

OLSON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY MULTIMODAL STUDY

DRAFT PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose and Need Overview

This summary provides the key findings and takeaways for the Olson Memorial Highway Multimodal Study in North Minneapolis for the Draft Purpose and Need statement.

The Purpose and Need statement explains why MnDOT is doing the study, what the objectives of the study are (the “Purpose”) and identifies transportation problems associated with the study area (the “Need”). MnDOT creates Purpose and Need statements to follow federal environmental law and align with state and federal requirements.

The Purpose and Need statement sets the stage for developing and evaluating alternatives. MnDOT develops and evaluates alternatives first based on how well they achieve the stated Purpose and address the Need.

PURPOSE

A statement of the intended results of the study based on the needs.

What are the desired outcomes from the study?

NEED

Transportation problems identified in the study area based on available data.

What are the problems the study will address?

How was the Draft Purpose and Need statement developed?

MnDOT developed the Draft Purpose and Need statement using a combination of technical analysis (e.g., current conditions) and community feedback, then analyzed these elements to understand the specific needs and desired outcomes for Olson Memorial Highway. The technical analysis and community feedback that supports each of the identified draft needs are highlighted in the following pages.

What does the data show?

This section highlights the specific data analysis and findings completed by MnDOT when exploring current conditions of Olson Memorial Highway. Factors examined included volumes of cars, bikes, and pedestrians; crash history; and experienced travel times and delay.

What have we heard so far?

MnDOT gathered community and stakeholder feedback over the summary of 2023 to understand priorities for the future of Olson Memorial Highway. MnDOT asked these questions to inform the Purpose and Need.

- What is your vision for the road?
- What road features are important to you?

Olson Memorial Highway Purpose (Desired Outcome)

The purpose of the Olson Memorial Highway Multimodal Study is to:

- increase **safety** for all users (including people walking, rolling, biking, accessing transit, and driving)
- enhance **mobility** and **accessibility** for walking, rolling, and biking
- improve **pavement conditions**

Additionally, the purpose of the Study is to:

- address deteriorated **infrastructure conditions**
- maintain or improve **transit operations**
- maintain **freight** and **private vehicle operations**



Olson Memorial Highway Needs (Transportation Problems)

The Needs state the problems or unsatisfactory conditions that exist or are reasonably expected in the study area. MnDOT uses analysis/data to identify Needs. The study uses that data to create evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria measures how well different roadway design alternatives meet the study Purpose. The following pages share the four parts of the draft Purpose and Need Statement:

Primary Needs

Primary Needs are the Main Transportation Problems.

Secondary Needs

Secondary Needs are other transportation problems or opportunities.

Additional Considerations

Other important factors that will influence project decisions.

Social, Economic, and Environmental


Consideration of potential impacts to social, economic, and environmental factors.


DRAFT PRIMARY NEEDS

Walkability and Bikeability - Safety

There is a history of pedestrian and bicycle crashes, including fatalities and serious injuries. Several intersections in the study are considered high risk locations for people walking, rolling, or biking.

What does the data show?

 **39** crashes in 10 years, including **10** causing **serious injury or death**.

 **95%** of crashes took place at **intersections**.

What have we heard so far?

 Road vision: **Improving safety** was the **top priority**.

 Road features: **Walking and biking improvements** were the **1st and 2nd priorities**.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Reduce conflict points

A conflict point is where vehicles' path of travel cross pedestrian or bicycle path of travel. Reducing conflict points increases safety.

Pedestrian intersection conditions

Improvements to the crossing experience for pedestrians at intersections.

Pedestrian intersection conditions

Improvements to the crossing experience for bicyclists at intersections.

Crossing distance and time

Chances in the time or distance required to cross Olson Memorial Highway.

DRAFT PRIMARY NEEDS

Vehicle Safety

Crash rates for several roadway segments and intersections exceed critical and severe crash rates which indicate safety issues.

What does the data show?



5 intersections with a **crash rate** over the **statewide average**.



7 intersections with a **crash severity rate** over the **statewide average**.



949 crashes in 10 years, including **30** causing **serious injury or death**.

What have we heard so far?



Road vision: **Improving safety** was the **top priority** from surveyed community members.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Intersection crashes

Change in potential vehicle, pedestrian, and/or bicycle crashes at intersections.

Segment crashes

Reduction or increase in potential vehicle, pedestrian, and/or bicycle crashes along Olson Memorial Highway (i.e., between intersections).

Network crashes

Reduction or increase in potential vehicle, pedestrian, and/or bicycle crashes along roadways adjacent to Olson Memorial Highway.

DRAFT PRIMARY NEEDS

Walkability and Bikeability - Mobility

Pedestrian and bicycle level of service is poor and infrastructure for walking, rolling, or biking is either poor (sidewalk condition) or nonexistent (dedicated bike infrastructure).

What does the data show?



Poor walking and biking conditions identified throughout Olson Memorial Highway.



High levels of pedestrian delay for people crossing Olson Memorial Highway.

What have we heard so far?



Road vision: **Improving walking** (ranked 2nd) and **biking** (ranked 5th) are high priorities.



Road features: **Walking and biking improvements** were the 1st and 2nd priorities for surveyed community members.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Quality of pedestrian infrastructure

Availability of sidewalks and crossing infrastructure to support walking or rolling along and across Olson Memorial Highway.

Quality of bicycle infrastructure

Availability of bikeways and crossing infrastructure to support biking along and across Olson Memorial Highway.

DRAFT PRIMARY NEEDS

Pavement Condition

Pavement is deteriorating now and in the future.

