



CSAH 1 Study Nearing Completion

This year, the APO in association with Transportation Collaborative & Consultants (TC²), has been conducting a study of Stearns County Road 1 (aka, River Avenue North) between County Road 120 and Ninth Avenue N.

Using both data collected on-site and input from the public, TC² has developed draft recommendations for the reconstruction of the corridor.

In general, the draft recommendations include rebuilding the corridor as a three-lane roadway, with a bicycle path on the side of the road nearest the river, and a sidewalk on the opposite side of the roadway. This cross-section will fit within the existing right-of-way so no additional property acquisition should be necessary. Some variations from this general cross-section may be necessary depending on context.

The public will have one more opportunity to provide their input and feedback on these draft recommendations.

A public input meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11 at the Sartell Community Center (850-19th St. S).

All members of the public are invited to attend.



LOOKING AHEAD 2050



Looking Ahead to the APO's Long Range Planning Effort

Saint Cloud APO staff have been working hard on putting the finishing touches on the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – Looking Ahead 2050. The APO's MTP serves as the region's long-range, multimodal surface transportation plan that identifies a regional vision for transportation and the steps necessary to

implement that vision.

Since September, the APO's Policy Board has approved the plan's draft Existing Conditions; Environmental Existing Conditions; and Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Performance Measures chapters. In addition, the Policy Board has also approved a list of capacity expansion and system preservation projects to be incorporated into the document. Projects listed within the APO's MTP then become eligible for federal transportation funding.

During the remainder of 2023 and into spring 2024, APO staff will be working to complete other sections of the document to prepare for the final draft plan release in late spring 2024. More details on the draft plan release and opportunities to provide feedback will be coming within the next few months. Stay tuned!

Infrastructure Grant Solicitations Now Open

As the end of the calendar year is fast approaching, many of the APO's member jurisdictions are in the process of writing various grants to secure state and/or federal funding for much-needed transportation infrastructure projects.

Since September, several grant opportunities have become available for cities and counties within the APO's planning area to apply for. These grants include the federal grant solicitations for the following programs:

- **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program**

(STBGP): This federal program is typically used for roadway and bridge projects. Typically, the APO receives just over \$2

million in Federal funding assistance for this program which must be matched by local funding.

- **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP):** This federal program is designed to implement low-cost, high-benefit safety projects on various roadways. Examples of projects include rumble strips, edge line striping, and roundabouts.
- **Transportation Alternatives (TA):** This federal program is designed to fund bicycle and pedestrian projects or projects related to scenic byways and/or historical properties. This program solicitation is handled by MnDOT District 3 where it is anticipated the District's 12 counties will be competing for roughly \$2.7 million.
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure and Safe Routes to School Infrastructure grants:** These two state-funded programs allow applicants to apply for state dollars to complete active transportation (i.e., bicycle and pedestrian projects) in their communities. These are highly competitive statewide solicitations.

Aside from HSIP (applications were due before Thanksgiving), all jurisdictions still have time to complete their applications. Once submitted, various committees will review and evaluate proposed projects to determine which ones will receive the limited funding. Typically, these evaluations will occur in late winter/early spring, with final announcements made in April/May.



Know Before You Go: Check out 511

With winter weather inevitably on its way, stay up to date on the most current weather conditions by checking out the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) [511mn.org](https://www.511mn.org) website and/or Minnesota 511 smartphone app. There you will find current information on road closures as well as traffic incidents (crashes) and winter road conditions.





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