

# Rethinking I-94 Phase 2

## Environmental Working Group

### Monthly Meetings Recap

*Last updated July 24, 2024*

*The following is a summary of topics, outcomes, and action items that were discussed at the Environmental Working Group meetings.*

#### July 2024

- Alternative Review
  - WSB gave an overview of comments from the group on the most recent alternatives materials.
- Schedule
  - Committees and working groups will be getting back to a regular meeting schedule.
  - The revised schedule was discussed.
- Scoping Document / Draft Scoping Decision Document
  - The group will review pieces of the document before it is finalized.
  - WSB, FHWA, and MnDOT will set up additional meetings on several topics.
- Round Robin
  - The group followed up on the safety discussion during the TAC/PPC meeting.
  - The group discussed schedule changes for several upcoming meetings.

#### June 2024

- Alternative Review
  - WSB provided a summary of comments from the TAC and PPC on the alternatives materials.
  - WSB shared proposed changes based on the comments.
  - The group discussed traffic analysis updates.
- Schedule
  - The schedule is being revised, more details to follow.
- Reconnect Rondo Letter
  - WSB shared a position paper prepared by ReConnect Rondo that provides comments on the proposed alternatives and makes several requests.

#### May 2024

- Meeting cancelled.

#### April 2024

- Section 106 Update
  - MnDOT gave an update on the Section 106 process.
- Alternative Review – Cost Estimates

- WSB provided an overview of the draft construction cost estimates and assumptions.
- Alternative Review – Additional Discussion
  - Safety and job accessibility measures were discussed, including efforts to document the methodologies used.
- Talking Points
  - WSB gave an overview of new talking points developed for the project.

#### March 2024

- Alternative Review
  - The group continued the discussion of preliminary alternatives evaluation results from the prior meeting.
  - The group discussed the potential for BRT station area impacts.
  - Project team to revise Goals & Livability measures for review at the next meeting.

#### February 2024

- TAC Meeting Comments
  - The group discussed comments shared during the TAC meeting.
- Alternative Review
  - The group discussed updates to the draft matrices with a focus on safety measures and SEE impacts.
  - The group discussed the draft alternatives review memo.

#### January 2024

- Available Space
  - WSB highlighted updates on potential land space availability, emphasizing the need to account for maintenance, buffer zones, and city setback requirements.
  - Discussion on minimizing traffic impact on residential areas.
- Alternative Review
  - Updates on the purpose and need matrix were shared by WSB, with minor changes noted since the last meeting.
  - Safety measure updates were discussed, with a consensus to use statewide crash rates.
  - Environmental justice measures and the calculation of impacts to Section 4(f)/6(f) recreational resources were reviewed.
  - Discussions on utilizing existing data for job access via transit.
- Frontage Roads
  - Potential improvements in St. Paul's frontage roads were discussed, including a proposal to convert Concordia Ave into a single vehicle lane with a buffered bike lane, and the implications of such changes.
- Schedule/Document Review
  - Schedule revisions for the alternatives review and the draft scoping document were discussed.

- Round Robin
  - The potential impact of greenhouse gas legislation on the project was discussed.

December 2023

- Available Space
  - WSB presented draft exhibits detailing potentially available land for various project alternatives.
- Alternative Review
  - WSB provided an update on the alternatives evaluation process since the previous meeting.
  - Information for an upcoming workshop on purpose and need was shared, as well as upcoming coordination meetings.

November 2023

- Additional Studies
  - Discussion of utilizing white paper insights for Policy Advisory Committee’s questions on traffic impacts.
- Additional Alternatives
  - WSB shared information regarding potential additional alternatives for consideration based on open houses and survey responses.
  - Public feedback and suggestions regarding various alternatives and elements for the project were discussed.
- Definition of Maintenance Alternative B
  - Discussion and clarification of Maintenance B for alternatives evaluation.
- Land Bridge Approach
  - Discussion of land bridges as standalone alternatives or mitigation.
- Frontage Road Approach/Opportunities
  - Discussion of the approach to frontage roads in the alternatives and potential modifications.
- Alternative Review
  - WSB provided an update on the alternatives evaluation and proposed workshop on purpose and need.
  - Discussion of challenges and considerations for criteria and measures.

