

# Community Leaders Meeting

Rethinking I-94 Phase 2

July 27, 2021

# Agenda

## Today's agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Livability update
3. Sustainable transportation advisory council (STAC) update
4. Brainstorming of ideas
5. Next steps

# Today's objectives

## Objectives:

- Provide an update on MnDOT's Livability initiative
- Provide an update on the sustainable transportation advisory council (STAC) and its activities
- Brainstorm ideas that could be part of future alternatives

# Livability

## What is Livability?

- **Livability** is using the quality, location, and type of transportation facilities and services available to help achieve broader community goals.
- MnDOT has targeted seven (7) pillars of **Livability** to further study and solicit public input and put forth policy recommendations for stakeholders and governmental agencies. These pillars are as follows:
  - Economic Vitality
  - Sense of Place
  - Safety
  - Equity
  - Health and Environment
  - Trust
  - Connectivity

# Livability

## Why Livability is a matter for MnDOT

- People in communities:
  - Are interested in issues beyond the highway.
  - Value involvement early and continuously and need accurate, timely information.
  - Want their values and visions to be reflected in MnDOT project designs and decisions.

# Livability

- Uses of Livability workshops and papers
  - Fosters discussions among stakeholders on how to collaborate for achieving the shared vision
  - Supports MnDOT role as a facilitator
  - Provides recommendations for MnDOT, stakeholders, government partners, and community to affect, guide and change policy and practices
  - Serve as resource for MnDOT and local government project managers and engagement staff

## Key takeaways of “Equity” workshop

- Past and present equity strides
  - Establishment of renter centric groups
  - Addressing wealth loss
  - Development of an arts and cultural business district
- Values and strengths
  - Keeping ownership within the community
  - Build a model for restoration and equitable development
  - Establish larger community involvement in politics

# Livability

## Key takeaways of “Equity” workshop (cont.)

- Threats to equitable outcomes
  - History of racial injustice (and a belief it still persists)
  - People’s desire for security and safety
  - Time (Positive change can be slow)
  - Money (or lack of sufficient resources)



# Livability

- Key takeaways of “Health and Environment” Workshop
  - Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and reducing car dependency are shaping major policy decisions regarding planning, land use and (re)development.
  - Issues of structural racism and equity play a major role with environmental impacts and public health in communities along the I-94 corridor.
  - Previous MnDOT and other transportation agency decisions have had a significant negative impact on the environment. These decisions also have significantly impacted issues of public health.
  - Continue to change and evolve MnDOT’s maintenance practices and facilities design to reduce environmental impacts.
  - Increased transit opportunities and reduced general purpose traffic usage along I-94.

# Livability

## Workshops timeline

- Conducted on a monthly basis thru 2021
  - Summary that informs the draft Livability Paper on the topic
  - Draft Papers to be presented to appropriate MnDOT internal committees and the Rethinking I-94 Committees
  - Provide information for consideration in alternatives development activities

