



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

April 8, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. **2025 Transportation Funding**

[2025-131](#)

Sponsors: Public Works



Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
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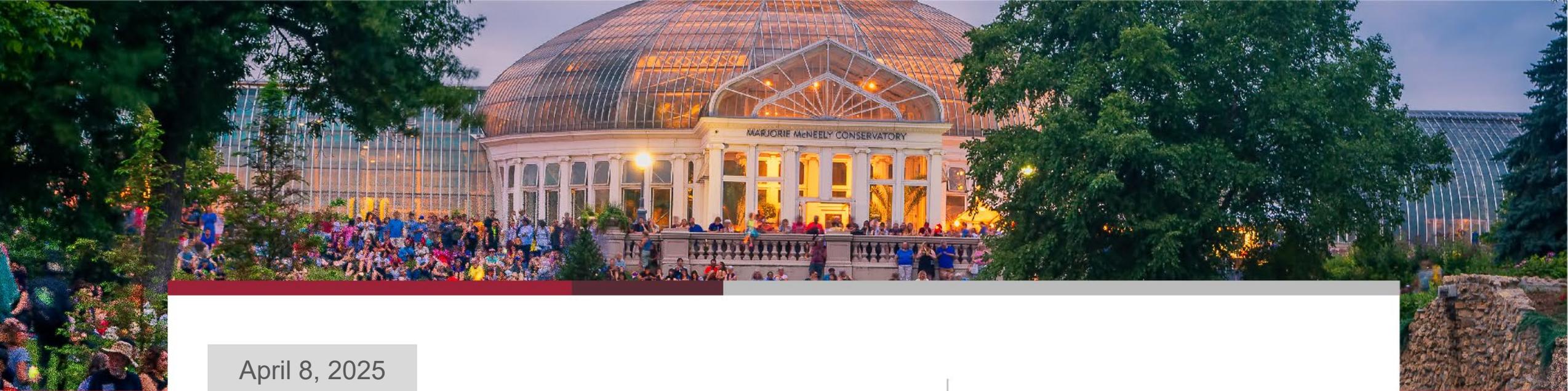
Item Number: 2025-131

Meeting Date: 4/8/2025

Sponsor: Public Works

Title
2025 Transportation Funding

Attachment
1. Presentation



April 8, 2025

2025 Transportation Funding Workshop



2025 Transportation Funding Workshop

Presenters.

- Kari Collins, Deputy County Manager.
- Brian Isaacson, Director of Public Works.
- Brad Estochen, County Engineer.
- Mike Rogers, Deputy Director Public Works.

Workshop Purpose:

Provide additional detail on the Draft Transit and Transportation Investment Plan.





Workshop Agenda

Overview of Key Public Works Documents.

- 2050 All Abilities Transportation Plan.
- Transportation Investment Program.

Funding Sources.

Proposed Transit and Transportation Investment Plan.

Next Steps.

Background

- This is a follow up from a board workshop that was done on November 19, 2024.
- Board was provided a high-level overview of possible investments utilizing transit funding.
- Consensus on the board was for staff to develop a plan that would provide additional clarity and a new paradigm ensuring investments throughout the entire county.

