

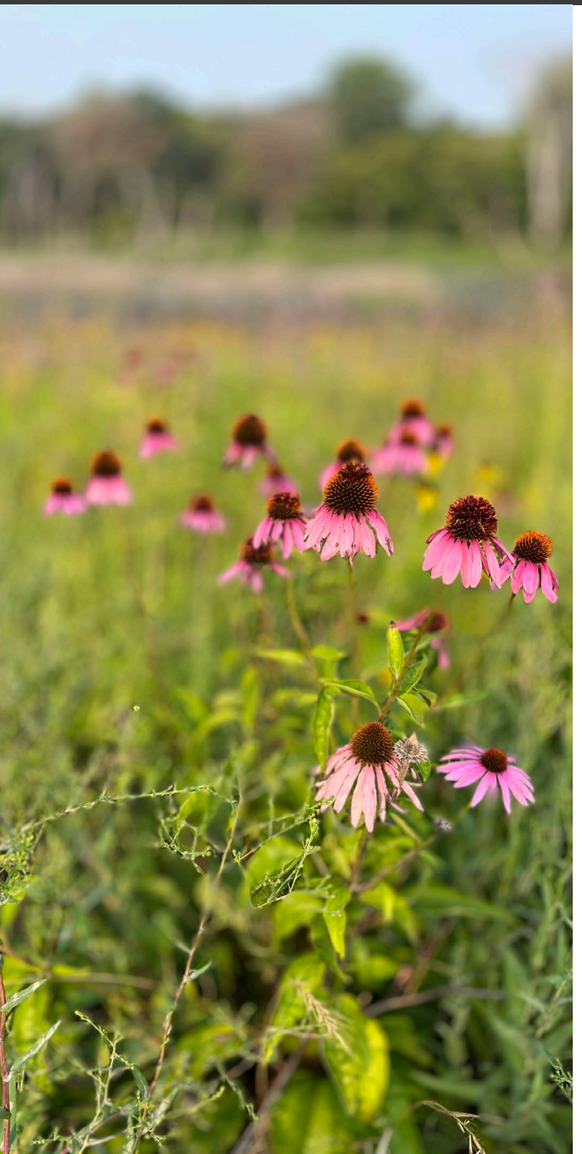
Travel Behavior Inventory and Regional Model

Update to TAC

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

November 2026, Jonathan Ehrlich

Travel Behavior Inventory Overview



Supports estimation and updates of region travel models

Directly informs transportation planning

Key elements

- Household travel survey (every 2 years)
- Transit on-board survey (every 5 years)
- Special generator surveys / data purchases (as needed)
- Travel model updates

Model Background



- The Metropolitan Council, like all large MPOs, maintains a regional transportation forecasting model.
- The model is regularly updated to reflect changes in
  - Regional transportation networks
  - Observed travel patterns and behaviors
  - Questions of interest to planners and policymakers
  - Evolution of best-practice methods
  - Lessons learned

Project Update: 2026 Household Travel Survey / Our Daily Trips

- Regional study of household demographics and daily travel to inform transportation planning
- Collects data on households, people, vehicles, and all trips;
  - Adds transportation insecurity questions in 2026
- Expected 2026 sample: ~4,500 households, ~10,800 people, ~190k trips
- Participation via web/phone or rMove app; app captures up to 7 days of travel and simplifies reporting
- Multilingual outreach and incentives used to increase representation and reduce participation barriers
- Timeline: (delayed 4 months); May 2026 – Jan 2027

Travel Behavior Inventory Funding

Funding Split

- Cooperative funding split since 2018:
  - 1/3 Regional Solicitation
  - 1/3 MnDOT
  - 1/3 Council local sources
- Funding request from Council, each cycle, reviewed by Regional Travel Forecasting Committee

Regional Solicitation History

- 2016 (startup): $2,700,000 (of $7,600,000)
- 2018: $585,000
- 2020: Skipped request to sync unique project timeline
- 2022: $733,000
- 2024: $1,250,000
- 2026: $850,000 (requested)

2026 Regional Solicitation Request

That the Metropolitan Council, TAB, and MnDOT continue funding the TBI program in the 2030-2031 with the following specific projects being funded:

- 2032 Household travel survey ($1,850K)
- 2032 Special generator/population surveys/3rd party data ($300K)
- 2031-2032 Model updates ($400K)

and that the $850,000 be committed in 2030 from the Regional Solicitation, from MnDOT, and from the Metropolitan Council.



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