

Rethinking I-94 Phase 2

Joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy and Planning Advisory Committee

Monthly Meetings Recap:

Last updated September 12, 2022

The following is a summary of topics, outcomes, and action items that were discussed at the Joint Technical Advisory Committee and Policy and Planning Advisory Committee meetings.

August 2022

- Upcoming PAC Meeting
 - Meeting will occur September 26, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
 - Hybrid meeting – in-person at MnDOT Central Office
 - Public attendees may participate via Zoom only
 - TAC and PPC members are welcome to join PAC members in-person.
 - WSB provided an overview of the draft presentation and tentative agenda.
- Transit Ideas Update
 - The Goodman Corporation (TGC) gave an overview of the transit ideas development and evaluation process, sharing transit evaluation criteria and “building blocks” to transit idea formation.
 - Transit modes and running ways were evaluated to identify viable options
 - Several station locations were identified based on existing and planned travel service crossing the corridor. The station list was narrowed to five locations.
 - Eight ideas are being tested, including no build.
 - Discussion of Livability, equity, connections/transit stops, and new development locations considered.
- Freight Presentation
 - Presentation from MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations about freight planning and its significance on the I-94 corridor.
- Discussion of MnDOT Parcel at Snelling and St. Anthony
 - MnDOT asked for feedback on potential sale of a vacant parcel they own in St. Paul.
 - Discussion concluded that additional feedback from city staff and PPC is needed.

June 2022

- Meeting Objectives:
 - Outline changes to the Purpose and Need, Goals, and Evaluation Criteria in response to comments
 - Prepare for rollout of revised documents to the public

- WSB provided a high-level overview of changes to the draft purpose and need and evaluation criteria documents, following efforts to work with agency partners to identify areas where they could be modified to align with public comments.
- WSB shared a list of key changes to the draft purpose and need document, including the purpose statement, project needs, and statement of goals.
- WSB shared key changes to the evaluation criteria.
- Mike Hughes (Hughes Collaboration) shared an overview of the approach for rolling out the revised documents and key messages associated with several topic areas.
- WSB gave an update on the ongoing transit study.
- WSB shared next steps for the project.
 - We will work with FHWA, our technical committees, policymakers, and the public on the development of alternatives.
 - The revised documents will instruct the consideration of alternatives that we'll review, assess, and publish.
 - To avoid risk to funding, it is critical that we maintain a responsible timeline as we move forward.
- WSB shared a list of potential ideas that have been proposed and could be combined to create alternatives.

April 2020

- Meeting Objectives: The expected outcomes for the meeting were to produce the public review drafts of the Transportation Purpose and Need and the Evaluation Criteria.
- Meeting Format and Attendance: The meeting was held virtually. Of the 51 invited participants, 44 signed-in.
- Purpose and Need Discussion: The project team provided an overview of the Purpose and Need document along with a summary of comments received to date along with responses to these comments. Following the overview, breakout group discussions were held. Then the larger group came back together for further discussion.
- Purpose and Need Outcomes: Participants generally supported the direction of the Purpose and Need document. However, discussion was focused around the “primary” and “secondary” needs distinction for Walkability/Bikeability. Several participants requested this distinction be clarified or avoided when presenting this information to the public.
- Evaluation Criteria Discussion: The project team provided an overview of the Evaluation Criteria Framework along with a summary of comments that have been received to date along with responses to these comments. Following the overview, breakout group discussions were held. Then the larger group came back together for further discussion.
- Evaluation Criteria Outcomes: Participants were generally supportive of the direction of the evaluation criteria, but asked the project team to further explore the following topics
 - Inclusion of mode split/mode choice/number of modal options or similar as a mobility measure.
 - Additional emphasis on the livability framework.
 - Accounting for the quality of what is provided (more than meeting a basic need).

- Recognition of cultural resources and assets, including those lost during initial construction.
- Incorporate greenhouse gas reduction based on MnDOT's agency goals.

December 2019

- Welcome and Introductions: MnDOT and Michael (facilitator) welcomed participants and thanked them for the time that they put into the day. It was recognized that this was a significant time commitment.
- NEPA Process Overview: FHWA presented information on the NEPA process that is followed for highway projects. MnDOT supplemented the presentation with relevant portions of the MEPA process that are used for highway projects. Information was provided on purpose and need, logical termini, goals, agency and stakeholder involvement, etc. Informational materials regarding the NEPA and MEPA process were distributed in advance of the meeting were noted as supplements to the information presented by FHWA.
- Rethinking I-94 Overview: MnDOT presented information about the Rethinking I-94 process, including the non-NEPA activities that MnDOT is engaging in, the community outreach efforts, and touched on the support needed from partners for the parallel path to be successful.
- Logical Termini: The group discussed logical termini. The termini as defined in the memo dated October 2019 will be termini used for the project. If alternatives require modification for study and evaluation, they will be modified as needed. MnDOT committed to that in the October memo and reaffirmed that at the meeting. The group discussed the need for MnDOT to document its commitment to study areas outside the logical termini. MnDOT agreed to send a letter by mid-January regarding commitments to studies outside of the logical termini.
- Purpose Statement: There were some revisions to the purpose statement. Revisions included considerations of mobility and transit. Further tweaks of the language may occur.
- Goals: The group discussed the goals. Revisions focused on livability and community-based neighborhoods. WSB staff will work on language to incorporate the livability effort.
- Evaluation Criteria: The group was introduced to the draft evaluation criteria. Feedback provided will be considered as it is further revised and updated. Evaluation criteria and the draft purpose and need will be the focus of the next facilitated/joint meeting.