Overview of Key Public Works Documents



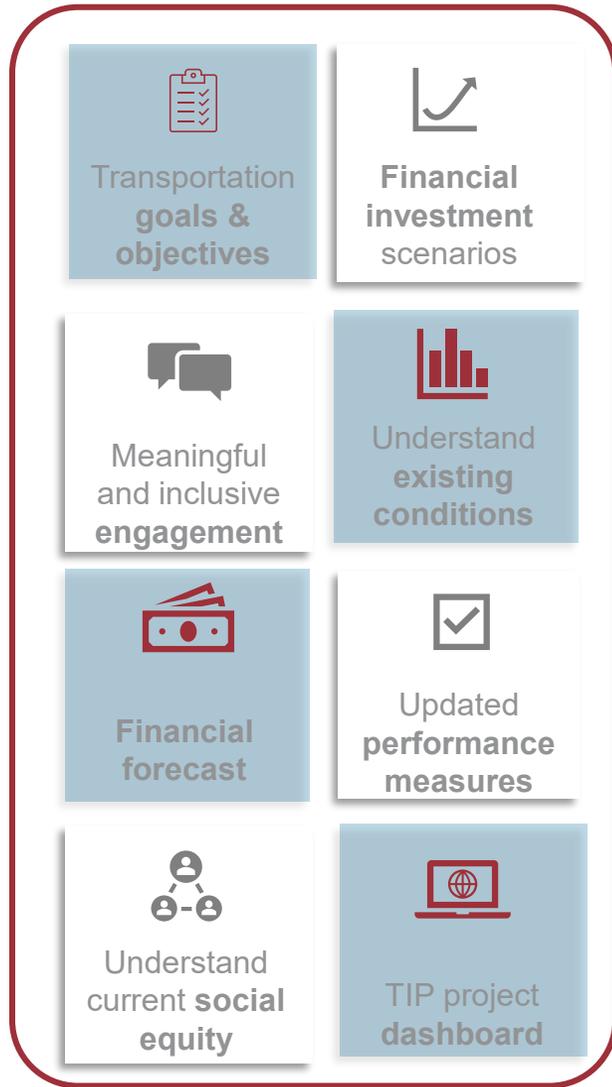


2050 All Abilities Transportation Plan

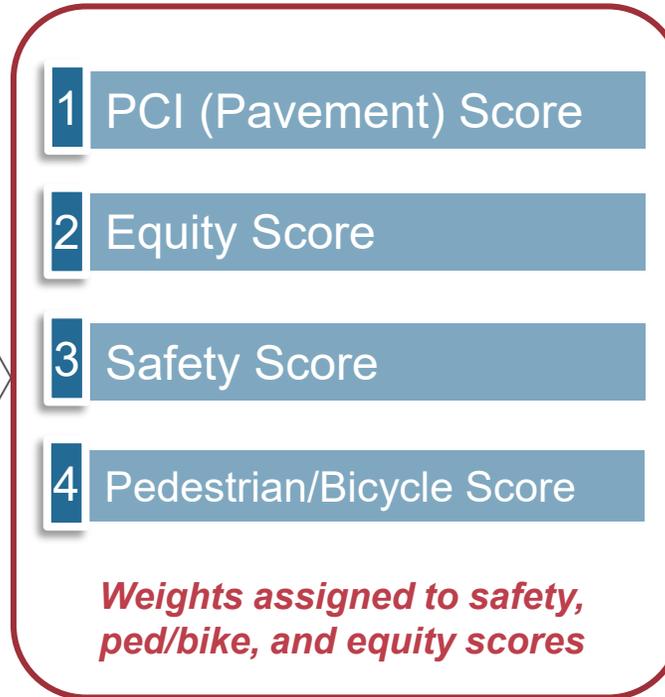
- Visioning document for Ramsey County's transportation system.
- Provides a framework to utilize existing plans and data for future investments.
- Project selection criteria include pavement, equity, safety and pedestrian and bike scoring.
- Projects from the plan will be incorporated into the TIP starting next year.