# Livability

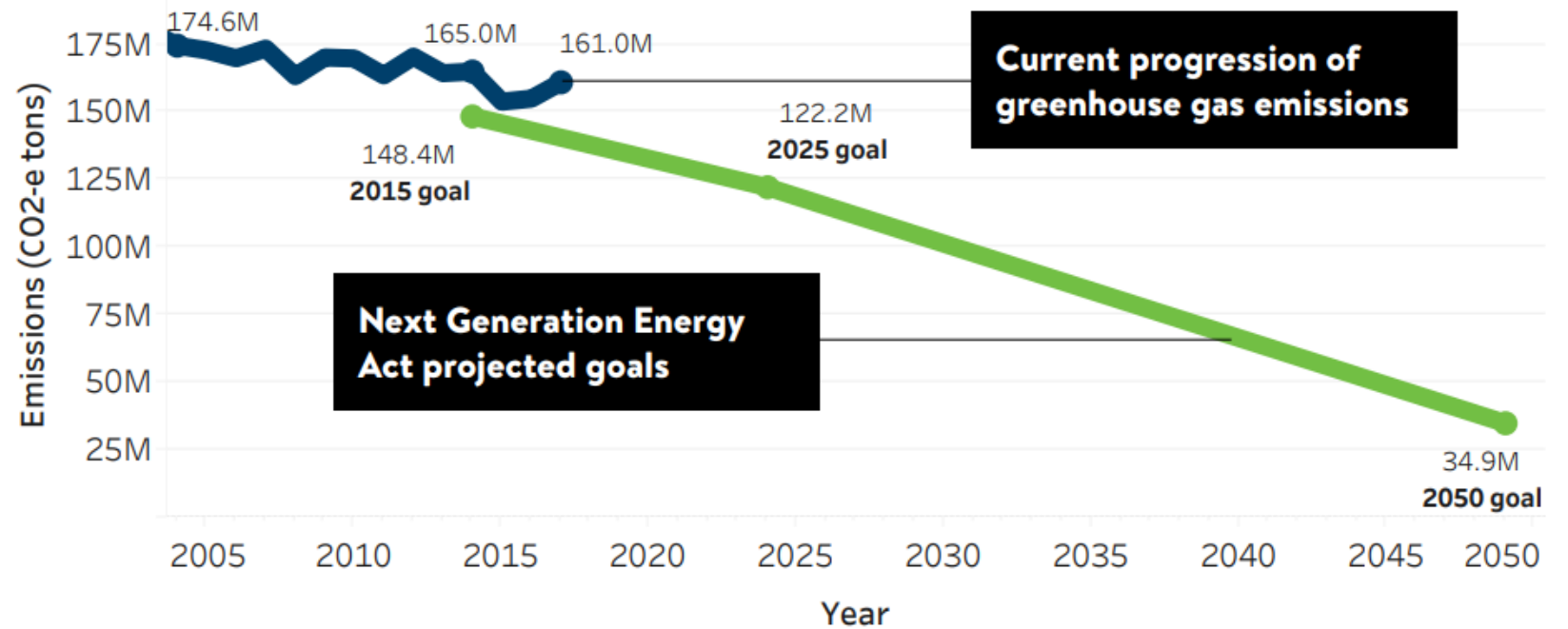
## Discussion

# STAC Update



## Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council

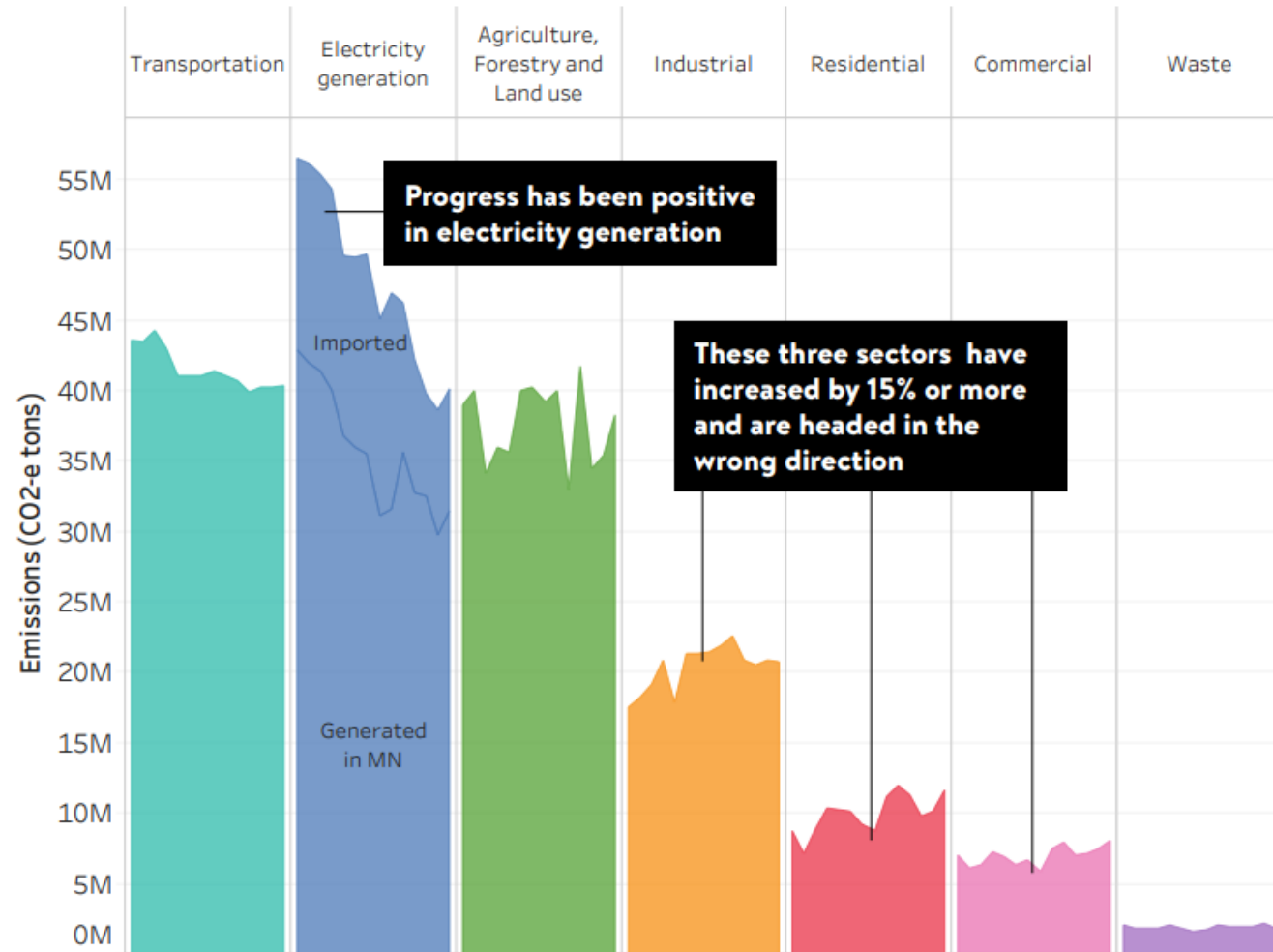
## Limited progress on Next Generation Energy Act