October 2023

- Section 106 Update
  - MnDOT provided Section 106 process updates, covering historic one-pagers, revised chapter reports with new maps, ongoing full historic context report development, and the start of the Rondo neighborhood historic district evaluation.
- Additional Studies
  - WSB shared information regarding potential additional studies.
  - The group discussed potential traffic review activities.
- Alternative Review

- WSB outlined the scoping level evaluation criteria and the alternatives evaluation approach, and the group discussed the assessment of alternatives.
- The proposed schedule for the alternatives review was presented.
- Space Available
  - WSB presented on space availability and frontage roads, offering insights into their approach, specific locations, and key takeaways from a workshop with Minneapolis and Hennepin County.
- Cumulative Effects Update
  - An update about coordination with AECOM and Peak Environmental during the scoping phase was provided.
- Engagement Activities
  - WSB provided an overview of recent and upcoming engagement events and presentations.

#### August 2023

- Alternatives Development
  - WSB shared preliminary alignment information for three of the alternatives.
  - The group discussed the alternative footprints, potential impacts, and questions regarding an at-grade alternative.
  - Further traffic modeling work is currently underway, incorporating feedback gathered from the August Traffic Working Group meeting.
- PAC Meeting
  - WSB provided a brief summary of items discussed and feedback received during the July PAC meeting.
  - Discussion of follow-up requests and insights gained from the meeting.
- Our Streets – Study and Traffic
  - WSB shared information regarding a study initiated by Our Streets Minneapolis.
  - Discussion amongst the group of NEPA requirements and messaging.
- ReConnect Rondo – Grant and Study
  - MnDOT provided an update on ReConnect Rondo (RCR) activities.
- Cumulative Effects Update
  - WSB noted efforts to contact potential consultant teams for the cumulative effects analysis.
- Engagement Activities
  - WSB provided a brief overview of upcoming community events and neighborhood group presentations.
  - It was mentioned that the survey on alternative options is now available on the project website.
- Evaluation Criteria
  - Discussion of the potential need to modify the evaluation criteria.

## June 2023

- Alternatives Development
  - WSB shared an update on the additional transit modeling that was completed, and an overview was provided of the current typical section graphics.
  - Feedback about the typical section graphics provided from TAC members was shared with the group.
  - Discussion about Metro Transit's position on the corridor's transit service.
  - Development of varying personas is occurring to help communicate how various people may use the corridor, these will include travel time data.
- Cumulative Effects update
  - FHWA provided an overview of takeaways from cumulative effects analysis (CEA) examples.
- PAC Meeting
  - Hybrid meeting scheduled for July 17.
  - WSB provided an overview of tentative agenda items.
- Land Use Work
  - MnDOT provided an update on land use discussions.
- Engagement Activities
  - Summer community engagement events have started, with more planned for summer and fall.

## May 2023

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG)
  - MnDOT provided an overview of the current approach to addressing GHG emissions on projects and noted that GHG emissions are not used by MnDOT as evaluation criteria for alternatives.
  - FHWA discussed potential changes in approach to GHG emissions analysis; however, there is no schedule at this time for new guidance.
- Alternatives Development
  - WSB provided an overview of the current draft typical section graphics and noted they have been shared with TAC, PPC, Traffic and Communications working groups.
  - Suggestions from these groups were noted for potential revision and the project team will be also working developing layout graphics.
  - Discussion of how to acknowledge separate ongoing processes, use of images, and additional alternatives.
- Cumulative Effects Update
  - WSB provided an update on the cumulative effects analysis discussion and next steps in the process.
- Document Updates
  - Logical termini memo was revised with updated purpose and need statement.

## April 2023

- Alternatives Development
  - WSB provided an overview of the two alternatives development workshops along with the TAC workshop and upcoming Policy Planning Committee (PPC) workshop.
  - WSB shared the matrix of highway and transit ideas from the alternatives workshop, along with revisions that were recommended.
  - TAC feedback was shared on the revised naming of the alternatives, and WSB provided an overview of revisions made based on that feedback.
- Sketch Figures
  - Graphics for the list of alternatives were presented.
- Additional Work – Highway and Transit Modeling
  - Highway modeling results are being explored in more detail.
  - The group discussed impacts, vehicle restrictions, and the use of an additional matrix to help visualize the applicability of various elements to the alternatives.
- Cumulative Effects Chapter(s) Discussion and Thoughts on Neighborhoods
  - Initial focus areas for analysis were recommended to and accepted by the group.
  - Discussion of process and recommendations for the analysis.
- EPA Activities on TH 252
  - FHWA will be meeting with the EPA to understand potential implications of recent EPA activities on other projects.
- Document Updates
  - Revision of various documents is underway to reflect updated information.

