



November 13, 2020

Sustainability and Public Health Division

CY2021 Overview and Work Plan

Overview

The MnDOT Sustainability and Public Health (SPH) Division 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, SPH focuses on four primary areas:

1. Lead by example through MnDOT Sustainability Efforts
2. Reduce Transportation Carbon Pollution
3. Support Transportation that Improves Public Health for All Minnesotans
4. Improve Resilience of the Transportation System

More information on the SPH Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles and Regulations, and Strategic Goals are in the 2020 Sustainability and Public Health Division Strategic Plan¹.

OSPH Team

- Tim Sexton – Assistant Commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer

Provides executive leadership to improve sustainability of agency operations, reduce carbon pollution, build resilience for the transportation system, and address public health and transportation.

- 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.

- Nissa Tupper – Principal Transportation and Public Health Planner

Leads agency work to connect transportation and public health. Coordinates with internal and external partners to incorporate public health and equity into agency planning and projects.

- Jeff Meek – Sustainability Coordinator

¹ <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/sustainability/docs/Strategic-Plan-DRAFT-200911.docx>

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

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.

- Emily Houser – Sustainability Planner

Provides professional planning support to the Sustainability and Public Health Division.

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 (1st in December 2020)
- Department of Administration, Office of Enterprise Sustainability reporting – annual

Emerging or Continuing Issues of Concern

- Expand leadership role to reduce carbon pollution from transportation, the #1 source of GHG emissions in Minnesota.
- Continue to decrease energy use from MnDOT operations, including fuel use, as one of the largest fuel consumers 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.
- Develop statewide planning and performance measures to drive sustainability outcomes.
- Expand and grow public health as a sustainable transportation focus.
- Collaborate and develop new partnerships around climate resilience and the clean energy economy with DBE contractors, tribal governments, and others.
- Explicitly incorporate equity and environmental justice into sustainability and public health work.

Recurring Tasks

- Facilitate bi-monthly Sustainable Transportation Steering Committee meetings with agency leaders.
- Facilitate bi-monthly Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council meetings with external partners and bi-weekly meetings of STAC work groups.
- Facilitate quarterly MnDOT Solar Team and MnDOT Resilience and Adaptation Team meetings.
- Lead regular meetings of the Governor’s Climate Change Subcabinet Transportation Action Team and co-lead Subcabinet Planning Team meetings.
- Report fuel, energy, water, waste, procurement, and GHG emissions data to the Department of Administration Office of Enterprise Sustainability.

Sustainability Activities and Deliverables (minus ongoing)

The following list includes examples of high priority projects where OSPH is leading/co-leading to advance goals outlined in the OSPH Strategic Plan.

Planned action	Lead	Expected completion	Resources	Partners
Agency Operations				
District Energy Plans – Pilot in 2 Districts	Siri	Dec 2020		District 4, Metro District
100% light duty EV fleet goal and statewide plan	Siri, Tim	Spring 2021		CO Fleet Management, FMG, AMG, Ops
Idle reduction guidance review and updates	Siri	Fall 2020		Metro District
Shoulder season B20 Pilot	Siri	Dec 2020		CO Fleet Management, Districts TBD
MnDOT EV business practices and outreach	Tim, Emily	Fall 2020		CO Fleet Management, FMG, AMG, Ops
NREL solar technical assistance and tribal collaboration	Siri	Summer 2021		Tribal Affairs
Resilience				
Extreme Flood Vulnerability Analysis	Jeff	June 2021		Bridge, Metro, OSPH
Resilience Corridors Assessment and Peer Exchange	Jeff	Fall 2021	FHWA funds approval	FHWA MN, OTSM, Metro and D6
Resilience and Betterments Guidance	Jeff, Tim	Fall 2020		MnDOT resilience working group
FHWA Corridor Resilience Peer Exchange	Jeff, Tim	Oct/Nov 2020		OES, OTSM, District TBD, FHWA MN

Planned action	Lead	Expected completion	Resources	Partners
Sector Decarbonization				
STAC and work group meetings and annual report	Tim, Siri, Nissa, Jeff	Dec 2020 - Annual Report	Consultant graphics support	Commissioner, Metro, various internal/external
EV Vision/Action Plan for Minnesota	Tim	June 2021		Various state agencies, Governor's Office
Upper Midwest EV Corridor Collaborative Draft MOU	Tim	Winter 2021		Governor's Office, other Midwest states
Clean Transportation Funding Program solicitation	Tim, Siri, Emily	Oct 2020		STAC, OTSM
Xcel Partnership to Electrify MnDOT Fleet	Tim, Siri	Fall 2020		Building Services, Fleet Management, MnDOT Districts, OCC
Health				
Complete Streets Program Evaluation Update	Siri, Nissa, Emily	Fall 2020 - Evaluation Dec 2020 - Finalize recommendations Spring/Summer 2021 - Implement	Consult. support	OPTMS, OTSM, OTAT, OTE, OFCVO, OES, ADA, District staff (planners, project managers, district engineers)
Transportation and public health field scan	Nissa	Spring 2021		MnDOT Library, MDH, other state DOTs
MnDOT transportation and public health policy brief	Nissa	Spring 2021		OTSM, OPTMS, OTAT, MDH
Health impact evaluation brief and implementation plan	Nissa	Winter 2020/21		MDH, PCMG, PMLG, SLT, District staff
Public health and transportation measures	Nissa	Summer 2021		MDH, OTSM, OTAT, SLT