Source: Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2018, MPCA

# Transportation is the leading source of GHG emissions

## STAC Update

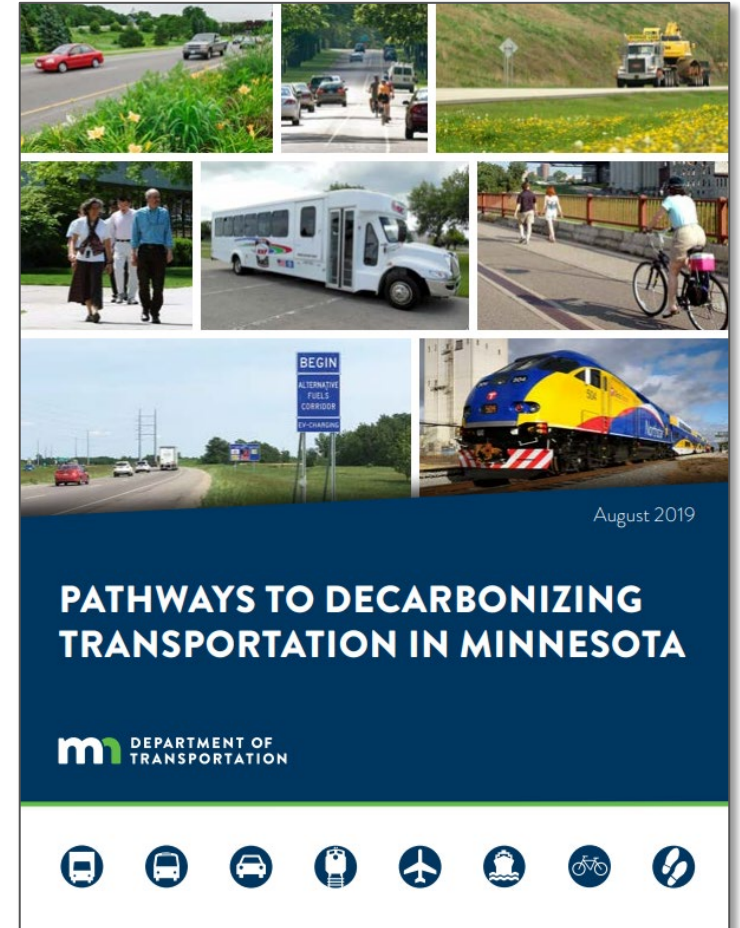


Source: Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2018, MPCA

# Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council

- Recommendation from the 2019 Pathways to Decarbonizing Transportation project
- Makes recommendations to the MnDOT Commissioner to help the agency reduce carbon pollution from transportation, consistent with the MnDOT statutory goals outlines in **Minnesota Statute 174.01** and the **Next Generation Energy Act**.
- STAC will prioritize recommendations that promote economic development, safety, and equity and Environmental Justice.

