



Sauk Rapids residents navigating the temporary curb extensions and pedestrian crossing enhancements at the intersection of 11th Street N and Sixth Avenue N in Sauk Rapids. Photo courtesy of Saint Cloud APO.

Pleasantview Elementary Debuts Demonstration Project

The APO partnered with the City of Sauk Rapids to install a short-term,

low-cost demonstration project at the intersection of 11th Street N and Sixth Avenue N near Pleasantview Elementary. This temporary Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project will allow members of the public to try out potential street changes designed to improve safety and comfort while walking or biking around the K-5 school. The pilot started on May 15th and will stay in place throughout the summer. The project includes curb extensions and pedestrian crossing enhancements.

This demonstration offers an opportunity to collect public input regarding street improvements using temporary, low-cost materials before investing in longer-term solutions. Changes will be evaluated during the project to understand project impacts. Residents and visitors are invited to come and try the demonstration while it is installed.

2026 Carbon Reduction Program Funds Awarded to Locals

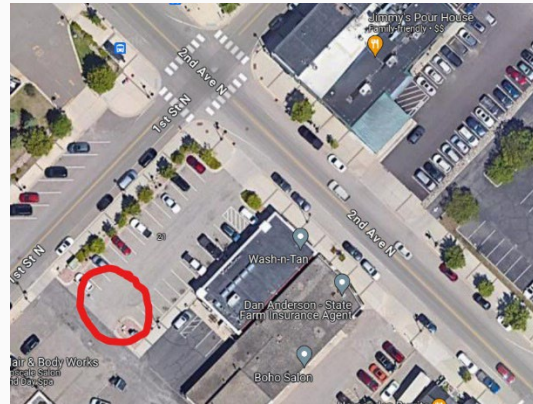
Three projects have been selected by the Saint Cloud APO's Policy Board to receive federal grant monies from the relatively new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

At its June 13 meeting, the APO's board distributed \$440,000 in federal funds to the cities of Saint Cloud, Sauk Rapids, and Sartell for projects designed to reduce carbon emissions from the surface transportation network.



The City of Saint Cloud was awarded \$95,333 in CRP funds to complete a sidewalk gap along Lincoln Avenue SE from Fourth Street SE to Seventh Street SE.

The City of Sauk Rapids was awarded \$179,334 to install an electric vehicle (EV) charging station in the public parking lot near Wash-n-Tan at the corner of First Street N and Second Avenue N.



Finally, the City of Sartell was awarded \$165,333 in CRP dollars to purchase four EV squad cars.

CRP is a federal program created under the 2021 federal transportation bill – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This program is designed to specifically fund projects that will reduce carbon emissions. While the federal program covers a wide range of eligible projects, the State of Minnesota has outlined three primary categories in which to select CRP-eligible projects. These categories include vehicle electrification, travel options (to reduce per-capita vehicle miles traveled), and low carbon infrastructure and system management (to reduce carbon emissions through the construction and maintenance of infrastructure).

Funds for these projects will be made available on Oct. 1, 2025.

In addition to these three CRP projects, the APO has previously awarded \$440,000 in CRP funds to Benton County for the CSAH 1/CSAH 29 roundabout project to be constructed in 2025 as well as \$200,000 to the City of Saint Cloud to install an EV charging station at the Stearns

History Museum and \$179,800 to the City of Sartell for engineering and design work on the Paper Mill Trail.

Saint Cloud, Sauk Rapids Receive Funding for Active Transportation

Two active transportation projects within the Saint Cloud APO's planning area will be completed thanks to funds received from the federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) program.

The cities of Saint Cloud and Sauk Rapids were two of the five cities and counties to receive federal TA funds during the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3) decision at the April 4 meeting.

