



The City of Sauk Rapids is planning on extending the existing shared use path along Mayhew Lake Road NE/Benton CSAH 1 north to the future Mayhew Creek Park entrance.

City of Sauk Rapids Trail Project Awarded Federal Funding

The City of Sauk Rapids's Mayhew Lake Road/CSAH 1 trail extension project has been awarded approximately \$345,000 in federal funding assistance through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program.

The TA program is a federal infrastructure program designed to fund improvements to active transportation networks (sidewalks and shared use paths). The program can also be used to improve scenic byways and historic transportation infrastructure facilities. The program will cover up to 80% of eligible construction costs associated with a project.

The City of Sauk Rapids is intending to complete the shared use path connection along Mayhew Lake Road/CSAH 1 near the Sauk Rapids-Rice High School. Currently, a shared use path ends near the Osauka Road entrance to the high school. The City is proposing to extend that facility north to the unnamed roadway (commonly referred to as the water tower road) that provides additional access to the high school. From there, the proposed facility will follow along the roadway and ultimately lead to Mayhew Creek Regional Park. As of right now, Mayhew Creek Park is in Phase I of its construction process – constructing baseball and other multipurpose fields.

The City was awarded \$346,223 in TA funding to complete this project from the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3) at the April 3, 2025 meeting. Construction on this facility extension is anticipated for the 2027 construction season.

Federal funds will be reimbursed to the City starting in federal fiscal year 2029 (starting Oct. 1, 2028).

Area Cities Awarded a Combined \$1.1 Million in State Active Transportation Funding

The cities of Sartell, Sauk Rapids, and Waite Park have been selected to receive state funding through the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program to complete improvements to the region's walking and biking network.

The Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Grant Program is designed to create safer environments for people walking, biking, or rolling to key destinations within

their communities. Funding for this state-led program was authorized through the state's May 2023 omnibus transportation finance and policy bill. No local match is required for construction costs associated with the project.

The City of Sartell was awarded \$641,520 to install dynamic speed display signage and Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) along Pinecone Road N and Seventh Street N.

Sauk Rapids was awarded \$50,000 to be used toward the Mayhew Lake Road NE/CSAH 1 trail extension from Osauka Road NE to Mayhew Creek Park. The City plans to utilize the state funding to assist in covering the required local match for the federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant it was awarded earlier this year.

The City of Waite Park was awarded funds for two projects. The City received \$172,635 for the 15th Avenue N shared use path connection from CSAH 75 to 10th Avenue N. The City is planning on using these funds to assist in covering the required local match for the federal TA grant they received previously. The second grant – in the amount of \$254,980 – will be used to develop a safe mid-block crossing of Second Avenue S near the future site of the Metro Bus Western Transit Center.

A total of 48 applications were received statewide, requesting \$24.6 million in funding. Just under \$12 million was awarded through this program.

The Minnesota State Aid for Local Transportation Office announced the successful grantees in late April. Per the grant requirements, these projects must be completed within the next two years.



Second grade students at Pine Meadow Primary School in Sartell got to learn about walking and biking safety during the May 16 Safety Town event hosted in Sartell.

Safety First, Fun Always

This spring, the APO rolled out its miniature metropolis, Safety Town, to teach traffic smarts to the region's youngest travelers.

Hosted at Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa Elementary and Pine Meadow Primary, this kid-sized, indoor city turns traffic education into a hands-on adventure. Students learned to navigate crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and even operate peddle carts, all while playing the roles of pedestrians, drivers, and even a train crew.

The goal? Make sure kids know how to safely walk, bike, and share the road long before they ever need a driver's license.

The event brings together a team of partners and volunteers from the City of Saint Cloud, Benton and Stearns County Public Health (with AmeriCorps support) to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and even law enforcement issuing playful citations.

It's a community-powered effort where learning meets laughter, and the region's future streets get a little bit safer.



Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa (BBE) students learn about walking and biking safety during the Safety Town event held on April 8 in Broten.

Data-Driven Roads Ahead

The region's transportation future isn't on autopilot; it's carefully charted, tracked, and tuned.

The APO's latest Transportation Performance Monitoring Report (TPMR) is a

comprehensive check-up on how well the region's roads, bridges, transit, and trails are performing against the long-term goals in the Looking Ahead 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Think of it as a Fitbit for the region's infrastructure.

With performance data collected and analyzed across the board, from bridge conditions to bus ridership, the TPMR is helping APO members make better-informed, future-focused decisions. It's also a key part of ensuring federal funds are invested where they'll have the biggest impact.

Dive into the report [here](https://bit.ly/4kUyi4H) (<https://bit.ly/4kUyi4H>).



**Draft FY 2026-2029 TIP Public
Comment Period Opens July 16**

APO staff are finalizing the draft fiscal years 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public comment.

The TIP is a federally required document containing a list of infrastructure projects to be constructed 🚧 (or purchased in the case of transit 🚊) using federal funding.



🔔 APO staff anticipate releasing the document for public review and comment by no later than Wednesday, July 16. The document will be available for comments through 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15. 🔔

Details on the upcoming public comment period will be posted on the APO's website in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned!



Safe Streets for All: Next Steps

The region's path to safer roads is coming into focus.

With input from the community and data from crash and equity analyses, Bolton & Menk, Toole Design, and the APO's member jurisdictions have crafted a list of high-impact, realistic safety improvements for Saint Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, and Saint Joseph. The goal? Reduce serious crashes and save lives.

Developed as part of the plan, the safety countermeasures matrix breaks down

proposed safety measures by focus area, cost, and anticipated impact on reducing all types of crashes. It's a key element of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) initiative, which supports a Vision Zero policy aiming to eliminate traffic deaths by 2050.

In July, the public can weigh in on the proposed improvements. Follow the APO on social media and check our website for updates and engagement opportunities.



Public engagement on the recommendations from the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) study will be starting in mid-July.



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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