
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS SUMMARY

STATEWIDE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is updating the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP). MnDOT released a draft Public Participation Plan, which outlines how Minnesotans will be involved in the SMTP update, for formal public review and comment on November 2, 2020. The comment period closed on December 18, 2020. MnDOT advertised the public comment period in the State Register and via the project website and email updates. Minnesotans were able to submit comments via online form, email or via phone.

This document summarizes the comments submitted by Minnesotans throughout the public comment period and provides the MnDOT's response. The final Public Participation Plan is available at www.minnesotago.org/give-us-your-input.

COMMENTS

In total, MnDOT received six (6) comments from individuals and organizations. Names and organizations appear as provided by the individual commenters. The following table identifies each commenter and their comment.

Comment ID	Name / Organization	Date Received	Comment	Response
1	Jerry Hinrichs	December 20, 2020	Can we get signs on highways and multi lane roads the remind drivers to 'Keep to The Right' like Statute section 169.13? Adding 'Except to pass' would be wonderful; but it's not in the statute so I'm sure y'all have left that out of driving reminders for a reason. Thanks for what you do; I truly appreciate your work. And if people were reminded of curious driving, I personally believe speeds; road rage; and deaths or injuries could be reduced. Add it to all your safe driving reminders; and driving signs and maybe together you can really bring us closer to ZERO deaths! Thanks again for all you do; it really makes a difference in saving lives!! And you make all of our work possible with the primary access to all our jobs and actions in life!	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been shared with MnDOT's Office of Traffic Engineering.</p> <p>In addition, MnDOT will share all comments received with the SMTP's advisory committees. Please stay informed about the plan update via www.MinnesotaGO.org</p>
2	Angie Morales	December 20, 2020	I'd like to see passenger rail connecting rural areas to the metropolitan areas!	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been shared with staff planning passenger rail in Minnesota.</p> <p>There will be additional opportunities to share your input through the passenger rail plan. Sign up for the statewide transportation planning newsletter to stay up to date.</p> <p>In addition, MnDOT will share all comments received with the</p>

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3	Taylor Birkelo	December 17, 2020	Hello MNDOT. I had a couple suggestions that I think would really improve our roadways and Minnesota as a whole. I would love to see our roadways be planted with native flowers and grasses compared to many of the non-native ones that are planted now. They are more aesthetically pleasing to look at and can really help our native animals and pollinators. There is a huge movement to help our natural environment and with all of our roadsides we could make a real difference. I would also love to see more wildlife overpasses and underpasses to help our wildlife and reduce road collisions. Thanks for what you do!	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been shared with MnDOT's Office of Environmental Stewardship. More information about our work to plant native flowers and grasses can be found at MnDOT's pollinators webpage.</p> <p>In addition, MnDOT will share all comments received with the SMTP's advisory committees. Please stay informed about the plan update via www.MinnesotaGO.org.</p>
4	Quentin Ikuta/Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	December 16, 2020	Hello. The importance of transit in Minnesota is the single most important public investment for the coming decades. As car prices rise, fossil fuels pollute, and more Minnesotans are impacted by poverty, wage stagnation, lack of affordable housing and other microeconomic conditions, Minnesotans need to get around. Efficient, effective, affordable transportation for everyone will quite literally drive reductions in climate change, create economic	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been shared with MnDOT staff planning for transit in Minnesota.</p> <p>In addition, MnDOT will share all comments received with the SMTP's advisory committees. Please stay informed about the plan update via www.MinnesotaGO.org.</p>

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			<p>opportunities, and support meaningful and needed jobs. The future of transportation in Minnesota must look drastically different than it does now. Communities need to be more connected; bus rides need to be more efficient and effective. Taking a bus from Macalester-Groveland to downtown Saint Paul should NOT take 45+ minutes when driving takes 10 minutes. People should not feel unsafe or afraid while waiting for or riding the light rail. Transportation must be efficient, effective, just, and affordable. Please, exhaust all ideas and options when shaping the future of transportation. Prioritize safety and efficiency. Consider a future that is not constrained to the current creativity-restricted models that are currently used. Please, consider linking major economic centers like Duluth, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul. Consider actually going out into the world and riding the bus or the light rail during rush hour for a week to mimic and understand the average Minnesotan's commute. You have a responsibility to connect yourself with the reality that is transportation in Minnesota and use those truths as a basis for which to build upon. You can do it!</p>	
5	Tara Decrow	December 9, 2020	Please consider putting more bridges and tunnel systems for animals to avoid getting	Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been

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			killed by crossing car infested areas. Thank you.	<p>shared with MnDOT's Office of Environmental Stewardship. More information about our work to protect wildlife can be found on MnDOT's Environmental Stewardship webpage.</p> <p>In addition, MnDOT will share all comments received with the SMTP's advisory committees. Please stay informed about the plan update via www.MinnesotaGO.org.</p>
6	Kaitlyn B O'Connor/Prairie Moon Nursery	December 9, 2020	I would love to see more roadside habitat (native plants) and wildlife overpasses.	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been shared with MnDOT's Office of Environmental Stewardship. More information about our work to protect wildlife can be found on MnDOT's Environmental Stewardship webpage.</p> <p>In addition, MnDOT will share all comments received with the SMTP's advisory committees. Please stay informed about the plan update via www.MinnesotaGO.org.</p>

ABOUT THE STATEWIDE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan is a plan for all forms of transportation and all users of our system. The SMTP sets objectives, performance measures and strategies to help us advance the Minnesota GO vision of a multimodal transportation system that maximizes the health of people, the environment and our economy over the next 20 years. Find out more at www.MinnesotaGO.org.