## February 2023

- Section 106 Update
  - MnDOT provided an update on historic context summaries, which are anticipated to be ready for review in the next couple weeks.
  - Discussion of insights from the historic context chapters to help inform the Cumulative Effects Analysis.
  - Working group members to further review the five identified chapters to further inform conversation of cumulative effects.
- Logical termini
  - The group discussed if/when logical termini should be adjusted based on potential transit and managed lane ideas.
- Alternatives Development
  - WSB shared an agenda for the upcoming alternatives development workshop.
  - Discussion of draft ideas matrix, evaluation process, and potential need for additional modeling.

## January 2023

- Section 106 Update

- Updates on the historic context were provided, several chapters are yet to be released as they are in progress.
- Information about urban renewal will be a key chapter for the understanding of cumulative effects.
- Alternatives Development
  - WSB provided an update on traffic and transit modeling. Modeling activities are complete and being reviewed by respective technical groups.
  - An overview was provided from the transit modeling summary presentation which included an overview of evaluated ideas and performance measures, transit performance, ridership, accessibility, proximity for users, connectivity to existing network, environmental considerations, and complexity and cost.
  - A summary table of information comparing ideas across the evaluation criteria was provided.
- Traffic Modeling
  - WSB provided preliminary traffic results and an overview of roadway ideas modeled. The group discussed Measures of Effectiveness (MOEs).
  - WSB shared a draft matrix of ideas for viable roadway and transit combinations.
- Environmental Justice and Cumulative Effects
  - WSB gave an overview of revisions to the environmental justice memo based on comments received since the last meeting.
  - Maps and historic census data were shared by WSB to help supplement the historic context chapters, inform historic locations of populations in the corridor and decisions about the analysis of cumulative effects.
  - Preliminary information about time frame and geographic scope for cumulative effects analysis shared.

## December 2022

- Section 106 Update
  - MnDOT provided update on Historic Context chapters that are in the process of being released internally.
  - To prepare for Tier 1 EIS, there is interest from the team in understanding areas along the corridor where multiple impacts (freeway, urban renewal, redlining, etc.) have taken place over time.
  - Discussion of opportunities for engagement and a need for general agreement on focus areas to study cumulative effects.
- Cumulative Effects
  - WSB shared an updated draft of the environmental justice memo that includes the most recent available data from the American Community Survey (ACS 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates) and a new section that includes updated data for items discussed in the Phase 1 Zone Profiles.
  - The group discussed implications of trips made into and within the corridor by different populations.

- Project Communications
  - WSB gave an update on project communications, with focus on how to engage underrepresented groups on issues such as cumulative effects.
- Evaluation Criteria Update
  - WSB provided an overview of the nonmotorized conflict points measure added to the evaluation criteria.
  - The group discussed how to account for potential impacts from new access points in alternatives carried forward. Recommendation to provide examples in narrative.
- Ped/Bike Ideas
  - WSB gave an overview of data being gathered for potential areas of new nonmotorized and/or multimodal connections.
- Alternatives Development
  - WSB gave an update on traffic and transit modeling.

#### November 2022

- Augsburg/22<sup>nd</sup> Ave Pedestrian Bridge Project
  - MnDOT Metro West Area shared information about the Augsburg/22<sup>nd</sup> Ave Pedestrian Bridge Project.
  - Discussion of the current temporary structure and community engagement, with a memo being prepared as the project continues to develop.
  - The group discussed the independent utility of the bridge project.
- Project Communications
  - The group discussed issues and potential solutions related to communication that was raised during the recent training from FHWA on the cumulative effects of NEPA.
  - Next steps will include gathering updated demographic information and discussing organizations to be engaged.
  - Additional discussion of cumulative effects training and resources for reviewing data.
- Alternatives Development
  - WSB provided a traffic and transit modeling update.
- Evaluation Criteria Update
  - A revised copy of the evaluation criteria has been prepared which includes a measure to evaluate nonmotorized conflict points.

#### October 2022

- PAC Meeting (09/26)
  - Debrief of meeting with discussion of topics brought up during the extended public comment period.
- Transit Ideas Open House Meetings
  - Discussion of attendance, feedback, and coverage from virtual (10/11) and in-person (11/12) meetings.



- Similar comments voiced at virtual and in-person meetings about desire for faster, reliable, convenient, and frequent travel service; rail lines; and support, and non-freeway option.
- Technical Document Updates
  - Discussion of process for communicating purpose and need and evaluation criteria updates to Cooperating and Participating Agencies.
- Document Logistics – Comments and Responses
  - Discussion of comments received prior to September 26 on purpose and need, evaluation criteria, logical termini, etc. and response to those comments.
- Pedestrian and Bicycle – Additional Connections
  - WSB shared information on a methodology for measuring effects of modifying pedestrian crossings.
- New Tools Comparison – Potential Use for Evaluation Criteria
  - WSB shared key takeaways from data gathered through new StreetLight bicycle and pedestrian data.
  - Discussion of data uses and limitations for project applications.
- Alternatives Development
  - Discussion of topics for upcoming workshops and potential dates.
- Evaluation Criteria Update
  - Conflict points discussion – follow-up from revised purpose and need summary.
- Gateway Project and “Safety”
  - Discussion of consistency and ease in understanding with how safety is described across environmental documents.
- Freight Working Group
  - Discussion on the need for a working group focused on freight and identification of a freight planning representative for the TAC.

