



APO Awards \$2.5 Million in Federal Funding

The APO's Policy Board has awarded just over \$2.5 million in Federal funding assistance to two projects within the APO's planning boundary.

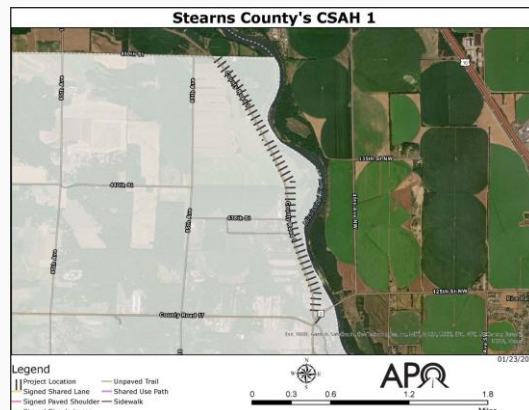
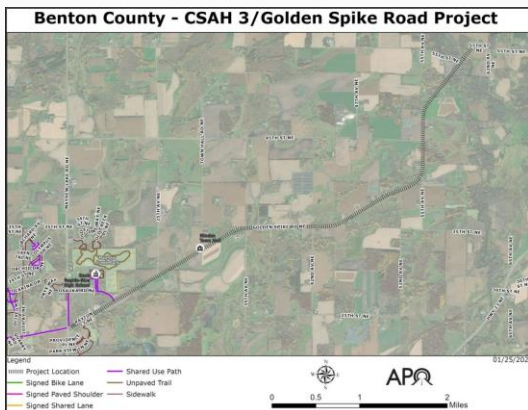
Benton and Stearns counties were both successful in receiving federal funding through the APO's Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) solicitation.

Benton County's project is a full-depth reclamation of CSAH 3/Golden Spike Road NE from the Mayhew Lake Road/CSAH 1 to County Road 44/55th Street NE. As part of this project, the county is seeking to bring the structural capacity of the roadway to a 10-ton axle weight as well as adding wider paved shoulders for bicyclists and pedestrians. The APO has awarded \$1,004,660 in Federal funding assistance for this approximately \$2.7 million project. While Federal funding for this project will be available on Oct. 1, 2027, Benton County plans on constructing the project in 2026.

Stearns County's project is a reconstruction of CSAH 1 from the Rice Bridge north to the Morrison County line. In addition to the pavement work, the county is proposing to complete several improvements including adding 8-foot-wide paved shoulders as well as addressing

ditch issues pertaining to drainage and snow storage. The APO has awarded \$1.5 million in Federal funding assistance to this approximately \$2.5 million project. Like Benton County, Stearns County is planning on advancing construction ahead of when Federal funding would be made available. Stearns County is proposing to construct this project in the 2027 construction season.

One additional project – Stearns County’s CSAH 133 resurfacing project through Sartell – was also received during this solicitation. However, funding was not awarded to this project.



Project locations for Benton County's CSAH 3 and Stearns County's CSAH 1 projects.

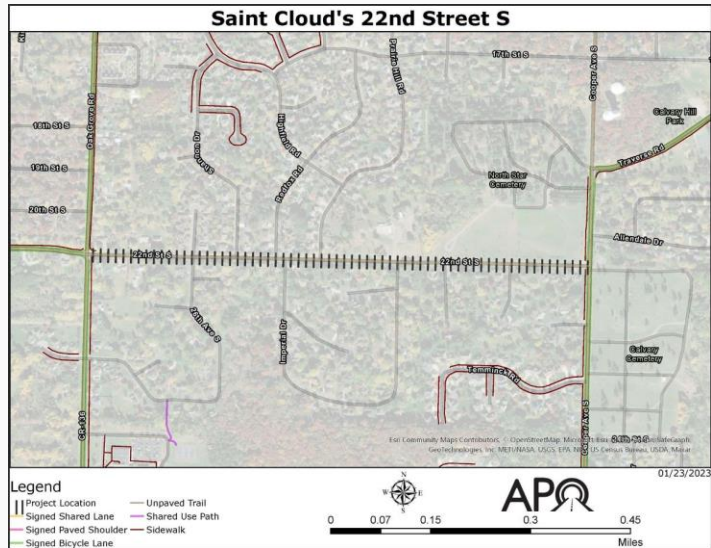
Local Active Transportation Projects Compete for Federal Grant Monies

Four area cities have submitted applications for funding consideration for improvements to the region’s bicycle and pedestrian network.

