

Draft Program



Location: South Central Service Cooperative, 2075 Lookout Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003. In person and virtual attendance options. AICP CM credits pending.

Time: 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM  
Title: Registration and coffee  
Location: Conference Center Atrium

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Time: 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM  
Title: Welcome and Goal Setting  
Location: Conference A

Welcome and goal-setting. We review how our 13 county MnDOT district compares to the others on active transportation and sustainable development. We, those assembled, along with regional and state leadership from MnDOT, recommit to prioritizing transportation that is environmentally and economically sustainable.

Presenters:  
Mark Plotz, Organizer, Bike Walk St. Peter  
Mike Laven, Chairperson, City of Mankato  
Erik Rudeen, Government Affairs Director, MnDOT

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Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM  
Title: The Demographic Case for Active Transportation Investment  
Location: Conference A

The recent pandemic has shown us that the higher quality-of-life and lower cost-of-living offered by smaller cities can draw people away from megaregions. Another population shift that will soon be underway is migration from the coasts and southern tier towards the more temperate upper Midwest. Learn who our active transportation customers are now and in the future. And understand what demographic trends will influence our growth in the coming decades.

Moderated by: Kristian Braekkan, Economic Development Director, Region Nine Development Commission

Presenters:

Ryan Vesey, Economic Development & Research Manager, Greater Mankato Growth

Brigid Tuck, Senior Economic Impact Analyst, University of Minnesota - Extension

Michael Wojcik, Executive Director, Bicycle Alliance of MN

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Time: 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM

Title: The Economic Case for Active Transportation Investment

Location: Conference A

Communities that are walkable and bicycle-friendly are more economically successful and socially resilient. Getting there and preserving what you've got isn't easy – especially in the upper midwest where driving is easy, parking is free, and active transportation is considered an alternative lifestyle. Learn from a few courageous people who have taken on car culture, and whose communities are the better for it.

Moderated by: Doug Thomas, Community Organizer, New Leaf

Presenters:

Wayne Hurley, Director of Transportation Planning, West Central Initiative

Nissa Tupper, Transportation and Public Health Planning Director, MnDOT

Will Schroerer, Planning Commission, City of Northfield MN

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Time: 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM

Title: Why Do We Bike? - A film

Location: Conference A

For the Dutch, cycling is second nature. Perhaps the fact that they don't think about it, is the key to the bicycle's success in their country. The documentary 'Why we cycle' takes a ride with ordinary cyclists and specialists from a variety of disciplines. The conversations uncover some obvious, but even more hidden effects of cycling on people, on societies, and on the organization of cities.

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Time: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
Title: Advocacy 101: Successfully influencing local decision makers  
Location: Conference A

Local advocacy is critical to creating safe environments that support people that walk or bicycle as a form of transportation. Knowing where to find publicly available documents and when to intervene in planning is key to being successful. State level advocacy is different; learn how to be successful at legislative level.

Organized by: Cindy Winters, Public Health Professional, Retired

Presenters:

Jen Maurer, Community Health Programs Coordinator, Hearty of New Ulm  
Mary M Kramer, Associate Professor, Minnesota State University-Mankato

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Time: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
Title: Walkable Street Design (Complete Streets)  
Location: Conference B

A complete street serves the needs of all users – current and future. The term defines a new approach to transportation planning which stands in contrast to the previous paradigm of thinking only of motorized users. There is good reason to embrace a complete streets approach: downtowns with complete streets are more commercially successful; neighborhoods with complete streets allow aging in place; and children in communities with complete streets can walk and bike to destinations. This workshop will enable attendees to understand the design elements of complete streets, and apply the approach to a variety of land use contexts.

Organized by: Mark Plotz, Organizer, Bike Walk St. Peter

Presenters:

Matt Lassonde, City Planner, City of North Mankato  
Mark Konz, Associate Director - Planning and Development, City of Mankato

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Time: 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
Title: Active Transportation Funding and Planning  
Location: Conference C

An overview of how the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) distributes funds, how much money is available for active transportation projects, what funding opportunities there are, and when and how to apply for funding.

Organized by: Joel Hanif, Community Development Planner, Region 9

Presenters:

Angela Piltaver, Principal Planner (Acting), MnDOT District 7

Joel Hanif, Community Development Planner, Region 9

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Time: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Title: Demonstration Projects (Tactical Urbanism)

Location: Conference A

Learn how to implement demonstration projects: short term, temporary, low-cost changes that make your community safer for active transportation. We'll share why communities do demonstration projects, key considerations to think about as you design your own project, success stories, and information on the many resources available to support demonstration projects.

Organized by: Kristen Friedrichs, SHIP Coordinator, Brown, Nicollet, Le Sueur and Waseca Counties

Presenters:

Maria Wardoku, Planning Associate, Alta Planning + Design

Mitchell Kiecker, Senior Pedestrian & Bicycle Engineer, MnDOT

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Time: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Title: Minnesota Safe Routes to School: Growing the next generation of Active Transportation advocates

Location: Conference B

Streets around schools should be the safest in our communities for students, families, and community members to walk or bike. Learn more about the MnSRTS program and hear from New Ulm and West Central Minnesota on their local implementation of the SRTS program. Attendees will leave with tangible strategies, knowledge of funding opportunities, and ideas for first steps.

Organized by: Kelly Corbin, Principal Planner, MnDOT Office of Transit & Activ, MnDOT

Presenters:

Kelly Corbin, Principal Planner, MnDOT Office of Transit & Activ, MnDOT  
Wayne Hurley, Director of Transportation Planning, West Central Initiative  
Brie Taralson, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, New Ulm, MN

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Time: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM  
Title: Food Security and Transportation  
Location: Conference C

Rural areas are losing access to grocery stores at a rapid rate leaving many communities having to drive long distances to access food. This is especially difficult for the most disadvantaged members of our communities for whom a reliable vehicle and money for gas can be a major barrier. This session will explore the role that public transportation and active transportation can play in making food accessible to everyone in our communities.

Organized by: Sabri Fair, Environment and Sustainability Planner, Region Nine Development Commission

Presenters:

Carol Glasser, Associate Professor of Sociology, Minnesota State University Mankato  
Tina England, Neighbor Services Operations Manager, Second Harvest Heartland  
Mitchel Pomije, Student, Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Time: 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM  
Title: Post Summit Listening Session  
Location: Conference A

Stay around after the Summit for a discussion of next steps. The discussion will be facilitated by Bike MN and local advocates.

Presenters:

Cindy Winters, Public Health Professional, Retired  
Michael Wojcik, Executive Director, Bicycle Alliance of MN

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