Champion Report

Theme Area: **Transportation**
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REPORTING PERIOD: January 19, 2016-April 5, 2016

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?

T3	**Surface Transportation Program (STP) FY 2020**
	
	-$7.4M requested within Region Five
	-$2.6M available
	 -Projects awarded this cycle:
	1. Three transit buses ($306,400)
	    a.Brainerd/Crow Wing
	    b. Tri-Cap
	    c. Wadena Friendly Rider
	2. Crow Wing County – CSAH 13 (reconstruction)
	3. Morrison County – CSAH 34 #1 (resurfacing)
	4. Wadena – CSAH 26 (reconstruction)

T6	**Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** **Two options: Option 1 – the region receives a total of two projects to be funded totaling $576,538. Option 2 – the region receives funding for one project totaling $408,000. This will be determined at the next Area Transportation Partnership meeting on April 7** - $1.6 M available - Over $5.1M in applications -Option 1 – 2 regional projects funded: 1. Cass Lake/Bena School District (SRTS Infrastructure). 2. City of Brainerd (Garfield SRTS) -Option 2 – 1 regional project funded 1. City of Brainerd (Garfield SRTS)
T7	Safe Routes to School (SRTS) applications submitted in January were accepted. Work to begin SRTS planning efforts with Staples/Motley Schools (4) and Brainerd elementary/secondary schools (7).

How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?

We are looking for opportunities to team with other themes.

List any Goals or Recommendations within the plan that your team of theme Champions are struggling to address?

It is challenging to find ways to provide impactful contributions within the transportation theme.

Transportation

Transportation Issue I (TI)
Public transit: To improve public transit in the region, we need to answer the following questions: 1) How can regional public transit be a viable alternative to cars for commuters and for both the young and the elderly? 2) What opportunities are there for transit partnerships? 3) Where does it make sense to focus on public transit? and 4) In what ways might the private sector be involved as the need grows?

Transportation Issue I Goal
Transportation: The goals of our transportation system should be: 1) to get products to markets by focusing on rail and improving/maintaining our main roads; 2) to respect tighter public budgets by prioritizing which roads should be maintained and which ones should be abandoned; and 3) improving transit options to affordably get people to where the jobs are.

Recommendation T1
Public transit network: Establish a connected region-wide public transportation network.

Action Step T1A
Study and improve: Map existing public transit routes, increase county-wide service, and provide additional transit services for regional hubs. Identify current corridors with the most transit use and promote and plan transit oriented development along those corridors.

Action Step T1B
Role of business: Work with local businesses and industries to allow employees flexible start and end times. This could encourage using transit, biking, or other transportation alternatives for commuting.

Action Step T1C
Connect downtowns and colleges: Make stronger connections between downtown areas and colleges

(Staples – Central Lakes College and Brainerd - Central Lakes College).

Action Step T1D

Land use choices support transit: Provide vibrant corridors that include adequate and affordable housing, multiple transportation options, and easily accessible public green spaces.
Action Step T1E

Increase mobility options: Link mobility in transit planning by incorporating bike options, expanded bus routes and regional needs.
Action Step T1F
Rail transit: Extend Northstar commuter rail to Camp Ripley.

Recommendation T2

Rail and economic development: Consider additional rail spurs and light rail passenger trains as an economic tool that could link major economic centers in the region.

Transportation Issue II (TII)
Highways: How can our highway system and corridors serve the region's mobility, land use, and economic development needs in a safe manner while linking the other pieces of our transportation system?

Recommendation T3

Mobility and safety: Evaluate the current road system to ensure mobility and safety needs are met.

Interregional corridors: Work to improve interregional highway corridors through the region.

Action Step T3D
Heavy haul corridors: Utilize heavy highway haul corridors (10 ton roadways) to transport larger loads (weights) for maximum efficiency.

