

REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM

OUR VISION

To strive for improvements to the transportation and infrastructure system in the City which will provide for a high quality of life in Richfield for residents and visitors.

GOAL NUMBER ONE

Improve non-motorized and pedestrian travel in the City.

RATIONALE

Safe, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly access to travel throughout the City will diminish the need for and use of vehicles producing the desired result of reducing traffic congestion on our streets.

STRATEGIES

1. Construct more sidewalks that are wider and farther away from the street.
2. Require MnDOT to include pedestrian access to transit in future I-494 and TH-62 reconstruction projects.
3. Construct more bus shelters attractive to users and safely located around intersections.
4. Reduce roadway widths to allow for a sidewalk and bike lanes. This will also reduce vehicular speeds.
5. Construct a "pedestrian and bicycle green way" by closing some seldom-used streets to vehicular traffic.
6. Create safe road crossings in high traffic areas. Such crossings should include the use of skyways.
7. Use traffic-calming measures and discourage through traffic on local streets.

GOAL NUMBER TWO

Explore opportunities to enhance mass transit systems

RATIONALE

Access to mass transit that is reliable and convenient to use will encourage people to use such transit while simultaneously reducing dependence on private vehicles.

STRATEGIES

1. Work with transit providers in order to establish local or circulator bus routes within Richfield and from Richfield to other places in the metropolitan area.
2. Encourage private companies within Richfield to provide local transportation for employees, guests, and clients.
3. Work with existing groups and organizations to adequately meet the specialized transportation needs of seniors, youth, disabled, and underprivileged citizens in the City.
4. Design road improvements to bear the surface stress produced by heavy vehicles.
5. Promote mass transit options, such as light rail with local service to the line, to reduce dependence on automobiles and provide a diverse, balanced set of public transportation alternatives.
6. Promote telecommuting and flex scheduling to reduce employment-created traffic.

GOAL NUMBER THREE

Place utilities underground wherever possible.

RATIONALE

Buried utilities will improve the appearance of the City, will provide a higher level of protection from harm (both from acts of God and events caused by people), and will reduce interruptions in utility service.

STRATEGIES:

1. Bury utility lines. Funding for the project should come from a combination of City revenues and user fees (line item on utility bills).
2. Whenever possible, bury local utility lines, with assistance from the utility provider, when the adjacent street is reconstructed.

GOAL NUMBER FOUR

Improve the flow of traffic in the City

RATIONALE

Improved traffic flow will reduce bottleneck conditions, reduce pollution, and allow citizens to reach destinations in a safe and timely manner.

STRATEGIES

1. Re-stripe under-capacity streets such as Nicollet Avenue and 76th Street east of I-35W with dedicated turn lanes.
2. Use better synchronization of traffic signals.
3. Create more park-and-ride lots.
4. Create more left and right turn lanes.
5. Work with the State Legislature to improve the capacity of I-494.

GOAL NUMBER FIVE

Encourage development of areas where vehicle use is minimized

RATIONALE

Areas which are free of vehicles allow pedestrians to feel safe and serve to reduce pollution. A pleasant, more care-free atmosphere results.

STRATEGIES

1. Encourage shared parking between different developments when appropriate.
2. Strongly encourage pedestrian-friendly and transit-friendly building and site design through measures such as higher density development and growth which is located along major transportation routes.
3. Require pedestrian connections between complementary land uses.
4. Advocate the location of commercial activity in focused points in the City ("downtown" areas). Preserve crucial public places like parks, recreation areas, open spaces, wetlands, and Wood Lake Nature Center.

GOAL NUMBER SIX

Encourage use of alternative power sources in public buildings and in public vehicles.

RATIONALE

Leadership by the “public sector” causes private enterprise and private citizens to follow suit. Use of alternative power resources may also provide benefit to the City in the form of reduced operating costs.

STRATEGIES

1. Make fuel efficiency a high priority when purchasing vehicles for use by the City.
2. The City will become an innovator in the use of alternative fuels, wind power, and other sustainable energy sources.
3. Install solar panels or similar energy sources on public buildings and encourage owners of businesses and private property to do the same.

GOAL NUMBER SEVEN

Encourage protection of the environment in the day-to-day conduct of City business.

RATIONALE

Standards of environmental compliance adhered to by our City Government can ensure that a clean and natural environment is preserved for coming generations.

STRATEGIES

1. Reduce pollutants through public transit, car-pooling, traffic control, use of berms and trees, and stronger enforcement of pollution policies.
2. Create more ways to monitor pollution and put plans in place to resolve problems.
3. Use state-of-the-art methods to protect the environment in public projects and encourage the same in private development.

TEAM MEMBERS

Kathy Breeggman
Robert Couillard
Dick Fick
David Gepner
Josh Houser
Todd A. Larson
Jeanette Lofstrom

Connie McDonald
Eric Mayo
Greg Olson
Tim Quinlan
Mike Eastling, staff liaison
Tom Foley, staff liaison