



2013-2014 Report from the

Advisory Committee on Non-Motorized Transportation

March 2015



Prepared by

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Legislative Request

This report is issued to comply with [Minn. Stat. Sec. 174.37, subd. 4.](#)

174.37 Advisory Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation.

Subdivision 1.Purpose. (a) The commissioner of transportation shall establish an advisory committee on nonmotorized transportation. The committee shall make recommendations to the commissioner on items related to nonmotorized transportation, including safety, education, and development programs. The committee shall review and analyze issues and needs relating to operating nonmotorized transportation on public rights-of-way, and identify solutions and goals for addressing identified issues and needs.

(b) For purposes of this section, "nonmotorized transportation" includes bicycling, pedestrian activities, and other forms of nonmotorized transportation.

Subd. 2.Members. The advisory committee must consist of the following members:

(a) The commissioner of transportation shall appoint up to 18 public members, as follows: one member from each of the department's seven greater Minnesota districts; four members from the department's metropolitan district; and no more than seven members at large. Each of the members at large must represent nonmotorized interests or organizations.

(b) The commissioners of each of the following state agencies shall appoint an employee of the agency to serve as a member: administration, education, health, natural resources, public safety, transportation, and pollution control. The chair of the Metropolitan Council shall appoint an employee of the council to serve as a member. The director of Explore Minnesota Tourism shall appoint an employee of the agency to serve as a member. The division administrator of the Federal Highway Administration may appoint an employee of the agency to serve as a member.

(c) Members of the committee shall serve four-year terms.

Subd. 3.Meetings. The commissioner of transportation's designee shall convene the first meeting by January 15, 2009. The committee shall elect a chair from its membership, and shall establish a meeting schedule and meet at least annually.

Subd. 4.Reports. The committee shall issue an annual report to the commissioner of transportation.

Subd. 5.Expenses. Members of the advisory committee serve without compensation, but members who are not employees of government agencies must be reimbursed for expenses in the same manner and amount as authorized by the commissioner's plan adopted under section [43A.18, subdivision 2.](#) The commissioner of transportation shall provide department staff support to the committee.

Subd. 6.Expiration. The committee expires June 30, 2018.

The cost of preparing this report is under \$5,000.

Activities of the Committee in 2013-2014

Committee vision: Individually and collectively we will strengthen and encourage community support for non-motorized transportation throughout the state. We will do so through continuous and active participation with government agencies, and allied organizations through education, public affairs campaigns and political initiatives.

Meetings

As set forth in the bylaws, five meetings occurred between September 2013 and June 2014.

- Sept. 29 and 30, 2013 - Brainerd
- Nov. 7, 2013 - MnDOT Central Office
- Feb. 13, 2014 - MnDOT Central Office
- April 10, 2014 - MnDOT Central Office
- June 26, 2014 - Park Tool company headquarters

The annual planning meeting for the Advisory Committee on Non-Motorized Transportation was held in Brainerd and coincided with the 2013 Pedal Minnesota Bicycle Summit. During this meeting, committee officers were elected. Danny McCullough was chosen as chairperson and Jason Artley was named vice-chairperson.

Some of the other items discussed at the annual meeting include the following:

- The role of the committee and its future
- Staff organizational structure and assignments
- Bicycle infrastructure
- Share the Road
- Minnesota State Bicycle Map
- Bicycle Drivers Manual

The regular committee meetings featured presentations by invited speakers on timely, non-motorized projects including Cyclopath and Bike Walk Twin Cities. Additionally, there were updates from the following stakeholder groups:

- Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- Pedal Minnesota
- Minnesota Bicycle System Plan
- Safe Routes to School
- Mississippi River Trail
- Bikeway Facility Design Manual
- Law enforcement initiatives

Accomplishments

The committee worked actively with many state agencies and organizations over the past year to increase the incorporation of non-motorized transportation modes into the transportation network throughout Minnesota.

Minnesota Statewide Pedestrian System Plan

In 2014, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced and initiated the development of the first statewide Minnesota Pedestrian System Plan. A full assessment of pedestrian needs and context sensitive solutions for communities and partners along the state network and beyond has never been formally undertaken. To engage and reach diverse partners, MnDOT recognized the need to strategically align with other agencies and organizations. MnDOT and Minnesota Department of Health formed an equal partnership to produce the pedestrian plan. This plan is unique because it will address the transportation and health components of a successful pedestrian environment and examine opportunities for elevating walking through collaborations and partnerships throughout the state.

The MnDOT and MDH partnership has already produced a number of successful accomplishments in 2014, including:

- Walkable Community Workshops,
- Statewide Pedestrian System Plan visioning meeting,
- Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative,
- and Minnesota Statewide Bicycle System Plan.