Project Selection Process

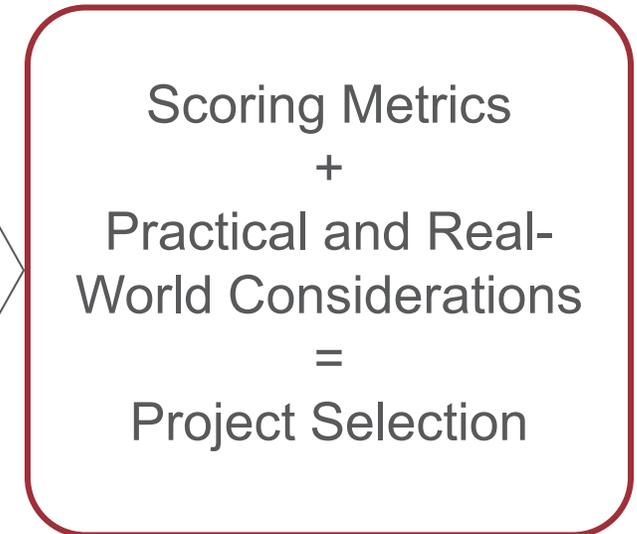
2050 All Abilities Plan



Scoring Metrics

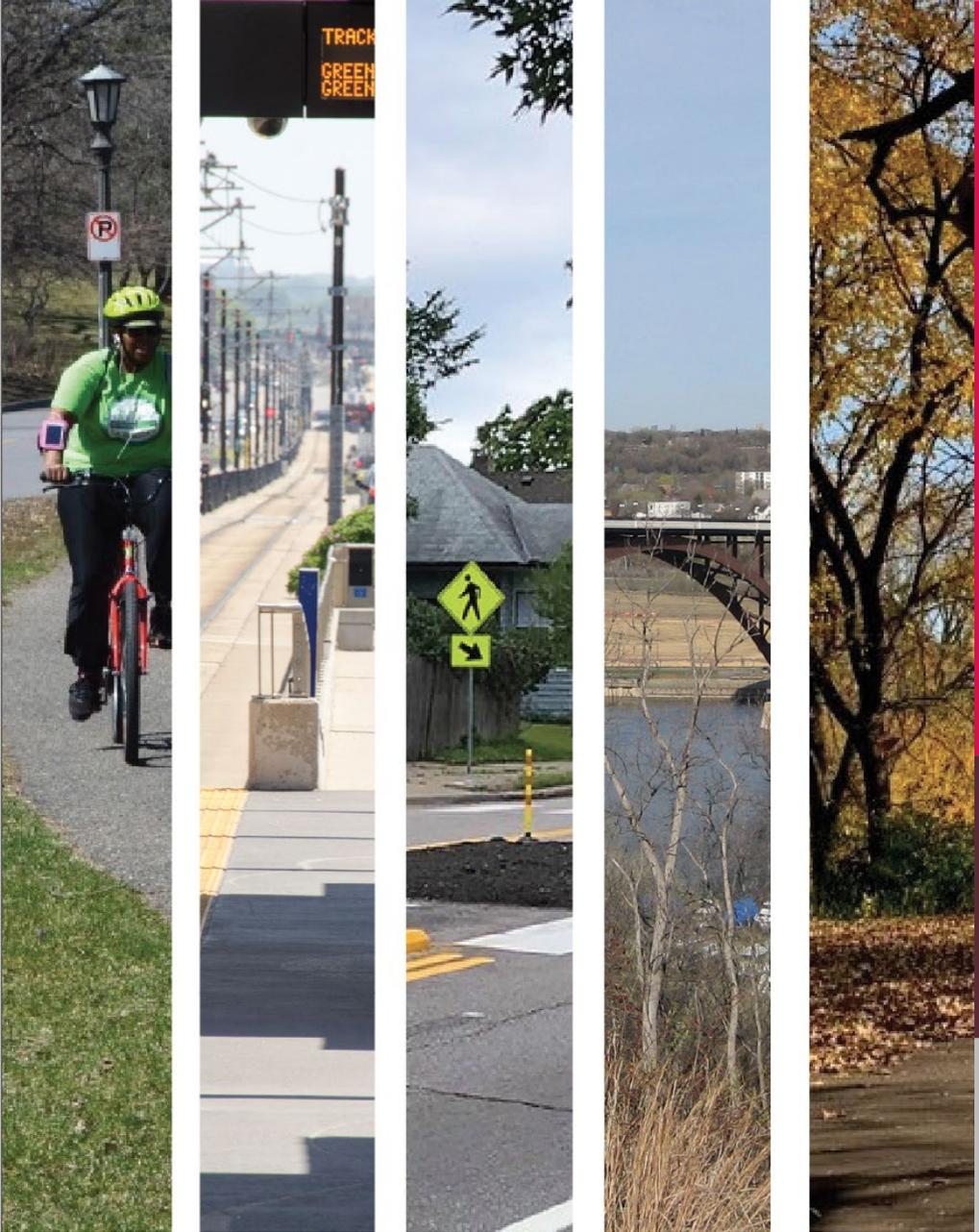


Transportation Improvement Program



Funding Sources





Investment Principles

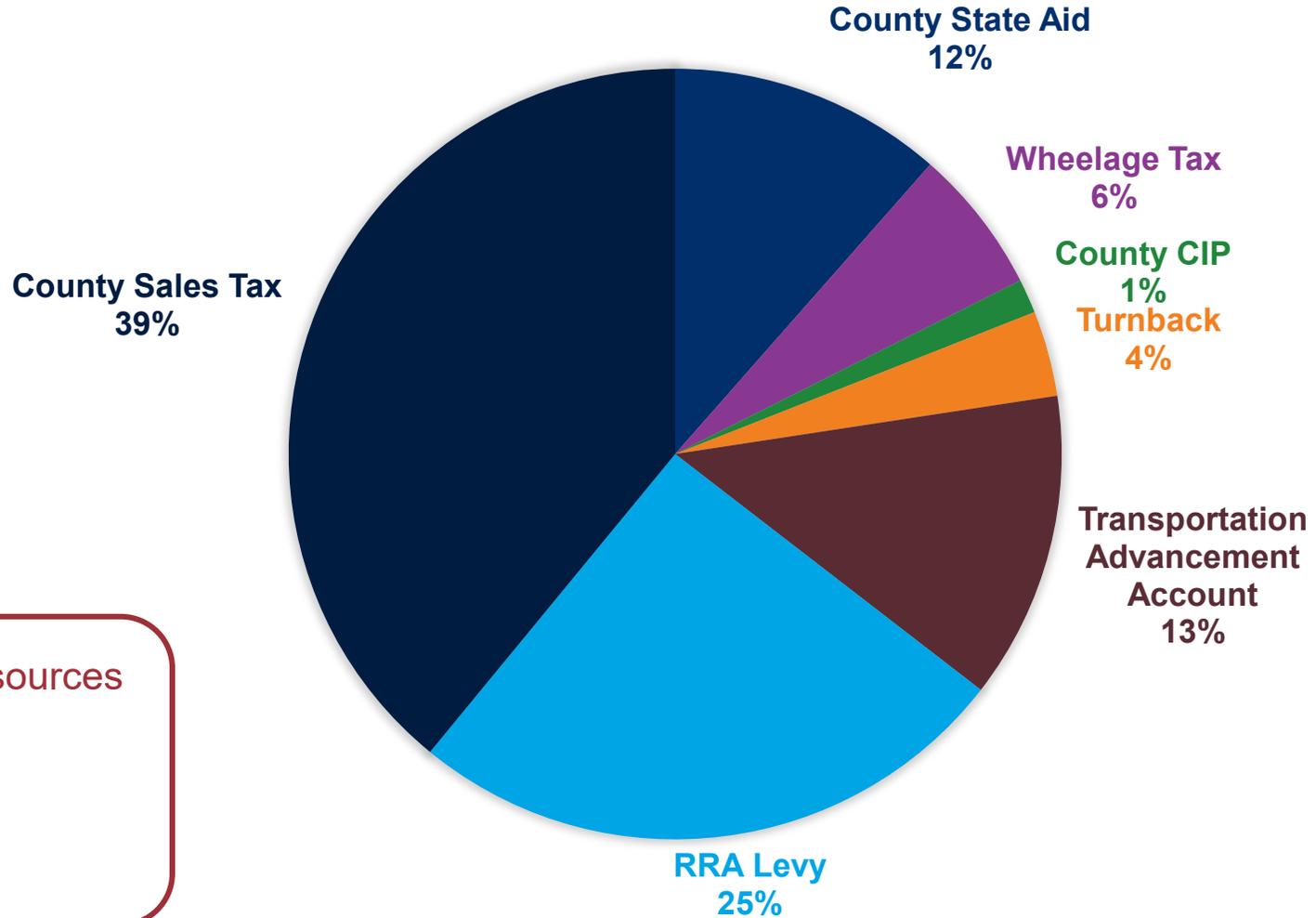
- Preserve the existing system.
- Expand transit priority investments.
- Expand the multimodal network.
 - Sidewalks, bike lanes and multimodal trails.
 - Mobility hubs.
- Economic Development.
 - Downtown Investment Strategy.
 - Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan.
- Regional connectivity via Union Depot.
- Other.



Public Works Funding Sources

- Gas tax - "State Aid".
- Wheelage tax.
- County levy.
- Regional sales tax.
- Local Option Sales Tax (LOST).
- Regional Railroad Authority levy.
- City/State partner funds.
- Federal funds.

