



2013 Report from the

# Advisory Committee on Non-Motorized Transportation

January 2014



Prepared by

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# Legislative request

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This report is issued to comply with Minn. Stat. Sec. 174.37, subd. 4.

## **174.37 Advisory Committee on Non-Motorized Transportation**

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** (a) The commissioner of transportation shall establish an advisory committee on non-motorized transportation. The committee shall make recommendations to the commissioner on items related to non-motorized transportation, including safety, education, and development programs. The committee shall review and analyze issues and needs relating to operating non-motorized transportation on public rights-of-way, and identify solutions and goals for addressing identified issues and needs.

(b) For purposes of this section, "non-motorized transportation" includes bicycling, pedestrian activities, and other forms of non-motorized transportation.

Subd. 2. **Members.** The advisory committee must consist of the following members:

(a) The commissioner of transportation shall appoint up to 18 public members, as follows: one member from each of the department's seven greater Minnesota districts; four members from the department's metropolitan district; and no more than seven members at large. Each of the members at large must represent non-motorized interests or organizations.

(b) The commissioners of each of the following state agencies shall appoint an employee of the agency to serve as a member: administration, education, health, natural resources, public safety, transportation, and pollution control. The chair of the Metropolitan Council shall appoint an employee of the council to serve as a member. The director of Explore Minnesota Tourism shall appoint an employee of the agency to serve as a member. The division administrator of the Federal Highway Administration may appoint an employee of the agency to serve as a member.

(c) Members of the committee shall serve four-year terms.

Subd. 3. **Meetings.** The commissioner of transportation's designee shall convene the first meeting by January 15, 2009. The committee shall elect a chair from its membership, and shall establish a meeting schedule and meet at least annually.

Subd. 4. **Reports.** The committee shall issue an annual report to the commissioner of transportation.

Subd. 5. **Expenses.** Members of the advisory committee serve without compensation, but members who are not employees of government agencies must be reimbursed for expenses in the same manner and amount as authorized by the commissioner's plan adopted under section 43A.18, subdivision 2. The commissioner of transportation shall provide department staff support to the committee.

Subd. 6. **Expiration.** Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 5, the committee expires June 30, 2014.

The cost of preparing this report is under \$5,000.

# Activities of the committee in 2012-2013

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Committee vision: Individually and collectively we will strengthen and encourage community support for non-motorized transportation throughout the state. We will do so through continuous and active participation with government agencies, and allied organizations through education, public affairs campaigns and political initiatives.

## Meetings

As set forth in the bylaws, a minimum of five meetings occurred between September 2012 and June 2013.

- Sept. 28 and 29, 2012 - Alexandria
- Oct. 11, 2012 - MnDOT Central Office
- Nov. 15, 2012 - MnDOT Central Office
- Feb. 15, 2013 - MnDOT Central Office
- April 11, 2013 - Canceled due to weather
- June 13, 2013 - Quality Bicycle Products

The September annual planning meeting was held in Alexandria and included an overview from Active Living Douglas County and Alexandria city staff. The group was also updated on Cyclopath and given an opportunity to evaluate it.

Officers were also elected at the September meeting. Dan Brevia was elected chairperson and Danny McCullough was named vice-chairperson.

The committee determined to focus on the following initiatives:

- Technical and planning issues impacting non-motorized transportation
- Share the Road and educational outreach efforts
- Marketing and media activities to increase awareness of non-motorized transportation and visibility of the committee

Regular committee meetings featured presentations by invited speakers on timely, non-motorized projects including the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan and Statewide Health Improvement Program. Additionally, updates on the following items consistently occurred:

- Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- Future bikeways
- Law enforcement
- Bicycle Planning Study
- Share the Road
- Mississippi River Trail
- Trail crossings

# Accomplishments

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The committee worked actively with an assortment of agencies and organizations over the past year to increase the incorporation of non-motorized transportation modes into the transportation network throughout Minnesota.