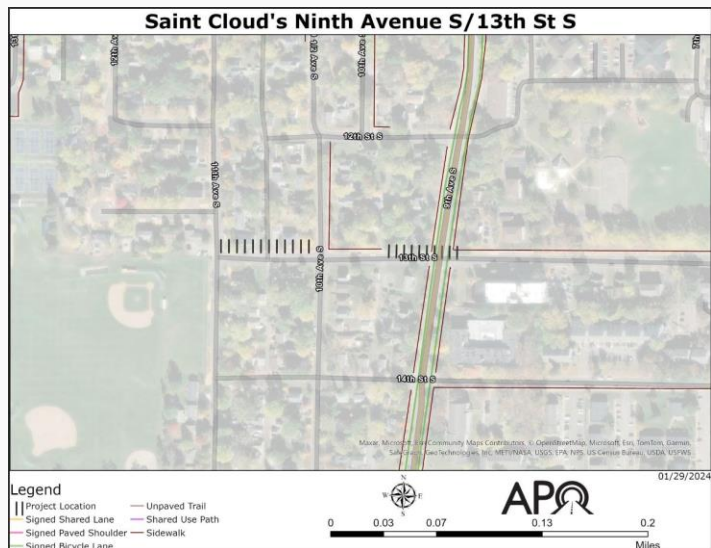
The cities of Saint Cloud, Saint Joseph, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids are competing for approximately \$2.5 million in funding through the Federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) program.

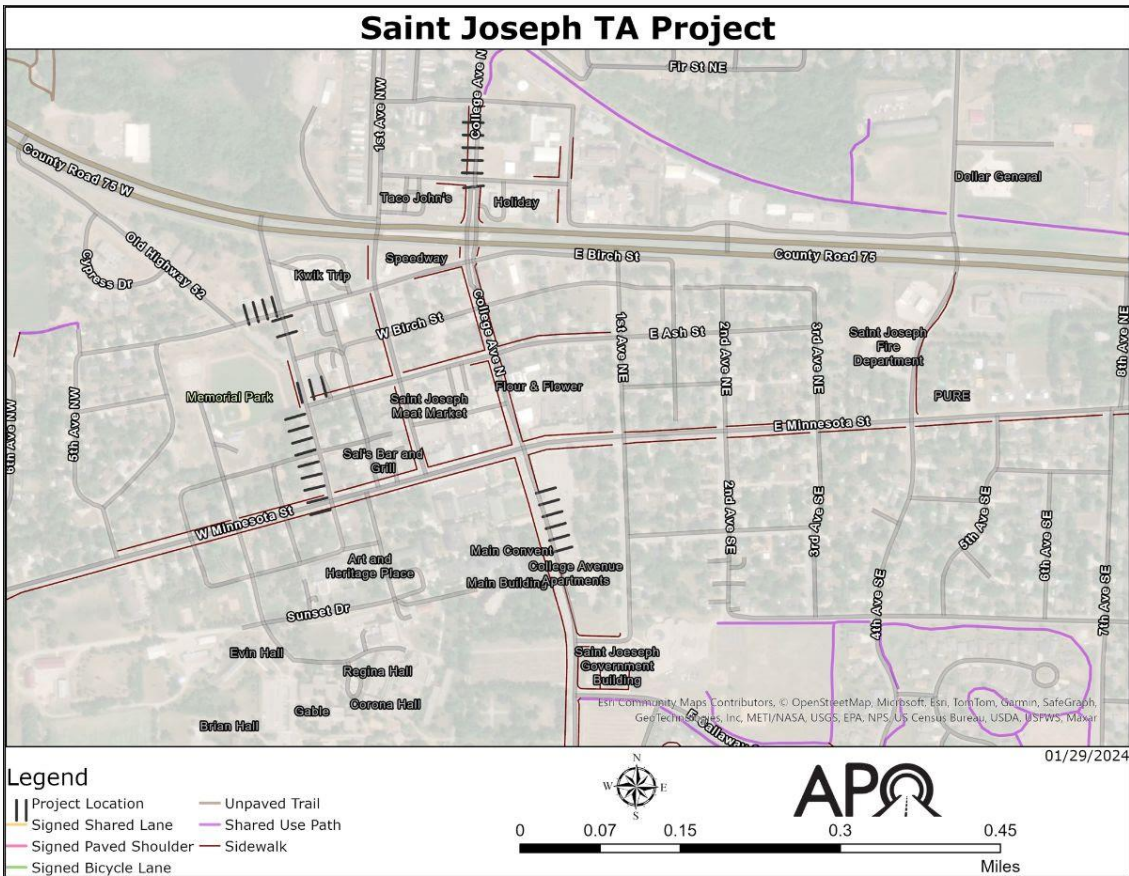
Between the four cities, six applications were received by staffers with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3.

