System Plan Update



Thank you!

Questions? Please contact:

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