



Rethinking I-94 Phase 2: Statement of Goals

Beyond the program of projects' purpose, improvements will support broader community goals identified in Rethinking I-94 Phase 1, which include:

- Incorporate the livability framework through the process to identify opportunities for establishing a sense of place, community connections, economic opportunities, equity, safety, and a healthy environment for the communities that live, work and play there.¹
- Develop and execute a community-based approach focused on reconnecting neighborhoods, revitalizing communities and ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in transportation decisions that affect their lives.

As a means of achieving these goals, individual projects will utilize context sensitive solutions (CSS) and performance based practical design principles. When applicable, the livability framework will be incorporated. Specifically, the criteria used to evaluate alternatives will incorporate applicable elements of the livability framework.

As part of the formal environmental process, MnDOT will engage communities and stakeholders on planning, preliminary engineering, and design and construction decisions. Some transportation improvements, by their nature, will address items within the livability framework. Transportation improvements will enhance neighborhood connections, making it easier to travel to, along and across the I-94 corridor. Projects will also enhance safety and mobility for people walking, biking, driving and using transit. Transportation projects may also present opportunities for aesthetics or treatments that enhance sense of place for the area. This will primarily occur during development of Tier 2 documents. The current process takes the project through the Tier 1 document. The Tier 1 document establishes a high-level corridor vision with very limited design detail. Tier 2 documents have much more design detail because they select the actual design that will be built.

MnDOT will facilitate and participate in discussions with other agencies on matters that it cannot lead or partner on to help achieve the broader goals. In addition to leading transportation improvements, MnDOT will support efforts being led by community and agency partners to fully realize broader livability goals related to health and environment, economics, sense of place, safety, connectivity, equity and trust. These improvements, which will likely extend beyond transportation projects, are being pursued through a separate process from the formal environmental documentation. Partnering communities and agencies may consider using the livability framework to define and achieve the broader livability goals.

¹ Information about the Livability Framework developed as part of Rethinking I-94 Phase 1 are included in Section 2 – Rethinking MnDOT's Role, page 12. The Rethinking I-94 Phase 1 Report is located here: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/i-94minneapolis-stpaul/pdf/vision/phase-1-report.pdf>