The City of Saint Cloud submitted two applications for TA funding consideration. The first project was to add sidewalk and 6-foot-wide bike lanes along 22nd Street S to coincide with the reconstruction project scheduled for 2026.



The second project involved completing sidewalk gaps along 13th Street S from South Junior High School to Ninth Avenue S as well as installing a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the intersection of 13th Street S and Ninth Avenue S.

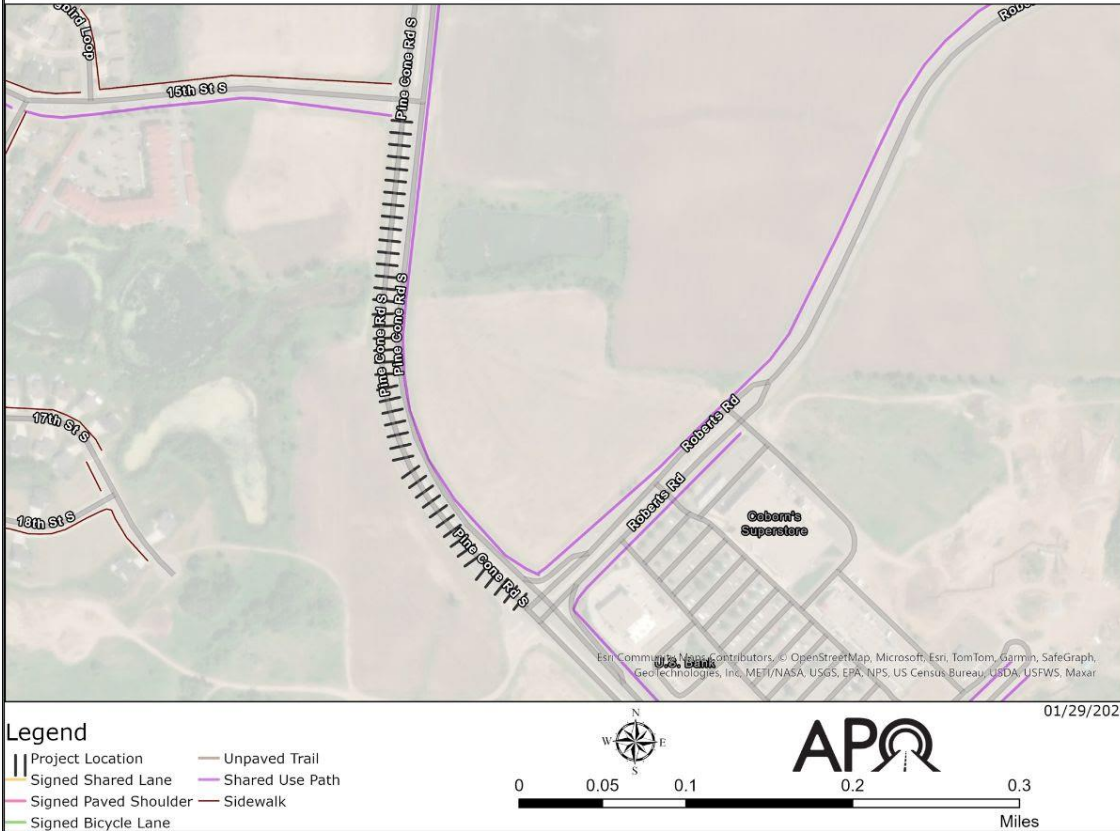




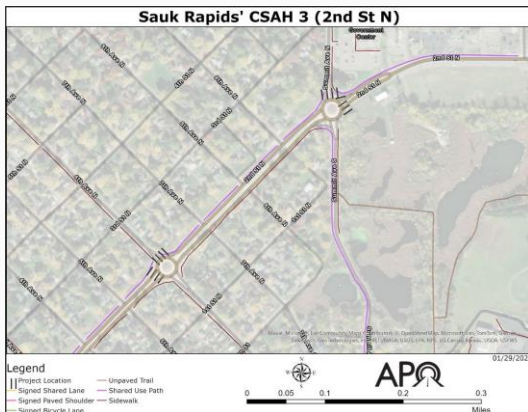
The City of Saint Joseph is proposing to fill in several gaps within the city’s downtown district. This three-part project includes constructing a shared use path and crosswalk connection from the Lake Wobegon Trail spur near Elm Street south to Clark Street; installing a sidewalk along College Avenue S along the parking lot across from Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church; and completing various sidewalk gaps along Second Avenue NW between W Minnesota Street and W Birch Street.

The City of Sartell is proposing to add a sidewalk connection along the west side of Pinecone Road S, connecting 15th Street S and Roberts Road. This connection will also include the installation of an RRFB at the intersection of Pinecone Road S and Roberts Road.

Sartell's Pinecone Rd and 15th Street S



The City of Sauk Rapids also submitted two applications for TA funding consideration. The first project was to add a sidewalk spanning the BNSF railroad tracks on Second Avenue S near the intersection of S Benton Drive.



The second project involved installing RRFBs on two legs of the CSAH 3/Second Street N roundabouts at the intersections of Sixth Avenue N and Summit Avenue N.

In total, applications from APO jurisdictions are requesting \$2,096,044 in Federal funding assistance. These six applications join a pool of 11 other bicycle and pedestrian projects from across MnDOT District 3 to compete for limited TA funding.

Applicants will be notified in early April if their project receives funding. TA funding for this solicitation will first be made available on Oct. 1, 2027.



