
Sponsor: Public Works

Meeting Date: 6/3/2025

Title: Approval of the All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan

File Number: 2025-180

Background and Rationale:

The county board adopted the Ramsey County All-Abilities Transportation Network Policy in 2016, which advanced the county's vision to create a "Vibrant Community in Which All are Valued and Thrive". This policy unified county transportation efforts under a shared vision and implementation strategy that prioritizes the transportation system to ensure the most vulnerable users of the transportation network are always considered first during transportation planning and implementation.

In 2023, work began on the All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan, Ramsey County's first transportation plan. Upon adoption it will guide the development of the county's annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through project identification and selection to achieve a multimodal transportation system that is safe, connected, equitable, and accessible for all.

To function as a guiding document the plan was created through a combination of technical data gathering, analysis, and public engagement. Technical analysis was conducted in conjunction with four phases of public engagement that reached over 1,500 people through community conversations, pop-ups and open houses, as well as electronically through surveys, social media, virtual events, and email. The first phase of engagement identified how the existing system worked or did not work for the community. The second phase identified where issues and opportunities existed. The third phase identified the types of projects that might be needed, and the fourth phase was a review of draft final transportation plan.

This effort led to the examination of the existing and future condition of the county system, goal and opportunity identification, and financially constrained project priority scenarios. In developing the plan, twenty-three other plans from Ramsey County, Metro Transit, and cities were reviewed for policies, resources, challenges, and opportunities to identify where they could help guide the All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan's direction, resources, and goals. This work resulted in the identification of the following goals:

- Safe.
- Multimodal.
- Equitable.
- Well-Maintained.

These goals were combined with an analysis of Ramsey County transportation network data on roadway condition, safety, multimodal infrastructure, traffic patterns, and planned projects to established areas of need. An additional step in establishing need was the completion of a social equity analysis. This effort provided for a better understanding of how the transportation network was or was not serving county residents.

Upon completion of the data gathering, five fiscally constrained funding scenarios were completed ranging from the status quo to those that prioritized only safety, equity or multimodal infrastructure.

Analysis of these scenarios and how their identification and prioritization of potential projects resulted in the selection of a blended scenario, Realigned Project Priorities, as the best fit for Ramsey County and achieving its All-Abilities Transportation Policy. The Realigned Project Priorities scenario provides extra weight to safety, pedestrian/bike, and equity when creating a total project score. That total project score is then supplemented by a pavement score to reach a final project rating. This allows an emphasis to be placed on furthering safety, pedestrian/bike, and equity goals while acknowledging roadway condition as a factor, but not the sole factor in project selection. Following evaluation of practical and real-world considerations, projects are selected for inclusion in the county's TIP that is adopted by board action.

The All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan is posted on Ramsey County's website and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/multi-modal-planning/all-abilities-2050-transportation-plan>

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Miller.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Ortega, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Moran

By: _____



Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board