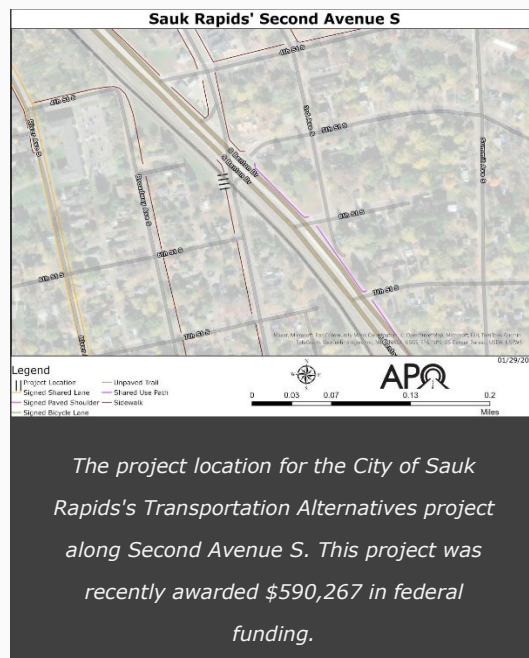
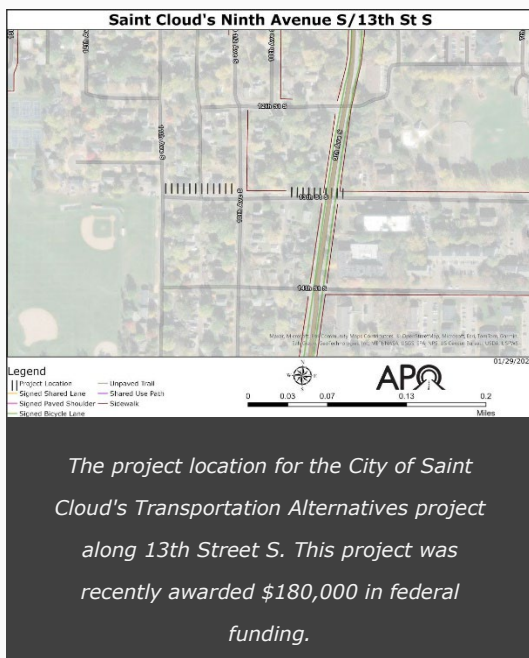
The City of Saint Cloud was successful in receiving \$180,000 in TA funds to fill in missing sections of sidewalk along 13th Street S between 11th Avenue S and Ninth Avenue S (near South Junior High) as well as adding a rectangular rapid flashing beacon at the intersection of Ninth Avenue S and 13th Street S. The city plans to complete this project during the 2028 construction season.

The City of Sauk Rapids was awarded \$590,267 in TA funding to construct a sidewalk along Second Avenue S from Benton Drive to Sixth Street S, with the major component of this project being the construction of a sidewalk across the BNSF railroad tracks. The city plans to complete this project during the 2026 construction season and wait to be reimbursed the federal funds until they become available after Oct. 1, 2027.

Three other projects outside of the APO's planning area were awarded TA funding during this solicitation period. They include the City of Baxter's CSAH 48 trail (receiving \$306,629 in TA funds), Sherburne

County's Great Northern Trail extension (receiving \$608,024 in TA funds), and the City of Saint Michael's CSAH 36 trail (receiving \$622,000 in TA funding).

Twelve additional project applications were submitted to ATP-3 as part of the TA solicitation, including one project from the City of Saint Joseph, one project from the City of Sartell, and one additional project each from the cities of Saint Cloud and Sauk Rapids. Those projects, however, were not funded.



Sauk Rapids, Sartell, LeSauk Township Receive State Funds for Active Transportation

The cities of Sauk Rapids and Sartell, along with LeSauk Township, have successfully secured funding to complete several active transportation

projects within the next two years.

The state's Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure grant distributed \$17.7 million in state funding for infrastructure projects that would help facilitate safe walking and/or biking conditions throughout Greater Minnesota. Unlike federal funding, the state's AT grant does not require applicants to provide a local match. Projects will also need to be completed either in 2025 or in 2026.

