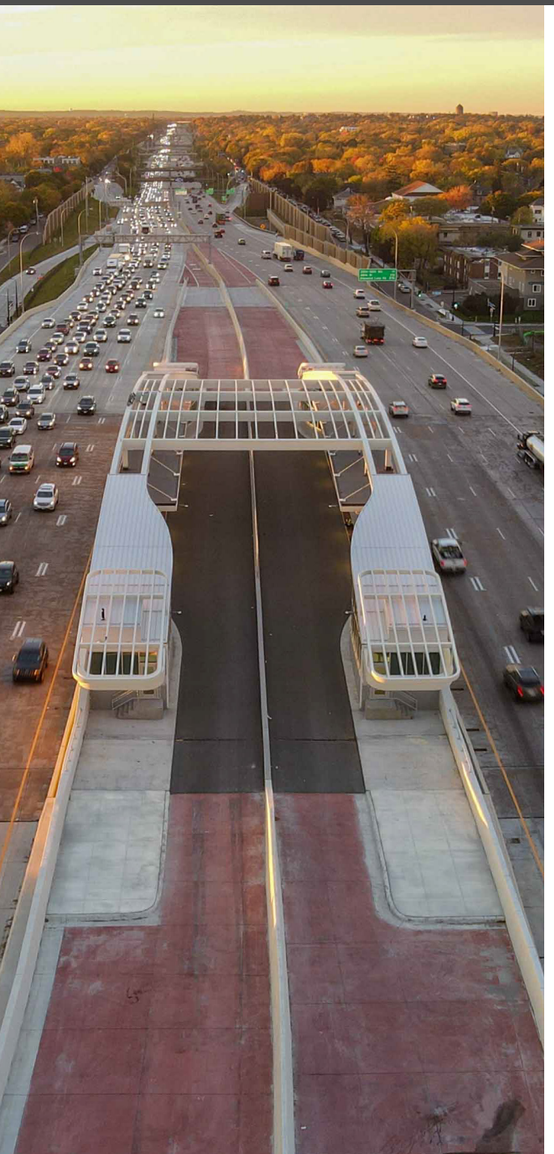
Integrating TDM into Highway Planning

TAC Planning

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

June 11th, 2026

Project Overview



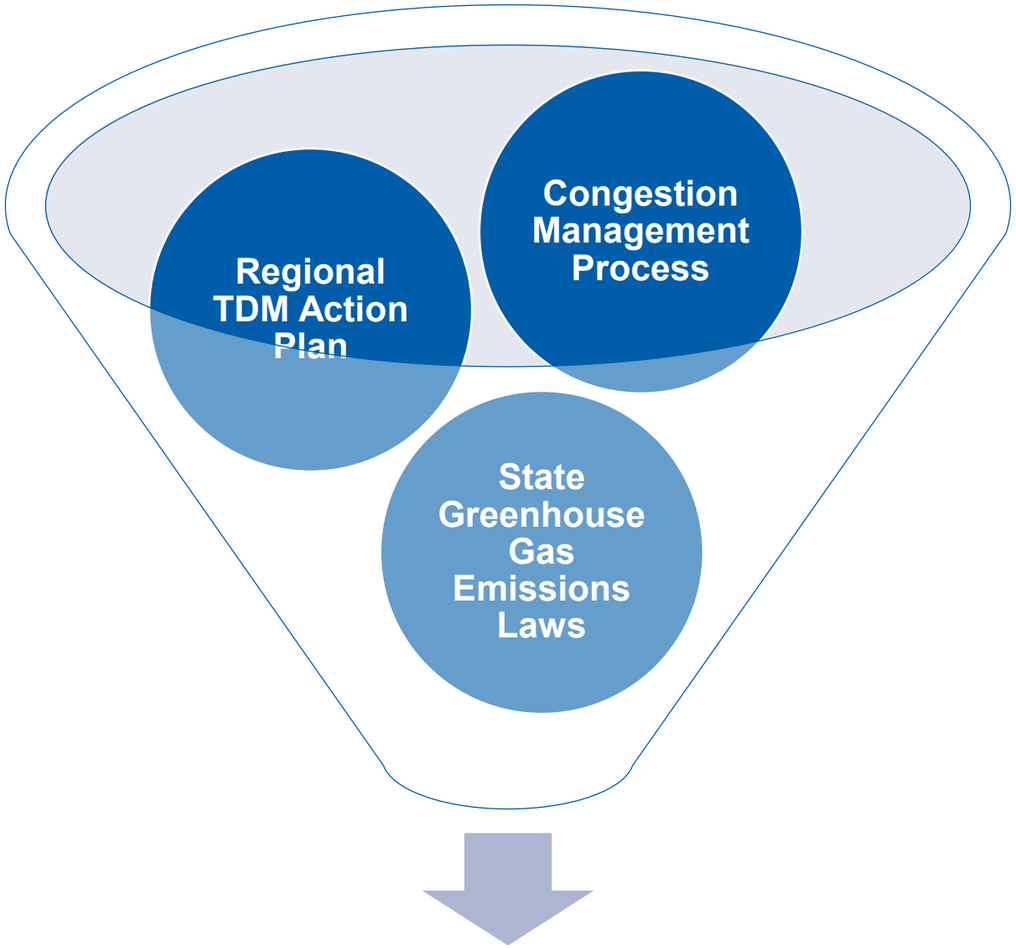
Project Overview

Explore how to integrate Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies across all phases of highway planning and development.

From the 2026 Unified Planning Work Program:

The Regional Travel Demand Management (TDM) Action Plan and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan identified a need to better integrate TDM considerations into highway project development processes as one action to help reduce the need for highway expansion. The Congestion Management Process also places TDM as a high-priority strategy for congested corridors. However, the TDM strategies are high level and do not provide detailed implementation guidance for project managers to put into practice. This project will create detailed tools, guidance, and best practices for how TDM strategies can be incorporated in different phases of highway project development, including post-construction considerations.

Project Background and Impacts



Integrating TDM into Highway Planning Processes

Project Goal

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Shift travel behavior to improve congestion management, travel reliability, and environmental outcomes, rather than relying solely on building new infrastructure.

Project Outcomes

- Develop guidelines & tools
- Promote cross-agency collaboration
- Break down silos
- Define an implementation path