Action Step T3A
Regional plan: Develop a regional transportation plan at least to the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) level.
Action Step T3B
Complete connections: Look to connect and complete existing roadways to improve the mobility through the region.
Action Step T3C

Action Step T3E
Maintenance: Explore and use new roadway surface materials to reduce maintenance time and costs.
Action Step T3F
Abandonment: Consider roadway abandonment or lower classification for segments with low use as a cost-saving action.

Recommendation T4

Technology: Explore roadway technology and digital communication to ensure the movement of traffic.

Action Step T4A
Logistics: Assess the potential for state-of-the-art logistics technologies to improve the efficient transportation of goods and people.

Recommendation T5

Transportation impacts of development choices: Reduce the number of vehicle trips while building a transportation system to serve future population.

Action Step T5A
Local jobs: Provide incentive to keep jobs in region to make transportation easier.
Action Step T5B

Housing near jobs: Provide incentives for workers to live close to their jobs and employers to hire locally.

Plan transportation system: Rather than reacting to developer's plans, communities should first lay out future road locations that will promote adequate transportation corridors and resource protection, and will be financially affordable to maintain in the long term.

Recommendation T6

Alternative transportation: Increase opportunities for residents to choose alternative transportation to provide efficiency, increase safety and cost savings, support economic development, and reduce environmental impacts.

Action Step T6A

Invest in alternative transportation: Invest in alternative transportation opportunities that provide seven-day-a-week access to work and recreation. These might include ride sharing, rail, bus shuttles, dial-a-ride, non-motorized options, and affordable air travel.

Action Step T6B

Promotion and incentives: Promote the use of high miles-per-gallon (MPG) transportation vehicles. Provide incentives like less highway taxes, cheaper tabs, and sales tax reductions or deductions for high miles per gallon (MPT) transportation vehicles.

Action Step T6C

Safety and education: Promote safety and driver education especially to the senior population through outreach and workshops**.**

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Recommendation T7
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Funding: Collect tax on various items (e.g. cigarettes) to be spent on transportation needs.

> ## Transportation Issue IV (TIV)
> **Walking and biking:** Adopting and implementing Complete Streets to promote walking, biking, trail use as a transportation option while increasing health and wellness. Developing bike lanes and routes on existing roads where appropriate would encourage biking. Can the region build/invest in a walkable/bikable system that promotes and addresses health needs while acting as an economic development driver, all while enhancing our regional transportation system?

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Recommendation T8
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Plan for multiple modes: Plan multi-modal options (biking, walking, and autos) on projects where it makes sense.

Action Step T8A

Complete Streets: Incorporate Complete Street design where biking and walking populations support that cause.

Action Step T8B

Bike trails/lanes and support bike services: Leverage current efforts to promote bike trails/lanes. Provide more transportation amenities including bike racks in towns and on buses, bike rental services, bike lanes, and signage.

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Recommendation T9
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Reconstruction: When streets are reconstructed, connect areas with walking/biking trails for safe travel.

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Recommendation T10
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Coordinate with MnDOT plan: Tie regional transportation efforts to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan 6 objectives and strategies: Accountability, Transparency and Communication; Transportation in Context; Critical Connections; Asset Management; Traveler Safety; and System Security.

Action Step T10A

Accountability, transparency and communication: Educate stakeholders on system-wide and project-specific transportation issues through workshops provided throughout the region.

Action Step T10B

Transportation context: Support the development of land use policies that minimize long-term costs by taking advantage of investments made in existing infrastructure through *IPlaces* scenario building software. Work together to improve accessibility and safety for everyone traveling on, along and across roads through promotion of "Complete Streets".

Action Step T10C

Critical connections: Continue the work to improve the connections between transit and rail services to provide greater transportation options for travel within and between cities.

Action Step T10D

Asset management: Prioritize maintaining and operation assets on identified priority networks through ATP and TAC.

Action Step T10E

Traveler safety: Develop and share critical safety information and support educational initiatives through our active transportation work and prioritize safety through active transportation grants. Implement strategic and sustainable engineering solutions to improve traveler safety through prioritization of STIP projects.

Action Step T10F

System security: Expand emergency communications infrastructure across the state through the county Hazard Mitigation plans.