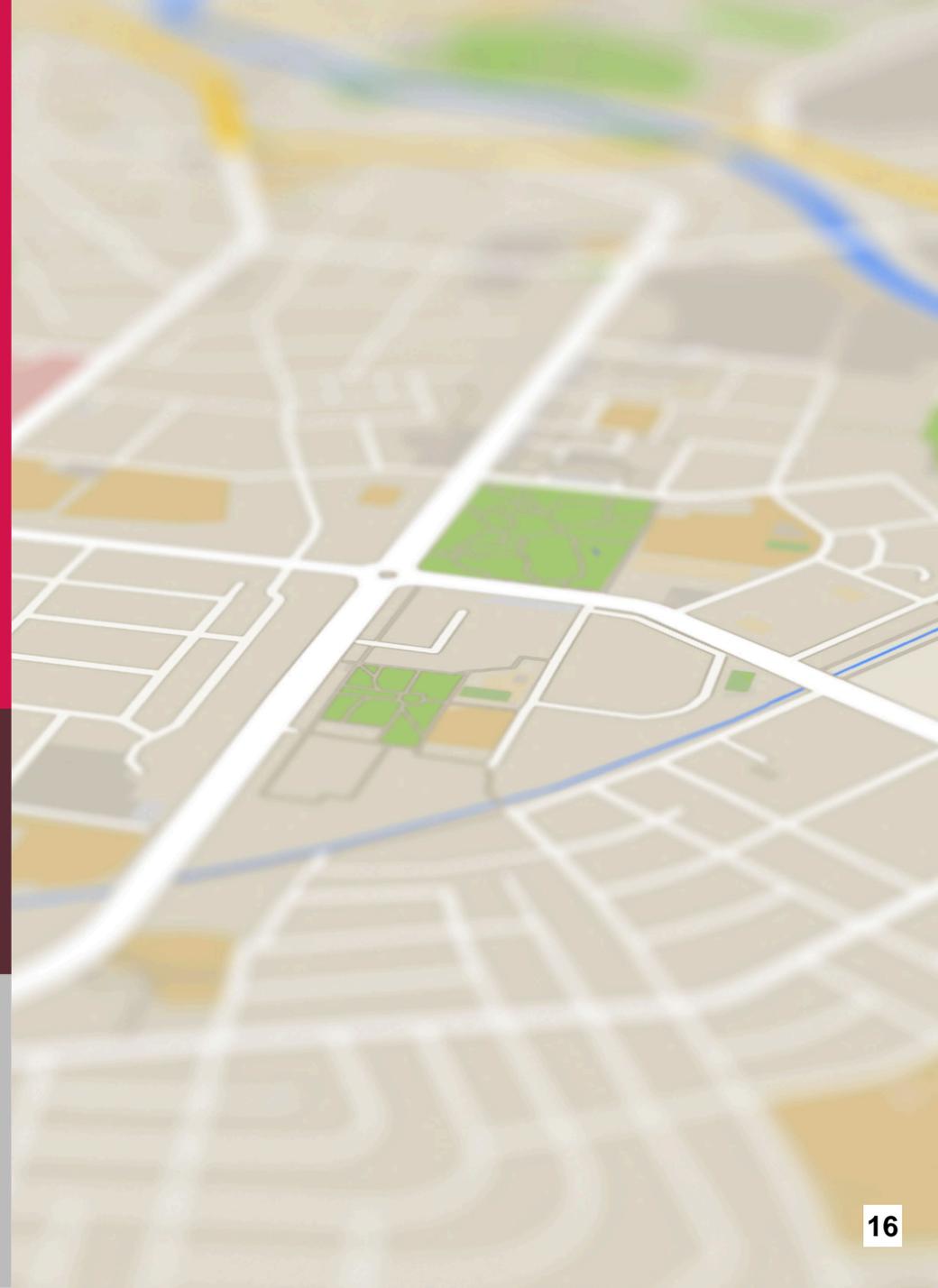
Public Works Funding Sources 2025



Additional funding sources that vary by year:

- Federal.
- State.
- Local.

Proposed Program





Paradigm Shift

- Previous Plan.
 - Transitway projects focused on 3 major corridors.
 - Preservation at today's levels, minor improvements to multimodal elements.
- Proposed Plan.
 - More targeted transit investments on more corridors.
 - More multimodal improvements, better system conditions.



