



## Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Transportation

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Date: April 15, 2014

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
T1	<p>Region Five in conjunction with the regional transit providers and MnDOT have had numerous meetings to discuss the possibility of a dedicated transit route along the Hwy 210 corridor.</p> <p>The group identified a feasibility/needs study that MnDOT had commissioned in 2012 for MnDOT District 3 that was quite sophisticated in addressing the Staples to Brainerd corridor.</p> <p>The Results of the study show little ridership demand for this corridor.</p>
T3, T6	<p>SRTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) helps kids walk and bicycle to school more often through infrastructure improvements, education and promotional activities.</li> <li>- Pierz</li> <li>- Pillager</li> <li>- Staples</li> <li>- Wadena</li> <li>- Brainerd</li> <li>- Crosby</li> </ul>
T6	<p>Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$3.2 M available.</li> <li>- Over \$5.6M in applications</li> <li>- 3-4 projects submitted in Region Five were awarded.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. City of Royalton (SRTS Infrastructure).</li> <li>2. City of Lakeshore (CSAH 77 Trail)</li> <li>3. City of Brainerd (So 6th St/B371 Improvements)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
T3	<p>FY 2018 Surface Transportation Program (STP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$2.48M available within Region Five</li> <li>- Over \$9.4M in applications</li> <li>- Projects awarded this cycle (FY 2018)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4 Transit buses (1 for each transit provider)</li> <li>2. City of Baxter Cypress Dr. (New Construction)</li> <li>3. Cass County CSAH 77 (Reconstruction)</li> <li>4. Crow Wing County CSAH 18 (Resurfacing)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

What future activities has your theme prioritized for the coming year?	
T1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Transportation Theme Champions plan to continue to partner with the Changing Populations Theme to map transit services in the region according to affordability, geography, scheduling, and other parameters in order to accurately identify if gaps exist.</li> </ul>
T3, T6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SRTS</li> <li>- Little Falls to start planning process fall 2014.</li> <li>- Cass Lake /Bena to start planning process fall 2014.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
T6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Future TAP Funding Cycle</li> <li>- More information will be available this fall.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
T6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential TIGER grant application being submitted by MDH to replace the CTG funding which will be going away in Sept. 2014 and which provided funding for RDC's to perform Active Transportation, Active Living, and healthy eating work throughout the region.</li> </ul>

# 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.

#### 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

**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 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.

#### Action Step T5C

**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.

### Transportation Issue III (TIII)

**Alternative transportation:** How do we implement “alternative transportation technologies” such as increasing broadband access throughout the region, which would increase the opportunities for telecommuting and provide an economic benefit for businesses, and promoting alternative-fuel vehicles, which are closer or further from reality, so they serve our region’s needs to provide efficiency, safety, cost savings, and economic development? (Broadband recommendations are included under the “Connectivity” theme.)

### 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.

### Recommendation T7

**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?

## Recommendation T8

**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.

## Recommendation T9

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

## Recommendation T10

**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.