## STAC Update



# STAC Membership

- **Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Co-Chair** – Commissioner, Department of Transportation
- **Chris Clark, Co-Chair** – President, Xcel Energy Inc.
- **Katie Bell** – Private Sector EV Expert
- **Katie Frye** – Minnesota Power
- **Dorian Grilley** – Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- **Greg Ilkka** – Steele County
- **Katie Jones** – The Center for Energy and Environment
- **Ashwat Narayanan** – Our Streets Minneapolis
- **Michael Noble** – Fresh Energy
- **Rolf Nordstrom** – Great Plains Institute
- **Daniel Schellhammer** – Midstate Reclamation, Inc.
- **Patrick Seeb** – Destination Medical Center
- **Russ Stark** – City of St. Paul
- **Emma Struss** – City of Bloomington
- **Vishnu Laalitha Surapaneni** – University of Minnesota
- **Lisa Thurstin** – American Lung Association – Twin Cities Clean Coalition
- **Peter Wagenius** – Sierra Club North Star Chapter
- **Tara Wetzel** – Mathy Construction Company

## Ex Officio Members

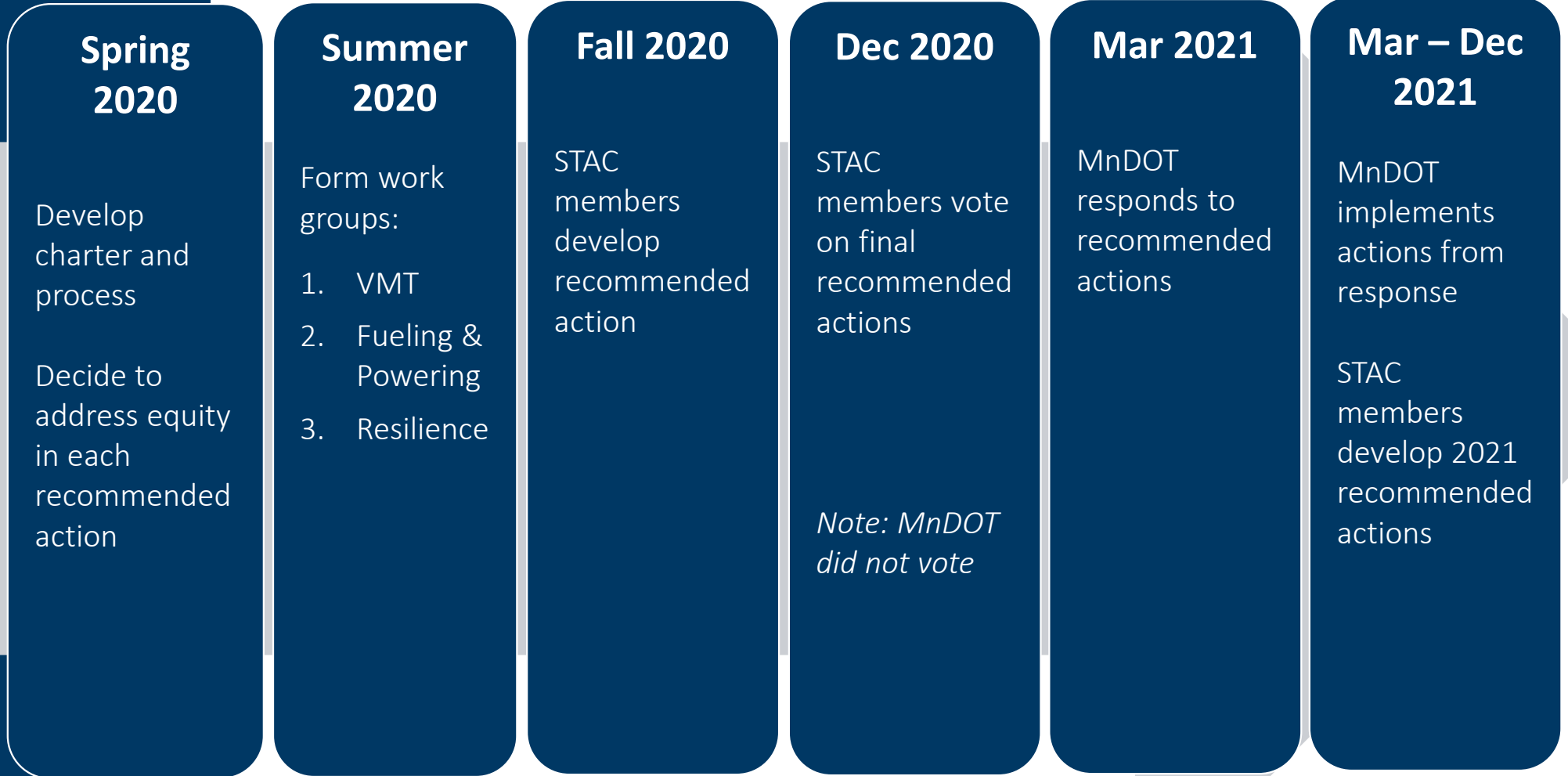
- **Sen. Scott Dibble** – Minnesota State Senate
- **Rep. Frank Hornstein** – Minnesota House of Representatives
- **Sen. Scott Newman** – Minnesota State Senate
- **Nick Thompson** – Metro Transit