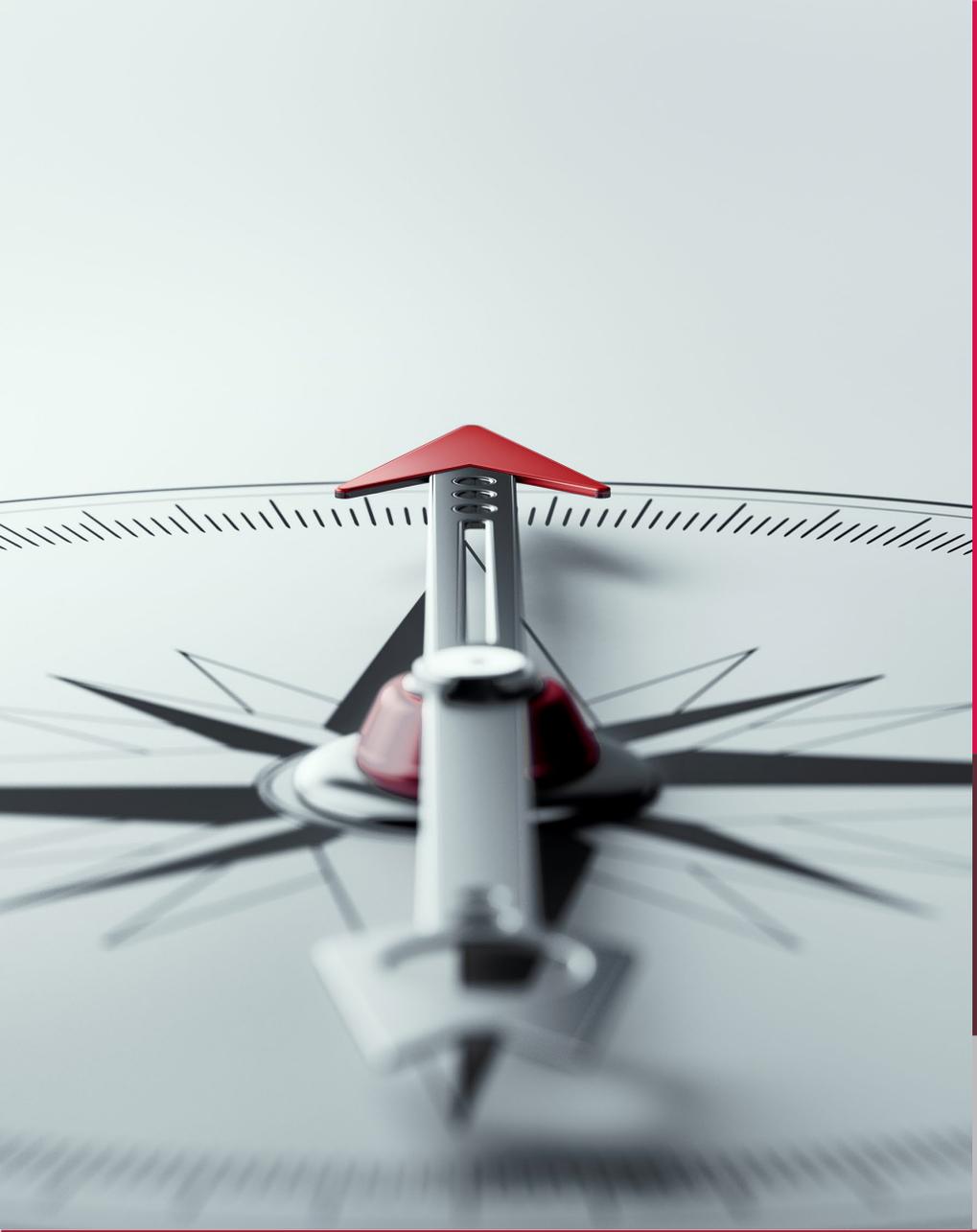
Transitways

- **Gold Line**
 - Opened on March 22nd.
- **Purple Line**
 - Ongoing negotiations with corridor cities and Metro Transit.
- **Riverview Corridor**
 - St. Paul led concept is out for public comment.
 - County is not currently involved, but a funding request is anticipated.
 - Funding would be based on the project scope and desire of the board.
 - Funding would require a reallocation of funding from other projects.



Reallocated Revenues - Principles

- Invest across the county consistent with All Abilities Transportation Policy.
- Grow economic competitiveness by improving mobility between housing, jobs, essential services and community amenities.
- Increasing access and reducing barriers to multimodal transportation options.



Reallocated Revenues - Principles

- Project programming based on:
 - 2050 All Abilities Transportation Plan.
 - Existing construction program.
- Project Timeline
 - Project Development Study (1-3 yrs).
 - Project Design (1-3 yrs).
 - Construction (1-3 yrs).