TIP Changes Need Your Input

There is still time to provide your input on proposed changes to the APO's fiscal years 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi-year program of transportation improvements for the Saint Cloud Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). As a document, the TIP reports on how the various agencies and jurisdictions within the MPA have prioritized their use of limited Federal highway and transit funding.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the City of Sauk Rapids are requesting changes to the TIP. MnDOT is requesting to increase the cost estimate for the CSAH 137 bridge overlay which spans MN 15. The City of Sauk Rapids is requesting to

receive its federal funding of \$1,135,120 for its 2024 Second Avenue S reconstruction project sooner than what was originally programmed.

Check out our website www.stcloudapo.org for more information on these proposed changes and how you can provide your feedback.

The public comment period is open through 5 p.m. Friday, March 15.



Looking Ahead 2050 Updates

One of the key responsibilities of the APO is to develop a regional long-range, multimodal surface transportation plan. Known as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), this document outlines a transportation vision for the future along with recommendations for transportation projects to improve our existing network over the next 25 years.

The last MTP – MAPPING 2045 – was approved by the APO's Policy Board in October 2019 and must be updated every five years. Work

is currently underway on the next version of the long-range plan, Looking Ahead 2050.

APO staff are in the final stages of writing the MTP and anticipate having public input on the proposed document within the next few months. More information on the proposed public engagement process for the MTP will be posted on our website www.lookingahead2050.org.



JURISDICTIONS WE SERVE

**Benton County
Sherburne County
Stearns County
LeSauk Township
City of Saint Cloud
City of Saint Joseph
City of Sartell
City of Sauk Rapids
City of Waite Park
Saint Cloud Metro Bus**





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