Phase I Summary: Phase II Intro

October 8th, 2018
UPDC Transportation Committee
Rethinking I-94 has three main purposes

- Develop a community-based approach focused on reconnecting neighborhoods, revitalizing communities and ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in transportation-related decisions that affect their lives.
- Make it easier to travel to, along and across the I-94 corridor and establish a sense of place for the communities that live, work and play there.
- Enhance safety and mobility for people walking, biking, driving and using transit.
What Have We Done So Far

- Researched existing transportation conditions
- Conducted initial engagement with stakeholders
- Developed ideas for improving safety and traffic congestion
About the Communities

Fast facts

• 15-mile corridor
• 250,000 people live within 1-mile of I-94
• 9 St. Paul District Councils
• 14 Minneapolis neighborhoods
• Economically and racially diverse
• 6 primary ethnic communities:
  American Indian, African-American, Latino,
  Euro-American, Asian-American, Recent African Immigrant
## About the Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<td>Farmers markets</td>
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<td>Libraries</td>
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About the Highway

- 2+ million Transit users per year
- 15 Miles of infrastructure
- 80+ Lane miles of pavement
- 4 Average hours of congestion per day

- 8,000 Freight trips per day
- 4 Tunnels
- 145 Bridges
- 150,000+ Vehicles per day
Traffic and congestion

• One of the most heavily used — and congested — highways in the state
• Critical route for commuters, freight, transit
• Congestion adds about 20 minutes to rush hour trips
• About half the trips begin in the neighborhoods near I-94
• Only a small percentage of trips go all the way through the study area

Pavement is between 29 and 55 years old. It was originally designed to last 25 years.

7 out of the 12 pedestrian-only bridges are not ADA compliant

Crash rate is twice the average in the metro area, largely due to congestion.
• People-centered
• Adaptable approach
• Impact where people live, work and gather
• Early – Often – More
Guiding Commitments for project teams

MnDOT developed these commitments based on what people expect from MnDOT. They will guide how we work with communities in the future.
Livability Framework for communities

MnDOT developed this framework based on what people expect from the project work. It will guide how we work, design and evaluate projects in the future.
Pedestrian and bicycle

- 67 crossings with sidewalks, trails, bike facilities
- Some facilities are in poor condition
- Community would like improved facilities across and along I-94
- I-94 is a barrier for people who depend on walking, biking and transit
Freeway concepts

- Ideas to improve safety and congestion could include:
  - **Spot mobility**: smaller projects at select locations
  - **Managed lane**: provide benefits to transit, car pools, etc.
  - **Other options** not yet identified – to be explored in Phase 2
Leader

Partner

Facilitator
Rethinking I-94 will continue ...
National Environmental Policy Act

**National Policy**
- Make it better than it was before.
- Prevent or eliminate damage to the environment.
- Stimulate the health & welfare of people.

**Established a Federal Responsibility**
- Assure safe, productive, esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects.
- Balance between people and resource use.

**Decision-making Framework**
- Systematic process to follow.
- Is it feasible and reasonable to build and spend funds.
- Consult with Federal agencies.
- Involve the public.
Essential Elements of the NEPA Process

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives
- Impacts
- Mitigation
- Public Involvement
- Interagency Coordination
- Documentation
What is Purpose and Need

**Need:**
Tangible and fact based evidence that a problem exists (i.e., a transportation deficiency)
The WHY of the project

**Purpose:**
The WHAT – based on need.

**Importance of Purpose and Need**

- Critical foundation for successful decision-making
- It guides the development and analysis of alternatives
- It forms the basis for evaluating alternatives
- Establishes reasons for moving forward with the project (action)
Moving Forward…

Currently
Draft Purpose and Need
Range of Alternatives (broad)
Selection Criteria
Project Limits

Ongoing
Educate communities about the process.
Where, when and how will communities have meaningful impact
Requirements
Expectations
What can YOU do
More Info: Google Rethinking I-94

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