Study Tasks Overview

Key Tasks

- Stakeholder engagement through technical advisory group and role-based working groups
- Assessment of current practices and mapping of highway planning decision points
- Development and testing of practical TDM integration tools and applied case studies
- Packaging tools into an accessible toolbox, user guide, and training materials

Engagement Strategy

Key Groups and Strategy

- Transportation Advisory Group (TAG)
- Small Working Groups (SWG)

- Early engagement
- Iterative, continuous feedback loops
- Process mapping and refinement

Technical Advisory Group

Purpose and Members

Role

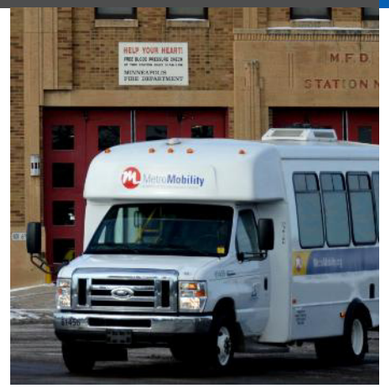
- Senior-level, cross-agency advisory committee
- Big-picture guidance and validation
- Helps secure buy-in and consistency with existing procedures

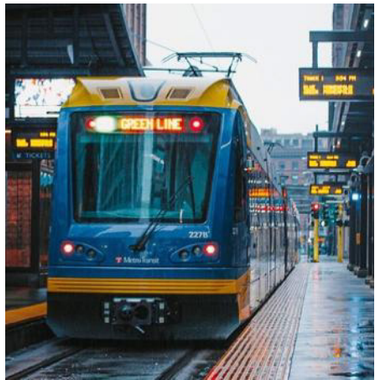
Goals

- Review major deliverables
- Ensure proposed TDM integration tools fit within existing frameworks
- Lend credibility across agencies

Composition

- Cities (3-4), variety of community types and roles, mix of land use planners and public works staff
- Counties (2-4)
- MnDOT Metro District (planning and project delivery, 2-4)
- MnDOT Central Office (TDM and corridor planning, 2)
- TDM implementation (2-3)
- Met Council highway planning (1)
- Transit providers (1-2)





Small Working Groups Composition

Composition of Three Groups

Highway Planning

- Staff with front-end experience with highway planning

Highway Implementation

- Project-level experience on design, agreements, and operations/construction coordination

