



Office of Sustainability and Public Health

CY 2020 Overview and Work Plan

Overview

The MnDOT Office of Sustainability and Public Health (OSPH) develops and coordinates sustainability and public health activities for MnDOT and leads sustainable transportation efforts for the state. Sustainability at MnDOT includes diverse efforts that focus on maximizing the health of people, the economy, and the environment. More specifically, OSPH has focused on four primary areas:

1. Make agency operations more sustainable, which includes reducing fuel and energy use, promoting renewable energy, reducing chloride pollution, and increasing pollinator habitat.
2. Reduce carbon pollution from the transportation sector, which includes leading coordination with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to reduce tailpipe emissions, promote electric vehicles, support increased investment in transit, and identify policy options to support sustainable transportation.
3. Improve transportation system resilience, which includes planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining facilities to be more resilient to climate change and shocks and stresses.
4. Promote transportation decisions and investments to support public health and healthy communities.

OSPH Team

- Tim Sexton – Assistant Commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer

Provides executive leadership for sustainability programs to support the sustainability of agency operations, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, and improve resilience of the transportation system.

- Siri Simons – Principal Sustainability Planner

Leads coordination of internal sustainability planning and implementation to meet fleet fuel use, energy, water, waste, and other sustainability targets and develops action plans and projects to advance sustainability performance measures.

- Vacant – Principal Transportation and Health Planner

Leads agency work to connect transportation and public health. New position that is expected to start in spring 2020.

- Jeff Meek – Sustainability Coordinator

Leads agency climate resilience and adaptation efforts, including coordination with internal and external technical experts. Supports team on activities to reduce carbon emissions for the sector.

Work plan subject to change, check the MnDOT Sustainability website for most current version. **January 8, 2020**

- Sethey Ben – Sustainability Analyst

Provides professional planning support to the Office of Sustainability and Public Health.

Guiding Statute and Regulation

- MN statute 216H *Next Generation Energy Act*
- MN statute 174.01 *Department of Transportation Creation; Policy*
- Executive Order 19-25 *Advancing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs for Minnesota's Public Buildings*
- Executive Order 19-27 *Directing State Government to Conserve Energy and Water, and Reduce Waste to Save Money*
- Executive Order 19-37 *Establishing the Climate Change Subcabinet and the Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change to Promote Coordinated Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Strategies in the State of Minnesota*

Ongoing Deliverables

- MnDOT Sustainability Report – annual, spring
- MnDOT Construction Emissions Inventory – annual, winter
- Action Plans (e.g., fleet, facilities, operations) – annual, throughout the year
- Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council (STAC) Annual Report – annual winter (1st in 2020-21)
- Department of Administration, Office of Enterprise Sustainability reporting – annual
- Ongoing staff support – Governor's Biofuel Advisory Council, Governor's Advisory Council on Climate Change, MnDOT Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council, MnDOT Sustainable Transportation Steering Committee

Emerging or Continuing Issues of Concern

- Transportation is the #1 source of GHG emissions and MnDOT must identify methods to reduce emissions from the transportation sector in Minnesota.
- MnDOT must decrease energy use from our operations, including fuel use as the largest fuel consumer in the state enterprise.
- Expand evaluation of decarbonization opportunities beyond light duty vehicles.
- Strengthen connections to CAV, shared mobility, and other emerging trends and technologies.
- Evaluate ways to use statewide planning and performance measure to drive sustainability outcomes.
- Expand and grow public health as a sustainable transportation focus.
- Collaborate with partners to explore opportunities for new partnerships around climate resilience and the clean energy economy with DBE contractors, tribal governments, and others.

Recurring Tasks

- Coordinate and facilitate bi-monthly Sustainable Transportation Steering Committee meetings.
- Report fuel, energy, water, waste, procurement, and GHG emissions data to the Department of Administration Office of Enterprise Sustainability.

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- Coordinate and facilitate the bi-monthly Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council (STAC) meetings and related subcommittee meetings.

Sustainability Activities and Deliverables (minus ongoing)

What is the planned action?	Who is the lead?	When is expected completion or milestones?	What resources are needed?	Partners
Agency Operations				
MnDOT Energy Action Plan	Siri	May 2020		CO and District Maintenance
Accessibility pilot projects (3-4)	Tim	Fall 2020		OTSM, Metro, D2, Smart Growth America
Resilience				
Extreme Flood Vulnerability Analysis	Jeff	June 30, 2021		Bridge, Metro, OSPH
Resilience Corridors Assessment and Peer Exchange	Jeff	Begin summer 2020 (est.)	FHWA funds approval	FHWA MN, OTSM, Metro and D6
Guidance: emergency repair and resilience	Jeff	DRAFT summer 2020		Admin/Emergency Management, Bridge, FHWA MN
U of M capstone project: qualitative resilience evaluation	Jeff	May 2020		U of M, District Maintenance (tbd)
Sector Decarbonization				
STAC facilitation and support	Tim, Siri, Sethey, David Elvin (Metro)	Bimonthly meetings with annual report due December 2020		Commissioner, Metro, various internal/external

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EV vision/strategy for Minnesota (New)	Tim (MnDOT)	June 30, 2020		Various state agencies, Governor's Office
Upper Midwest EV Corridor Collaborative	Tim	Draft MOU, summer 2020		Governor's Office, other Midwest states, MPCA
Clean Transportation Funding Program	Tim Siri, Sethey	1 st solicitation by June 1, 2020		STAC, OTSM
Health				
Complete Streets program review and update	Siri, Health Planner (new)	Spring 2020 convening (est.)		OPTMS, OTSM, District planners and project managers
Public health narratives	Health Planner (new)	Draft by June 1, 2020 (est.)		MDH, MPCA, OTAT, District staff
Other				
TRB Sustainability and Emerging Transportation Technologies conference	Tim, Siri	Aug 31-Sep 2, 2020		TRB, FHWA, AASHTO
AASHTO Sustainability Working Group	Tim, Jeff	Start by March 1, 2020 (est.)	AASHTO staff support	AASHTO CES

Sethey Ben expected to provide important support some/all of the above efforts.