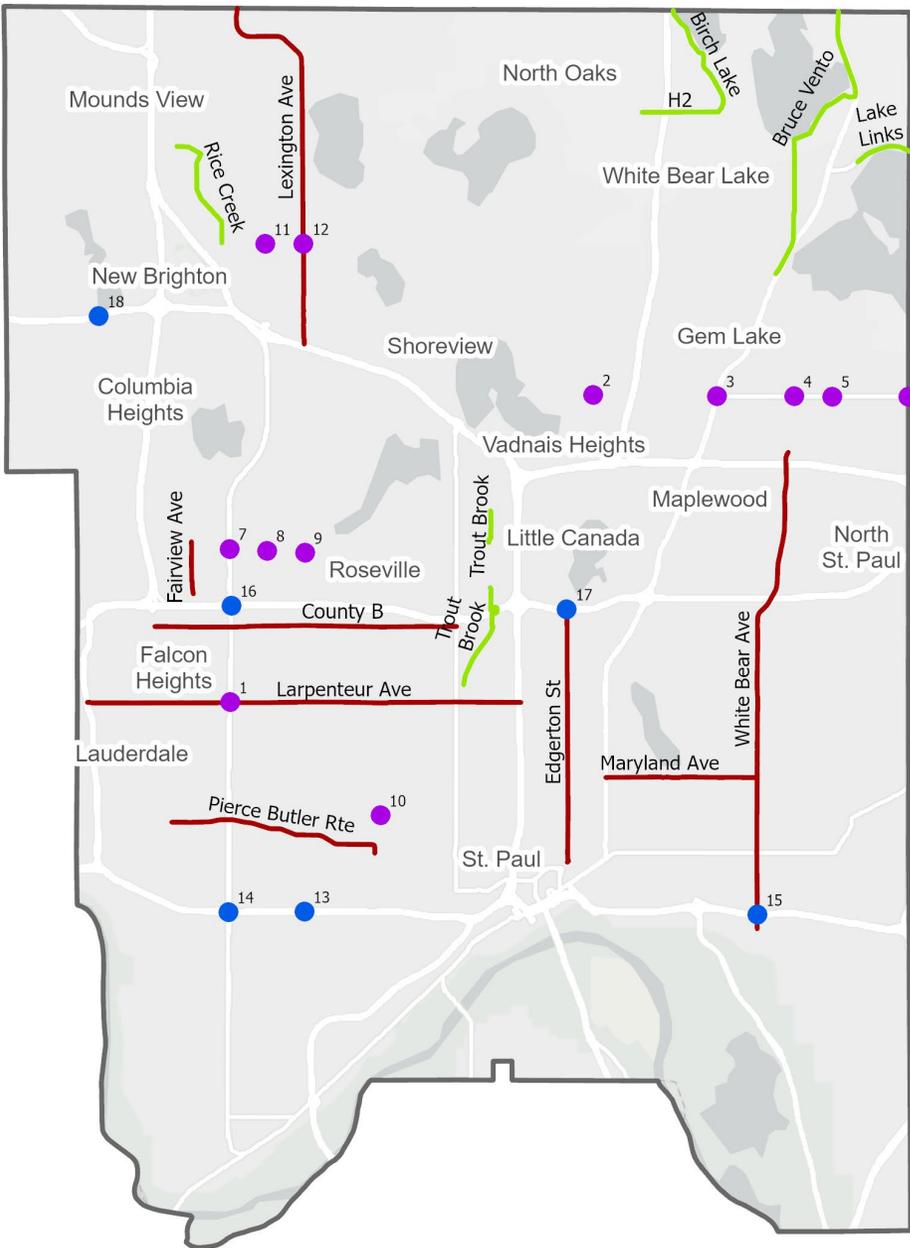


Reallocated Revenues - Principles

- Insufficient time and resources to complete all illustrative projects.
 - \$730 million impacted by inflation and tariffs.
 - 10 years is insufficient to progress all projects through project development and construction.
- Funding will continue to be sought from other sources (e.g. state and federal).
- Projects and priorities will change based on the project development process and how the county changes over time.

Countywide Investment Categories

- Corridor Improvements.
- Roadways and Interchanges.
- Union Depot and Railroad.
- Transformative and Innovative.
- Other Investments.



Some spaces have enough room for both turn lanes and parking.



Other spaces are tight. In these cases, adding space for parking may eliminate the space for the center turn lane or may not fit at all.



Corridor Improvements - \$200m

- Multi-mile roadway reconstruction projects focusing on safety, speed reduction, mobility improvements and multimodality.
- Illustrative projects:
 - Larpenteur Avenue.
 - White Bear Avenue.
 - Maryland Avenue.
 - Lexington Avenue.
 - McKnight Road.
 - Edgerton Street.
 - Transfer Road/Pierce Butler Route.
 - County Road 96.



Roadways and Interchanges - \$263m

- Intersection and interchange improvements to improve safety, multimodality and transit priority.
- Illustrative projects:
 - Lexington Avenue at 94.
 - White Bear Avenue at 94.
 - Edgerton Street at 36.
 - Long Lake Road at 694.
 - Snelling Avenue at 36.



Union Depot and Railroad - \$100m

- Building and structural improvements to Union Depot and county wide removal of railroad barriers.
- Illustrative projects:
 - Track, signal and platform build out.
 - Building and Train Deck preservation.
 - Event space enhancement.
 - Railroad crossing protection, grade separation and completion of sidewalks/multimodal trails across railroads.
 - Passenger Rail Service.