Local TDM implementation

- Groups that understand how TDM strategies might work (TMOs, transit providers, cities)

Project Schedule

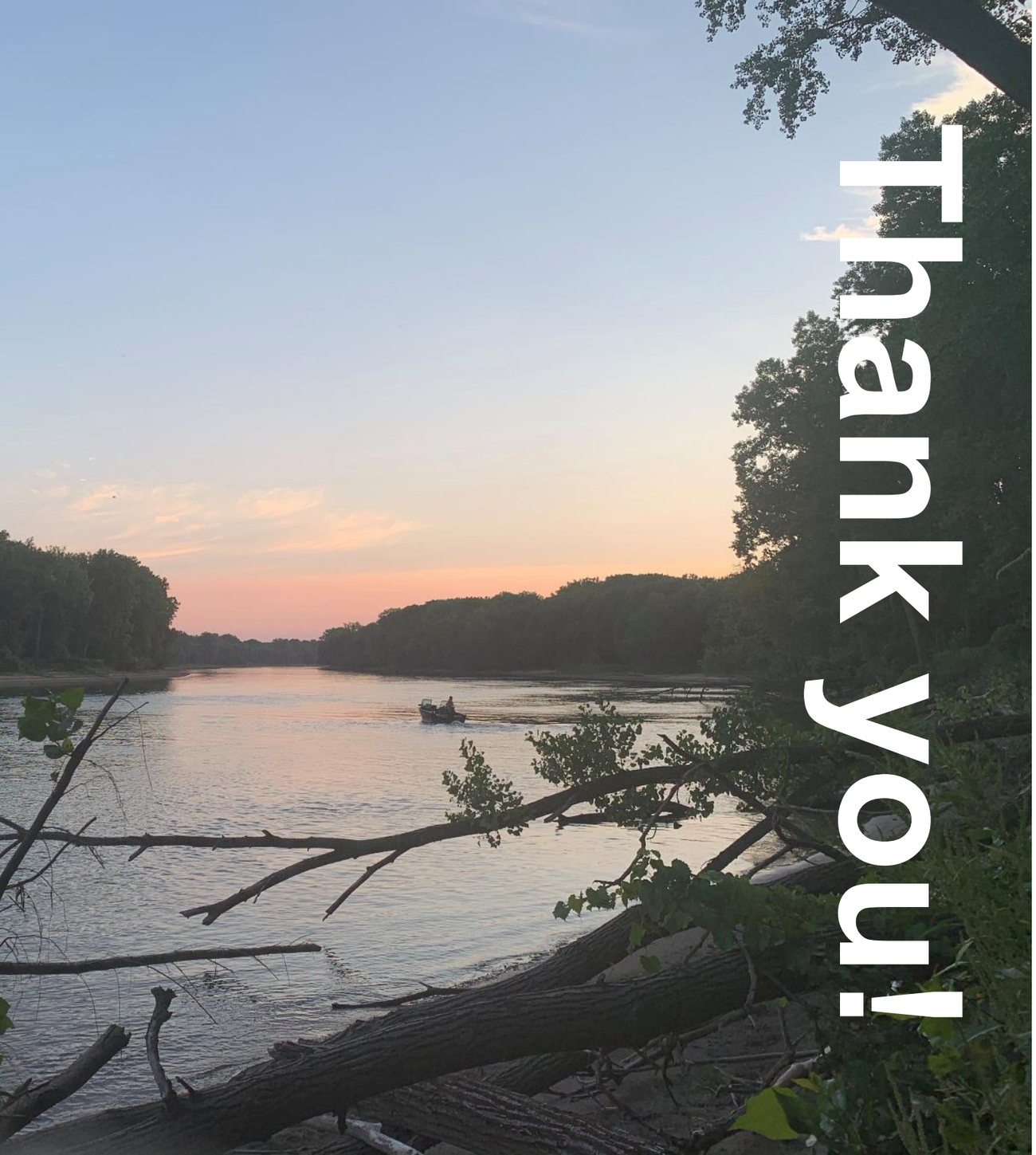
Three Project Phases

Discover (Q1 2026 – Q3 2026)

- First TAG meeting June 15
- SWG meetings in July

Prototype and Refine (Q3 2026 – Q2 2027)

Deliver (Q2 2027 – Q3 2027)



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