# STAC Update



# STAC Process and Timing

## STAC Update



## Fueling and Powering Transportation

### Recommendation #1: Develop a clean fuels policy

**Support** - 2021 Governor's budget proposal includes MnDOT-led stakeholder process on Clean Fuels Policy

### Recommendation #2: Establish rebates for EVs, including dealership support and consumer rebates

**Explore Further** - Support efforts by Governor and legislature to promote EVs

### Recommendation #3: Increase investment in charging infrastructure, beyond existing VW settlement investments

**Support** - 2021 Governor's budget proposal includes EV chargers for public use and MnDOT fleet. Strategic opportunities for EV chargers will be in the Minnesota 2021 EV Strategic Plan

## Fueling and Powering Transportation



Minnesota signs a multi-state EV charging corridor Memorandum of Understanding



Examine value of NextGen highways



Develop a state-level plan to support medium/heavy duty electric vehicles:



Incentives to support increased manufacturing of EVs



Minnesota signs on a Zero Emissions Vehicle truck and bus MOU

***Additional Fueling and Powering Transportation workgroup recommendations***

# VMT Reductions and Transportation Options

## Recommendation #1: Adopt a statewide goal of reducing VMT by 20% by 2050

**Support** - Adopt preliminary statewide and per capita VMT reduction goal. Finalize after engagement in the SMTP process

## Recommendation #2: Stop expanding highway capacity to reduce congestion

**Explore Further** - Capacity expansion is already lowest priority to address congestion. Partner to evaluate actions that support recommendation in upcoming planning processes (SMTP, MnSHIP). Add new first tier to mobility investment strategy for TDM and explore ways to track and report mobility project decisions.

## Recommendation #3: Prioritize transit and high occupancy vehicles on MnDOT owned right of way

**Support** - Continue to support the recommendation and build on current efforts:

- Develop a communications strategy
- Partner with METC to explore expanded transit opportunities
- Engage STAC in current policy and planning efforts: MnSHIP and SMTP

## VMT Reductions and Transportation Options



Conduct a spending audit across project categories



Support efforts by local governments to dedicate their right of way to low carbon and active transportation



Discard auto-centric metrics like Level of Service (LOS), in favor of people-centered metrics