Charlotte, NC

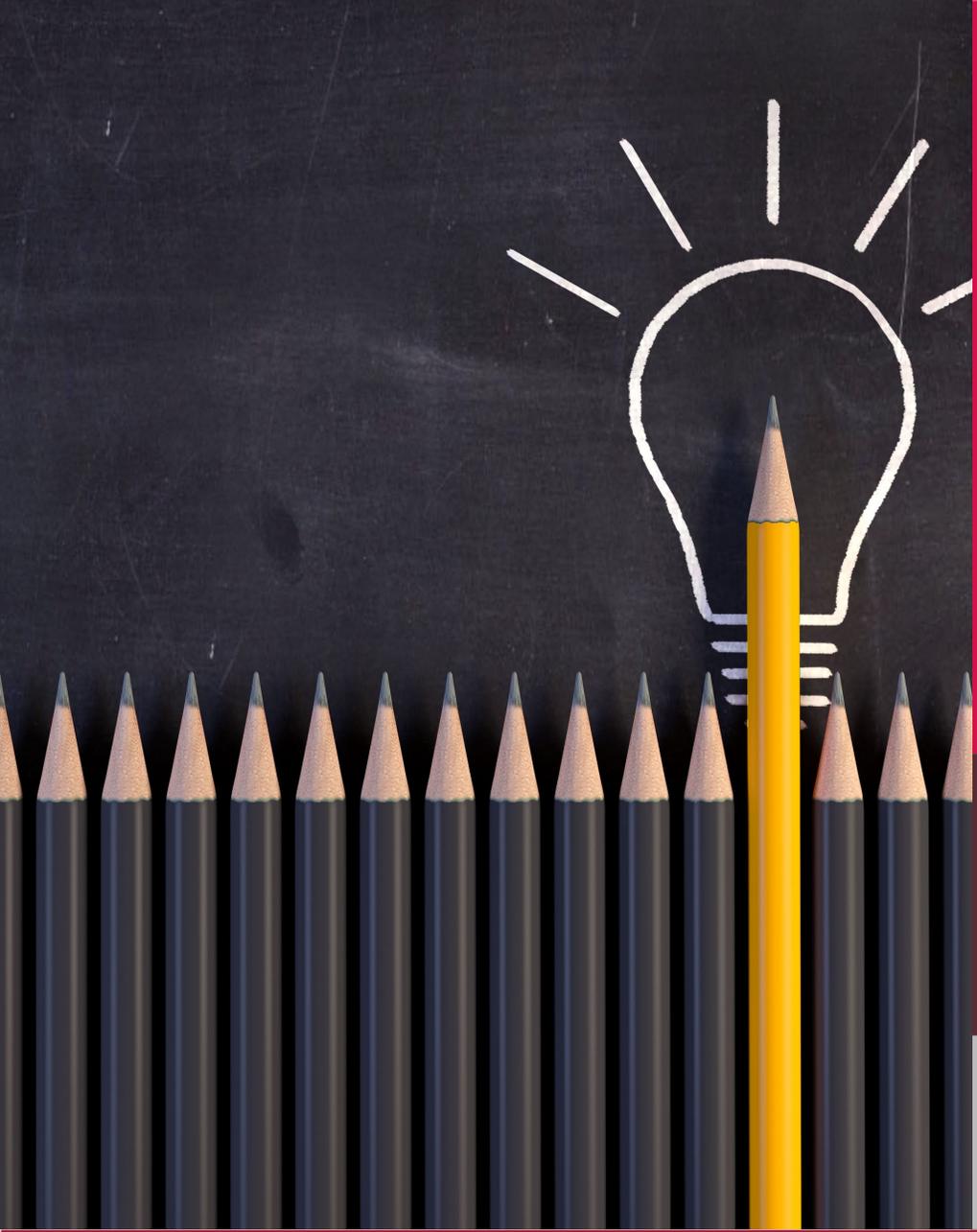
Transformative and Innovative - \$262m

- Transportation investments to support new travel patterns created by transformative and innovative changes in the built environment.
- Illustrative Projects:
 - Rice Creek Commons Spine Road.
 - Downtown Vitality investments consistent with the Downtown Investment Strategy.
 - EV Fleet Transition/Building Improvements including vehicle, electrical and facility needs (study only).
 - Countywide Grant Program to address multimodal system gaps.
 - Mobility Hubs.



Other Investments - \$135m

- Investments that advance county mobility and resiliency goals.
- Illustrative projects:
 - Regional trail/greenway improvements.
 - Mobility and corridor studies.
 - Staffing and facilities.
 - Tree program.
 - Targeted transit investments not part of other investment categories.



Closing Thoughts

- The proposed plan:
 - Broadens the county's approach to transportation investment.
 - Prioritizes investments in ped/bike and transit consistent with the All-Abilities Transportation Network Policy.
 - Emphasizes safety and closing gaps in the multimodal network.
 - Reinforces the county's unique ability to provide transformative and innovative solutions for its residents and businesses.



Next Steps

- Incorporate board feedback.
- Board action:
 - Public Hearing.
 - 2050 All Abilities Transportation Plan.
 - Transit and Transportation Investment Plan.
 - Use of local option sales tax funds resolution.
 - 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- 2026 TIP will see a much greater impact from the reallocated funds due to the time needed for project development.