Sauk Rapids has received \$302,500 to fund rectangular rapid flashing beacons along CSAH 3/Second Street N at the roundabout intersections at Sixth Avenue N and Summit Avenue N.

Sartell has received \$97,290 to fund improvements on the shared use path along Heritage Drive.

LeSauk Township was successful in receiving \$648,355 in AT funding to complete shoulder paving along 30th Avenue/Townline Road.

These three local projects joined 27 other projects across the state in receiving funding through this program.

LOOKING AHEAD 2050



Looking Ahead 2050 Updates

APO staff are in the home stretch of completing the update to the region's long-range, multimodal, surface transportation plan.

One of the main responsibilities of the APO is to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP outlines a transportation vision for the future along with recommendations for transportation projects to improve our existing network over the next 25 years.

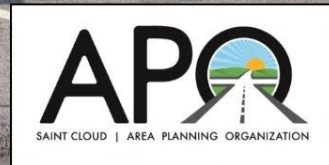
APO staff will be publishing the draft MTP for review and public comment within the next few weeks. Those on the APO's mailing list (including you!) will be one of the first to know when the draft is up. Otherwise, feel free to check our website (www.lookingahead2050.org) within the next few weeks for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!



Transportation Improvement Program

FY 2025-2028

*Prepared by the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
Sept. 12, 2024*



Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Needs Your Feedback

Starting on July 17, APO staff will be asking the community to weigh in on the proposed federal and/or state funded projects occurring within the APO's planning area.

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.

APO staff are finalizing the list of projects that are proposed to be completed between 2025 and 2028 using federal funds or are MnDOT sponsored projects. This includes projects such as a J-turn on MN 23 at Bel Clare Drive, a mill and overlay of MN 23 (eastbound and westbound) between 93rd Avenue (near Loves) to MN 15 in Waite Park, and the construction of the CSAH 29 extension between Mayhew Lake Road/CSAH 1 and Golden Spike Road NE/CSAH 3 in Sauk Rapids.

A complete list of slated projects by jurisdiction, along with ways to provide your comments on them will be made available on the APO's website on July 17. Public comment on the draft TIP will conclude Aug. 16.

Updated Transportation Reports Now Available

APO staff have been busy these past few months updating several documents. The following reports have been approved by the APO's Policy Board since March!

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Annual Report

The [SEP](https://bit.ly/3XljVxC) (<https://bit.ly/3XljVxC>) serves as our roadmap, guiding APO staff, advisory committees, and decision-makers on how to engage with the community. Our goal is to provide every community member with an equal and equitable opportunity to participate in the planning process. The annual report documents all public engagement activities conducted by the APO (staff as well as hired consultants) in 2023.



Transportation Performance Monitoring Report (TPMR)

The [TPMR](https://bit.ly/4clYEsa) (<https://bit.ly/4clYEsa>) includes a set of performance measures that track the region's progress toward achieving transportation goals. The report serves as an annual snapshot of the region to help the APO and its planning partners better understand the transportation system's current and anticipated performance and how well it is moving toward achieving the goals stated in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization Transportation Performance Monitoring Report



2022



Photos courtesy of APO

1

Regional Infrastructure Investment Plan

The [RIIP](https://bit.ly/4ejxIjT) (<https://bit.ly/4ejxIjT>) is a collection of approved transportation infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) from the APO's member jurisdictions, including the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 3's 10-Year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). Think of it as a one-stop-shop for transportation projects planned in the region.

Regional Infrastructure Investment Plan FY 2024-2028

Prepared by the Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization
March 14, 2024

LANE
CLOSED

ROAD
CLOSED





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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Our mailing address is:

1040 County Road 4
Saint Cloud, MN 56303-0643

Saint Cloud APO Executive Director: Brian Gibson
Chair of the Saint Cloud APO Policy Board: Raeanne Danielowski