***Additional VMT and Transportation Options workgroup recommendations***

# STAC Update

## Next Steps

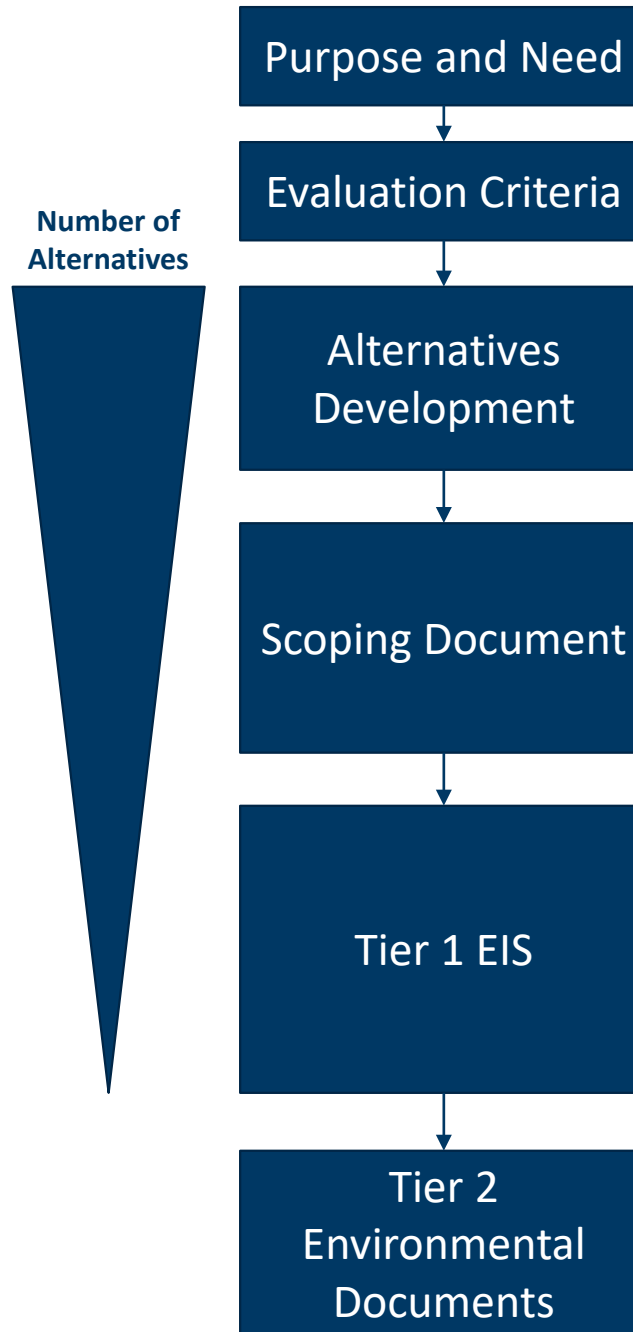
- Continue progress on related efforts
  - Complete Streets policy update, State EV plan, accessibility and VMT tools, messaging/outreach, mobility strategy reporting
- Internal VMT work group
  - Messaging, coordination, goals, and tools
- Coordination
  - Internal
  - External (SMTP, individual groups 13CT – *proposed*)
  - **Other recommendations for coordinating with cities?**

2021					2022	
June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct - Dec	Jan	Feb - March
Finalize MnDOT WG members	Connections to related efforts, update messaging	Identify tools and guidance needed		Develop draft implementation guidance/ tools	Finalize implementation guidance/ tools	

# STAC Update

<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/sustainability/advisory-council.html>

# Brainstorming



- Identify broad range of alternatives
- Capture all reasonable ideas
- Separate alternatives for mainline and interchanges – each interchange will have own set of alternatives
- Narrow range of alternatives using evaluation criteria
- May be iterations of narrowing, refining, and consolidating alternatives
- Continue to narrow range of alternatives using expanded set of evaluation criteria
- Logical interaction between mainline and interchange alternatives
- Identify program of projects



# Brainstorming

Step 1: Brainstorming

Step 2: Category assignments

Step 3: Organize ideas into alternatives

Step 4: Refine alternatives to be studied

Step 5: Evaluate alternatives

# Brainstorming

## Needs

- Bridge condition
- Pavement condition
- Retaining wall condition
- Drainage condition
- Noise wall condition
- Safety
- Safety on intersecting streets
- Walkability/bikeability
- Mobility
- Drainage capacity

# Brainstorming

## Purpose

Projects within the Rethinking I-94 program will accomplish the following:

- Improve asset conditions of I-94 bridges, pavement and supporting infrastructure
- Enhance safety for people and goods on, along, and across the I-94 corridor
- Improve mobility for people and goods on, along and across the I-94 corridor

# Brainstorming

## Brainstorming activity

- Group idea generation – intent is to focus on transportation-related ideas
  - Mainline
  - Interchange
  - Elements

# Brainstorming

## Idea categories

- **Mainline:** Improvement “within the trench” that would apply to the entire corridor
- **Access/Interchange:** Improvement that would apply to an interchange/intersection area, including on/off ramps
- **Project Elements:** Improvements that do not rise to the level of a full alternative; they would be done in combination with one or more mainline and/or access/interchange ideas.

# Brainstorming

## Discussion questions

1. What could be done to improve safety for people traveling on I-94?
2. What could be done to improve safety for people traveling across I-94?
3. What could be done to improve the condition of pavement, bridges, and supporting infrastructure on I-94?
4. What could be done to reduce delay in the corridor?
5. What could be done to improve travel time reliability in the corridor?
6. What could be done to improve safety on intersecting streets?
7. What could be done to improve freight movement in the corridor?
8. What could be done to improve drainage capacity?

# Brainstorming

Ideas brainstorming – virtual whiteboard

# Next steps

Next Community Leaders meeting: 08/24/2021

- Time: 10:00am