What does the data show?



Major rehabilitation will be needed **soon**.



Pavement is reaching the **end of its usable life**.

What have we heard so far?



Road features: **1/3** of survey respondents rated **pavement quality** as a **top priority**.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Pavement quality

Measure using MnDOT pavement metrics.

DRAFT SECONDARY NEEDS

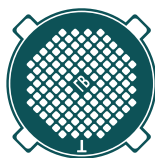
Infrastructure Conditions

Bridges, drainage and culvert infrastructure, and traffic signals along Olson Memorial Highway are deteriorated or have elements that need attention.

What does the data show?



Bridges on either side of Olson Memorial Highway identified for **future rehabilitation**.



Drainage conditions indicate several locations **in need of repair**.



Traffic signals reaching **end of usable life**.

What have we heard so far?

There were no specific questions on asset conditions in the first phase of engagement.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Bridge conditions

Improvements to or degrading of bridge conditions.

Drainage conditions

Changes in the management of stormwater along Olson Memorial Highway.

Traffic signal conditions

Changes to existing traffic signals and long-term maintenance considerations.

DRAFT SECONDARY NEEDS

Vehicle Mobility - Transit

Olson Memorial Highway is a part of the Metro Transit's C Line route connecting Brooklyn Center and Downtown Minneapolis. Maintaining or improving transit operations through the study area is needed to support this high volume bus rapid transit route.

What does the data show?



Average bus speeds are **20% slower** during **peak periods**.



On-time performance **lower** during **peak periods**.

What have we heard so far?



Road features: **Improving bus stops** and **service** were the **5th highest priority**.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Transit speed

Increases or decreases in the overall speed of buses traveling along Olson Memorial Highway.

Transit reliability

The ability to maintain service times. For example, can transit riders regularly board or exit on schedule.

Bus Rapid Transit compatibility

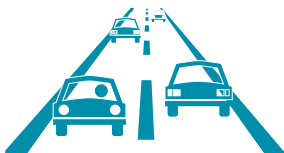
Transit infrastructure that supports Bus Rapid Transit operations.

DRAFT SECONDARY NEEDS

Vehicle Mobility - Vehicles

Maintain the movement of 15,000 vehicles that use Olson Memorial Highway to access North Minneapolis destinations.

What does the data show?



Low to moderate levels of vehicle **delay** along Olson Memorial Highway.



Delay most frequent traveling **towards downtown** in the afternoon.

What have we heard so far?



Road vision: Prioritizing **vehicle movement** was the **sixth highest priority**.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Intersection delay

Increase or decrease in the delay experienced at intersections.

Corridor travel time

Increase or decrease in the time needed to travel along Olson Memorial Highway.

Local street access

Changes to the number or type of intersections along Olson Memorial Highway.

DRAFT SECONDARY NEEDS

Vehicle Mobility - Freight

Maintain the movement of trucks and deliveries along Olson Memorial Highway, supporting economic development and on-time deliveries.

What does the data show?



500 freight vehicles per day.



Identified as a **Tier 2 Regional Truck Corridor** by the Metropolitan Council.

What have we heard so far?



Road vision: Prioritizing **vehicle movement** was the **sixth highest priority**.

How will we evaluate solutions?

Freight access and movement

Changes in the ability for freight trucks to access and move along Olson Memorial Highway.

DRAFT ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Right-of-Way potential



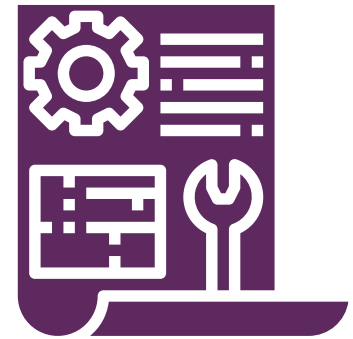
MnDOT will analyze how much land is not needed for transportation uses in the future.

Considerations:

- How much additional land is available for non-transportation uses?
- How fragmented is this land?
- What are the conditions of the land?

Consistency/Compatibility with existing plans

MnDOT has responsibility for Olson Memorial Highway, but is connected to resources from many other jurisdictions (e.g., local government agencies).



Considerations:

- How well does each alternative align with other long range plans?
- Do design options help jurisdictions advance their goals?

Cost/Implementability



The cost to design and construct each design option must also be explored, ensuring that the design options are implementable.

Considerations:

- What is the overall cost to construct?
- What are the continued maintenance costs?

DRAFT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Threatened & Endangered Species	Impacts to protected plant and animal species.
Stormwater Management/Water Quality	Addition/reduction of impervious surfaces.
Wetlands Impacts	Acres of anticipated wetland impacts.
Vegetation Management	Potential impacts to trees along Olson Memorial Highway and potential benefits/vegetation mitigation.
Section 4f Resources	Anticipated use of Section 4(f) resources (e.g., parks and open spaces).
Property Impacts	Number, type, and amount of parcel impacts.
Floodplains Impacts	Length of potential encroachment to floodplain.
Historical & Cultural Resources	Anticipated impact to historic/cultural resources.
Environmental Justice	Potential adverse impacts to environmental justice areas Potential benefits to environmental justice areas.
Equity	Distribution of transportation resources across Olson Memorial Highway.
Traffic Noise (impacts/mitigation)	Will concept change horizontal or vertical alignment or add travel lanes? (yes/no)

Find out more about the study here:

mndot.gov/metro/projects/olsonmemorialhwystudy

If you need this information in an alternative format or language, contact: 651-366-4720 or ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us

Scan here
for more
information:

