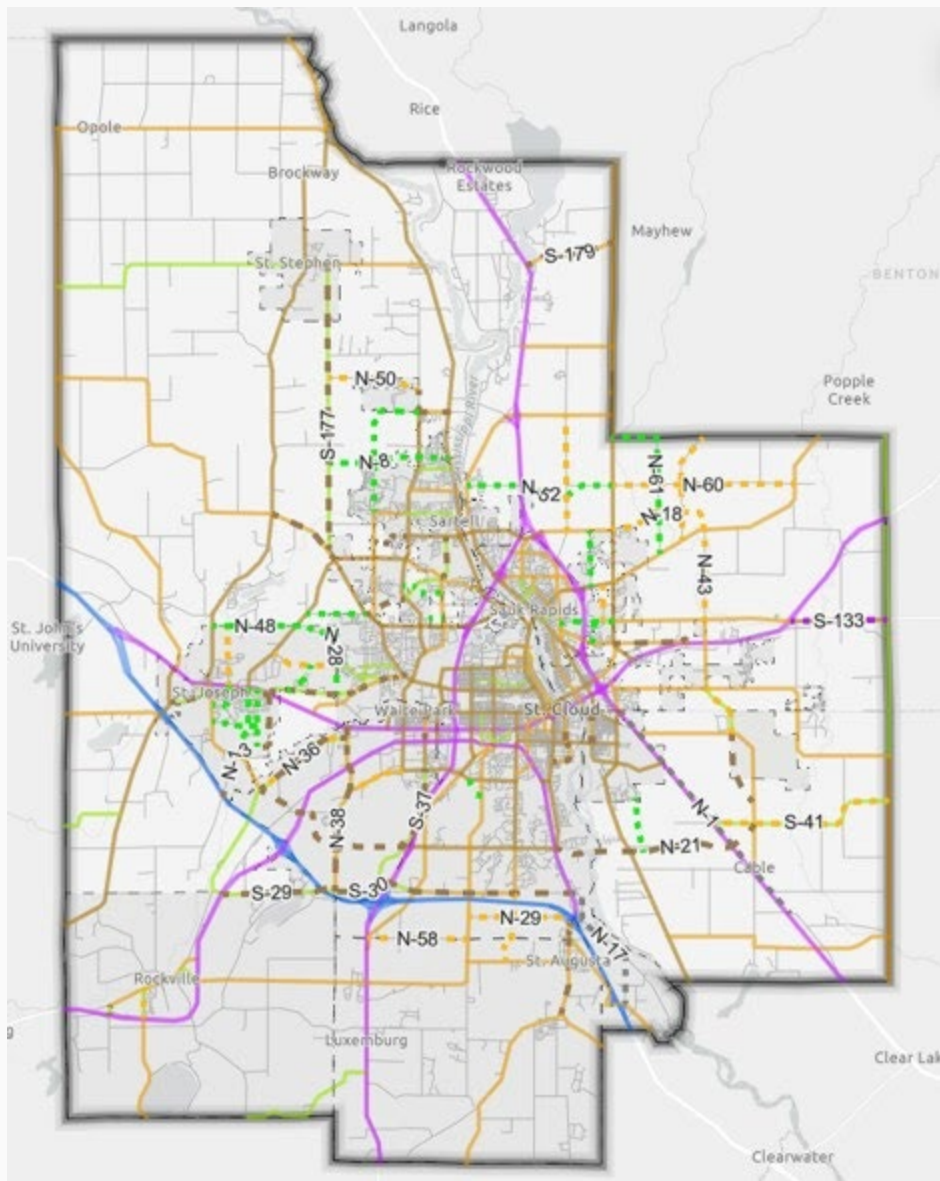




Feedback Needed on Future Roadway Corridors Study



Starting on Tuesday, Nov. 12, community members are invited to share their thoughts with the APO on its long-term proposed roadway network.

The APO's Regional Future Arterials and Collectors study is designed to identify areas across the region where future roadway corridors will be needed.

By understanding the locations of where these future roadways are likely to be placed, today's transportation planners, engineers, and ultimately local developers will have a better grasp on where and how the cities and counties

intend to grow. This will help ensure that when the time comes, enough land can be preserved to allow for these additional corridors.

In addition to outlining general areas where roadways will be needed, this study also focused on identifying the future function of those roadways.

Roadways require different design standards (roadway width, anticipated speed limits, number of direct access points) depending on the role they play in a region. Some of the roadways within the study will be intended to carry a significant amount of traffic over longer distances (arterials). Others will be designed to connect local neighborhood streets to these busier roadways (collectors). Outlining the intended function of the roadway is, again, critical when it comes to preserving the land needed to ultimately construct the roads.

While we may be talking about this today, many of the proposed roadways are decades out from becoming a reality. So now is **the time** to tell us if the proposed future network makes sense for the region.

To learn more about the Regional Future Arterials and Collectors study and to provide your comments, visit <https://arcg.is/1D0PHy>.

The APO, along with staff from consulting firm Bolton & Menk, will be available to discuss the study and hear your thoughts at an open house scheduled from 3-4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Saint Cloud branch of the Great River Regional Library.

Comments on the study are welcome through Dec. 13.

APO Approves Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Saint Cloud Area Planning Organization is officially setting its sights on 2050. At the Oct. 10, 2024, Policy Board meeting, local elected officials voted to approve the APO's Looking Ahead 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Looking Ahead 2050 will now serve as the region's long-range, multimodal, surface transportation plan, superseding the previous MTP, MAPPING 2045.



This newly approved document outlines six visioning statements – identified through extensive community engagement – the region hopes to make significant strides toward achieving by 2050. Those visioning statements include:

- **System and Environmental Stewardship:** Protecting and preserving our existing infrastructure and environmental assets.
- **Multimodal Connections:** Providing a safe and equitable multimodal

transportation network
affordable for people of all
ages and abilities to travel
using their preferred modal
choice.

- **Congestion Management:** Mindfully planning, developing, and operating an innovative transportation network to minimize unnecessary travel delays.
- **Transportation Safety:** Reducing fatalities and serious injuries by planning, designing, and building safe infrastructure and improving driving behavior.
- **Interregional Connections:** Supporting an economically vibrant region through developing and preserving vital connections to other state, national, and global centers of commerce.
- **Technological Advancements:** Understanding and planning for future innovative transportation technologies and encouraging their presence and incorporation into the region's existing transportation network.

Also contained within this document are recommendations for future infrastructure projects – 39 capacity expansion (adding lanes or building new roadways) and 79 system preservation (major improvements such as reconstruction) – to occur over the duration of this plan. In total, the plan recommends prioritizing just under \$700 million worth of projects for federal transportation funding consideration (note, many of these cost estimates have been inflated to the approximate year of construction).

To learn more about Looking Ahead 2050 or to review various chapters/sections of the plan, check out the [Metropolitan Transportation Plan](#) webpage on the APO's website.

Safe Routes to School Planning in Action

Third grade students at Pleasantview Elementary School in Sauk Rapids were able to test their traffic safety skills during a recent Safety Town event at the school.

Staff with the Saint Cloud APO along with community partners from the City of Saint Cloud, Benton County Public Health, Stearns-Benton Toward Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition, and Sauk Rapids Police Department helped approximately 125 students navigate a miniature town complete with traffic signals, crossing guards, and a roundabout.

Safety Town is designed to educate students about how to walk safely in their neighborhood. Students spend time reviewing traffic signals and signs before either walking through the course or traveling through the course using pedal cars.





Photos courtesy of Pleasantview Elementary School

The effort to bring Safety Town to Pleasantview coincides with the recent completion of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) planning efforts for the Sauk Rapids-Rice schools (Pleasantview, Mississippi Heights, and Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School) which concluded at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, the intersection of 11th Street N and Sixth Avenue N near the school was the site of a safety demonstration project which provided temporary curb extensions to slow vehicle traffic and shorten crossing distances for pedestrians. The demonstration project was in place near Pleasantview between May and late-September.

"Events like Safety Town are important because they teach kids how to walk and bike safely in a way that's easy to understand," said Alex McKenzie, APO Associate Transportation Planner. "Including these events in the SRTS plan helps keep students safe, encourages healthy habits, and brings the community together."

McKenzie is currently leading an effort to complete SRTS plans for the Sartell-Saint Stephen school district this school year. To learn more about the SRTS program and APO staff-led SRTS initiatives, please visit the [SRTS Planning Efforts](#) page on the APO's website.



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**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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