

Building an All Abilities Transportation Network

Proposing a Path to Future Progress

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Ramsey County is poised to leverage its recent work to ensure that the entire organization is working together to build an all abilities transportation network.

With a new vision, mission and goals firmly established and a new organizational structure in place that leverages Service Teams to successfully implement collaborative, cross-county initiatives, Ramsey County is well positioned to unify its transportation efforts under a shared vision and implementation strategy.

The proposals below outline how to make lasting progress in the short, medium and long-term. Each proposal builds on the previous efforts of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Public Health and the Regional Railroad Authority and also incorporates the best ideas from across the state and country. If the proposals within each phase are fully implemented, Ramsey County will have one of the most comprehensive and meaningful transportation guiding documents in the country by 2018, and the work will strongly contribute to advancing the county's vision of "A Vibrant Community in Which All are Valued and Thrive."

Proposals for Remainder of 2016

1. Adopt a prioritized transportation system users hierarchy that ensures that the most vulnerable users of the transportation network are always considered first during transportation planning and implementation
2. Adopt a unified policy statement for Ramsey County's transportation network that clarifies its commitment to:
 - Users of all abilities
 - Multi-modal transportation options
 - Safety, mobility and connectivity for all residents and businesses
3. Create an attachment for all Request for Board Actions (RBAs) that involve a transportation policy or project that provides opportunities to initially transform proposal #1 and #2 into action. The attachment would provide an opportunity for Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation and the Regional Railroad Authority to share thoughts about any proposed county transportation project or policy based on a limited set of questions that explicitly focus on each transportation user category. By making the information part of the RBA process, the information will be publicly available as a part of the Board materials and ensure that the Board and community can also see how Ramsey County departments are committed to and thinking about building an all abilities transportation network.

Proposals for 2017

1. All Ramsey County cities will be formally asked to provide any relevant transportation planning documents, particularly as they impact pedestrians, bikes and transit, so that those documents can be included in the County's information repository of important documents. These documents will provide a foundation from which the county's unified transportation document that outlines vision and implementation will be built.
2. Ramsey County departments with pending 2017 projects on the county's transportation network will review the plans and documents collected in proposal #4 and present to the Board a list of projects in which Ramsey County and its cities have overlapping project interests during the 2017 summer construction season. This conversation will clarify areas in which heightened collaboration, partnership and joint planning will be needed to ensure all projects are able to be delivered successfully and in alignment with existing local planning documents.
3. Ramsey County staff from the County Manager's Office, Public Works, the Regional Railroad Authority, Parks and Recreation and Public Health will draft a document that aligns vision with specific implementation strategies for Ramsey County in building an All Abilities Transportation Network. This document will include approaches that specifically consider implementation strategies that involve engineering, engagement, education and enforcement to ensure that the County's vision and hierarchy of transportation users can be transformed into action in a way that supports city plans, provides specific options for engineers and planners to make progress, prioritizes engagement with and equity for local residents, and ensures that differing local contexts of Ramsey County communities are recognized.

Proposals for 2018 and Beyond

1. The document that aligns vision with specific implementation strategies for Ramsey County in building an All Abilities Transportation Network is presented to the County Board and formally becomes the guiding document for all Ramsey County transportation projects (goal will be to complete and present the document prior to the National Walking Summit that will be held in Saint Paul on September 13-15, 2017).
2. All previous work from 2016 and 2017 will be integrated into Ramsey County's update to the Comprehensive Plan.
3. All cities across Ramsey County receive presentations on the County's new guiding document for transportation projects and learn about future opportunities to leverage that plan when making plans for transportation projects within their community.