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

Planned action	Lead	Expected completion	Resources	Partners
Public health stories	Nissa, Emily	Summer 2021		District Staff, CAPE, MDH, OTAT, OTSM, OLM, OTE
Communication and Engagement				
OSPH Communication and Engagement Plan	Nissa	Winter 2020/21		CAPE
Other				
Sustainability and Emerging Transportation Technologies (SETT) Conference	Tim	June 2021		TRB, AASHTO, FHWA
Transportation Pooled Fund: Infrastructure Carbon Estimator update	Tim	Fall 2020 – Public Release		OES, Materials Lab
Sustainable Pavements Case Studies	Emily	Winter 2020/21		Materials Lab

Sustainability and Public Health Coordination Activities

The following list includes coordination with external partners in support of the 2020 Strategic Plan goals.

Group	Type of Activity	Role	Staff	Timeline (start/end)
Resilience				
MnDOT Freeze Thaw Research	Research	Lead	Jeff Meek	
NCHRP Freeze Thaw Study	Research	Observe	Jeff Meek	
Urban Drainage Resilience	Research	TAP	Jeff Meek	
Extreme Flood Vulnerability Assessment	Research	Lead	Jeff Meek	
Sustainable Transportation Action Team Resilience Work Group	Agency Initiative	Coordinate	Jeff Meek	
American Society of Adaptation Professionals	Partnerships	Planning Committee	Jeff Meek	
PIARC/World Road Association: Transportation Resilience (4.1)	Partnerships	US Delegate	Tim Sexton	2021 - 2024
AASHTO: Committee on System Security and Resilience (CTSSR)	Partnerships	Steering Committee, Chair Research Sub	Tim Sexton	2017/ongoing
Transportation Sector Carbon Pollution				
EQB Environmental Review Program Climate Update WG	Partnerships	MnDOT rep	Jeff Meek	ongoing

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

Group	Type of Activity	Role	Staff	Timeline (start/end)
Midwest Clean Fuels Policy Initiative	Partnerships	MnDOT rep	Tim Sexton	2018/ongoing
I-94 Regional Corridor Electrification	Partnerships	Lead	Tim Sexton	2017/ongoing
Midcontinent Transportation Electrification Collaborative	Partnerships	MN rep	Tim Sexton	2018/ongoing
US Climate Alliance: Transportation Work Group	Executive Direction	Co-Lead	Tim Sexton	2018/ongoing
FHWA Transportation Pooled Fund: Infrastructure Carbon Estimator (ICE)	Research	Lead State	Tim Sexton	2019/ongoing
MnDOT EV Corridor Charging Infrastructure for MD/HD Trucks Research	Research	Lead	Siri Simons	2020/2022
Governor's Climate Change Subcabinet: Planning Team	Executive Direction	Co-Lead	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
Governor's CC Subcabinet: Sr Leaders Team	Executive Direction	MnDOT rep	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
Governor's CC Subcabinet: Transportation Action Team	Executive Direction	Lead	Siri Simons	2020/ongoing
Governor's CC Subcabinet: Climate Engagement Team	Executive Direction	Lead	Nissa Tupper	2020/ongoing
Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council (STAC)	Agency Initiative	Lead	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
STAC: Powering Transport Work Group	Agency Initiative	Lead	Siri Simons	2020/ongoing

Group	Type of Activity	Role	Staff	Timeline (start/end)
STAC: VMT Reduction Work Group	Agency Initiative	Lead	Nissa Tupper	2020/ongoing
Public Health				
Healthy MN Partnership	Partnership	MnDOT rep	Nissa Tupper	2014/ongoing
Suicide Prevention Taskforce	Partnership	MnDOT rep	Nissa Tupper	2019/ongoing
MnDOT Complete Streets Research TAP	Research	Member	Nissa Tupper	Aug. 2020/Sept. 2023
MnDOT Equity Analysis TAP	Research	Member	Nissa Tupper	July 2020/March 2021
MnDOT Telework Steering Committee	Agency Initiative	Member, Lead	Nissa Tupper, Tim Sexton	Aug. 2020/Dec. 2020
Sustainability				
Greenroads International	Partnerships	Board of Directors	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
TRB: Sustainability Section	Research	Section Chair	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
TRB: Special Task Force on Climate Change	Research	Member	Tim Sexton	2017/ongoing
NCHRP 20-127: Developing a Business Case for Sustainability	Research	Panel Member	Tim Sexton	2019/ongoing
Harnessing the Sun's Energy through Noise Barriers and Structural Snow Fencing TAP	Research	Participant	Siri Simons	2019/2020

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

Group	Type of Activity	Role	Staff	Timeline (start/end)
SPROUT: international urban mobility	Research	Support	Tim Sexton	2019/ongoing
Governors Biofuel Council	Executive Direction	MnDOT rep	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
AASHTO: Center Environmental Excellence	Partnerships	Steering Committee	Tim Sexton	2019/ongoing
AASHTO Electric Vehicle Working Group	Partnerships	Member	Tim Sexton	2020/ongoing
AASHTO: Committee on Environment and Sustainability (CES)	Partnerships	Steering Committee	Tim Sexton	2015/ongoing