## **Safe Routes to School**

Over the past year, MnDOT prioritized improvement of the Safe Routes to School program and it is now a successful example of how to support bicycling in Minnesota communities. With the SRTS coordinator, we have leveraged partnerships within and outside of MnDOT to support the work of communities around the state to make it safe and easy for youth to bicycle and walk to school. In this past year, MnDOT has, along with its partners:

- Established a 25-member Safe Routes to School Steering Committee with stakeholders representing transportation, health, education and planning partners from state and local organizations
- Contracted with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN and the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota to develop a bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum for K-8 students in Minnesota
- Funded SRTS plans at 70 schools across the state, staffed by Regional Development Commissions in rural areas and by a consulting firm in our metro areas
- Provided training by national expert Mark Fenton to regional SRTS leaders in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control
- Awarded \$575,000 in local non-infrastructure grants to communities
- Announced a new solicitation for planning support, infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants with applications due in February 2013
- Worked with partners to ensure program sustainability under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act

## **Share the Road pedestrian campaign**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation and several partners launched a statewide pedestrian .safety campaign in late September 2012. The campaign reinforces awareness of Minnesota crosswalk law and teaches safe crossing behaviors to pedestrians. The campaign launch included advertising, statewide media coverage and events in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, Duluth and St. Cloud. A representative from the State Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee provided input during campaign development on campaign objectives, target audiences and key messages.

## **Pedal Minnesota**

In 2012 MnDOT participated in a campaign to promote bicycling in Minnesota. The campaign is a unique collaboration led by Explore Minnesota Tourism and supported by Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, Parks and Trails Council, National Trails Council, MnDOT and others.

The partners came together to promote bicycling in Minnesota for various reasons, including economic development, transportation, health and the environment. They share a common vision to get more people on bikes, more often. By pooling their efforts they have a much stronger impact than working alone.

At the center of the campaign is a consumer website with maps and information to promote and inspire people of all ages and abilities to ride bicycles more often. The website also offers a video that features all types of bicycling around the state, from mountain biking to commuting to trail riding, tourism and family biking. The campaign launch also included billboards, newspaper and magazine ads around the state. In addition there was a series of kick-off events that included free bike repair stations at Metro Transit bus shelters.

PedalMN has engaged sponsors from the private sector in order to support additional media outreach. In 2012, Health Partners was a founding sponsor and continues to support the campaign.

## **Additional initiatives**

- Frostbike
- Free Bikes for Kidz
- Development of a state bicycle map
- Mississippi River Trail (U.S Bicycle Route 45)
- Bicycle Planning Study
- Bicycle Friendly Community trainings

## **Recommendations**

The committee advises the agency to provide consistent statewide policies to increase bicycling and walking within the state, funding of facilities and a reduction in pedestrian and bicycling fatalities and injuries. Naturally, this will require the cooperation of government agencies, elected officials and advocacy organizations.

Throughout the years the committee has enjoyed an exceptional working relationship with the agency and looks forward to furthering the achievement of Minnesota's transportation goals and objectives.

## Appendix A: Members

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The committee is comprised of citizen representatives from across the state, representatives from state and regional governmental agencies and representatives from user and advocacy groups. The committee is staffed by MnDOT.

The members bring a diverse set of skills and personalized knowledge to the committee. They offer new perspectives to the agency, whether through knowledge of private sector, efficiency, regional differences in mobility needs and innovative technologies. Above all, they inject an element of reason and practicality into decision making.

### Members:

MnDOT District 1	Susan Koschak
MnDOT District 2	Andy Mueller
MnDOT District 3	Jenny Smith
MnDOT District 4	Jason Artley
MnDOT District 6	Pete Connor
MnDOT District 7	Tom Engstrom
MnDOT District 8	Steve Brisendine
MnDOT Metro District	Dan Breva
MnDOT Metro District	Benita Warns
MnDOT Metro District	Randy Oppelt
MnDOT Metro District	Emma Pachuta
Law Enforcement	Danny McCullough
Bicycling Club	Paul Frenz
Higher Education	Steve Sanders
Metropolitan Planning	Muhammad Khan
State Advocacy Organization	Nick Mason
Industry	Rich Tauer
Department of Administration	Anne Johnson
Pollution Control Agency	Vacant
Department of Natural Resources	Grant Scholen
Explore Minnesota Tourism	Gayle Junnila
Metropolitan Council	Steve Elmer
Department of Health	Amber Dallman
Department of Education	Kelly Wosika
Department of Public Safety	Gordy Pehrson
Department of Transportation	Mark Vizecky
Federal Highway Administration	Tim Anderson