Walkable Community Workshops

In the summer of 2014, MnDOT and MDH kicked off the pedestrian planning process with two Walkable Community Workshops. These activities gathered public input and identified opportunities for engagement. One of the workshops was held in Little Falls and the other was held in Mankato. Both workshops examined state policies and practices which affect how regional and local municipalities implement pedestrian infrastructure.

Statewide Pedestrian System Plan Visioning Meeting

During the summer, a Statewide Pedestrian System Plan Vision meeting was held in St. Paul. The purpose of the meeting was to identify a collective vision for a pedestrian-friendly Minnesota and to identify related stakeholder goals. Over 50 stakeholders participated.

The next steps for the pedestrian plan include public outreach and engagement efforts in the summer 2015. During this time, MnDOT and MDH will develop projects, policies and programs at the state, regional, and local levels. The result will be recommendations clarifying the various roles and responsibilities of all involved parties. Once the Pedestrian System Plan is completed, it will complement the Statewide Bicycle System Plan, which will be completed in spring 2015.

Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative

The Minnesota Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Initiative was launched to develop consistent methods for monitoring non-motorized traffic across the state. Researchers developed guidelines for performing manual counts using state and national examples. The researchers also created methods for getting traffic volume data from short-duration automated counts to integrate into MnDOT's vehicular count database program.

Several documents were developed to guide those performing the manual counts, including:

- forms,
- training materials,
- public information for passers-by,
- links to smartphone applications that provide counting locations and,
- spreadsheets for reporting results.

This groundbreaking research involved a diverse partnership of state and local officials, the University of Minnesota, and private and nonprofit organizations. In 2014, the project team received a research partnership award from the Center for Transportation Studies. The award is given each year to projects which have resulted in significant impacts on transportation, and that draw on the strengths of their diverse partnerships to achieve their results.

MnDOT Statewide Bicycle System Plan

The MnDOT Statewide Bicycle System Plan builds off the findings and momentum within the Minnesota Statewide Bicycle Planning Study, completed in spring of 2013. The MnDOT Statewide Bicycle System Plan will:

- Develop district-specific bicycle system plans
- Provide over-arching policy guidance and implementation tools to MnDOT districts
- Provide guidance on how and where to prioritize investments on the state highway network
- Develop district and state maps of existing bicycle conditions, and network gaps and barriers

An additional series of workshops will be held in the fall aimed at the general public, with a focus on the 5 E's (engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation/planning) and how the 5E's are used when creating bikeway and pedestrian corridors.

The MnDOT Statewide Bicycle System Plan was completed in the spring 2015.

Additional Initiatives

- Frostbike event
- Bicycle Friendly State application
- Bikeable Community Workshops

Recommendations

The committee asks MnDOT to provide consistent statewide policies to increase bicycling and walking opportunities within the state, provide funding of facilities, and offer safety guidance and solutions to reduce pedestrian and bicycling fatalities and injuries. The committee has enjoyed a good working relationship with MnDOT and looks forward to furthering the achievement of Minnesota's transportation goals and objectives.

Appendix A: Members

The committee is comprised of citizen representatives from across the state, representatives from state and regional governmental agencies and representatives from user and advocacy groups. The committee is staffed by MnDOT.

The members bring a diverse set of skills and personalized knowledge to the committee. They offer new perspectives to the agency, whether through knowledge of private sector, efficiency, regional differences in mobility needs and innovative technologies. Above all, they inject an element of reason and practicality into decision making.

Members:

MnDOT District 1	Larry Killien
MnDOT District 2	Andy Mueller
MnDOT District 3	Jenny Smith
MnDOT District 4	Jason Artley
MnDOT District 6	Pete Connor
MnDOT District 7	Tom Engstrom
MnDOT District 8	Steve Brisendine
MnDOT Metro District	Dan Breva
MnDOT Metro District	Benita Warns
MnDOT Metro District	Randy Oppelt
MnDOT Metro District	Emma Pachuta
Law Enforcement	Danny McCullough
Bicycling Club	Paul Frenz
Higher Education	Steve Sanders
Metropolitan Planning	Muhammad Khan
State Advocacy Organization	Nick Mason
Industry	Rich Tauer
Department of Administration	Anne Johnson
Pollution Control Agency	Vacant
Department of Natural Resources	Andrew Korsberg
Explore Minnesota Tourism	Gayle Junnila
Metropolitan Council	Steve Elmer
Department of Health	Amber Dallman
Department of Education	Kelly Wosika
Department of Public Safety	Shannon Swanson
Department of Transportation	Mark Vizecky
Federal Highway Administration	Tim Anderson