#### September 2022

- PAC Meeting
  - Hybrid meeting scheduled for September 26
  - WSB provided an overview of the draft Purpose and Need Summary that will be distributed to PAC members.
- Ideas to Date Review (Highway)
  - WSB provided an overview of the draft ideas identified to date.
  - Ideas will be updated based on outcomes of the transit study and modeling.
  - Transit modeling results are anticipated by the end of October.
  - Workshop for discussing ideas anticipated to occur in November.
- Pedestrian and Bicycle – Additional Connections
  - WSB discussed an approach to testing potential new non-motorized crossing locations using GIS network analysis.
  - FHWA was in favor of general analysis direction and encouraged other uses of the process.

- The project team will investigate the use of census geographies for potential Environmental Justice analysis.
- Alternatives Development
  - Dates for the initial alternatives workshop were discussed.
  - WSB and MnDOT will work together on list of workshop attendees.
- Next steps
  - Idea development/testing alternatives
  - Alternatives development
- Round Robin
  - Revision to historic context report anticipated to be completed by mid-October.

August 2022

- PAC Meeting
  - Rescheduled for September, date TBD.
    - Agenda and slides will be prepared before meeting will be scheduled.
  - Will prep TAC members at the August 31 meeting. PPC members will be invited to attend as well.
- Connections
  - Travel beyond common travelshed distances to reach amenities was discussed. Data about these types of trips is not available.
  - Discussion of implementation needs associated with potential new crossings.
  - WSB shared background information on models being developed to test potential changes to crossings.
- Ideas to Date Update
  - WSB provided an overview of the transit ideas currently under consideration.
  - Pedestrian & Bicycle working group is working on the approach for bicycle and pedestrian ideas. A draft memo has been prepared.
- Alternatives Development
  - WSB provided a review of the established alternatives development process and asked for specific input about how ideas should be combined into alternatives.
  - Suggestion to have a one- or two-day workshop to organize ideas into alternatives. Potential for a workshop in early November, date TBD with consideration for election day.
  - Needed information about travel forecasting and transit analysis results are expected in October.
- Next Steps:
  - Idea development/testing activities
  - Alternatives development

July 2022

- Cooperating and Participating Agency Meeting Follow-Up
  - WSB provided a brief recap of the June 24th Cooperating and Participating Agency meeting.

- EPA and FTA both agreed on a revised purpose and need and evaluation criteria, so movement to PAC meeting is possible.
- Agreement from FRA is not needed as they changed from cooperating to participating agency.
- Historic Review Update
  - Status of historic context report provided, with final draft anticipated in early September. Will be posted on project website for information purposes.
  - Key highlights about neighborhood and properties provided for review and consideration.
  - Discussion of various communication strategies.
- PAC Meeting
  - Working on scheduling a meeting at MnDOT not open to public, date TBD
  - Key topics
    - Revised documents
    - Upcoming schedule/timeline
    - Communications and messaging
  - Discussion of communication about previous drafts of project documents on project website.
  - Will prep TAC members at July 26 meeting (1:00 pm)
- Ideas to Date Revisions
  - WSB shared an update on the status of the bicycle and pedestrian crossing classifications.
  - Transit idea update with discussion on existing conditions and consistency.
  - Updated “Ideas Identified to Date” document
- Our Streets Letter Campaign and Accountability Forum
  - New letter writing campaign
  - Accountability forum on July 19 – MnDOT not attending this event
- Next Steps
  - Scoping document revisions
  - Idea development and testing activities

June 2022

- Purpose and Need and Goals Statements and Evaluation Criteria
  - WSB gave an overview of final changes in the versions of the documents that were sent to Cooperating and Participating Agencies on June 16.
- Preparation for Cooperating and Participating Agency Meeting
  - WSB gave an overview of the draft PowerPoint slides.
  - WSB shared revisions to the Coordination Plan.
- Ideas to Date Revisions
  - WSB shared the updated "Ideas identified to Date" document based on the discussion at the June 9 meeting.

- The group discussed options for the various ideas that have been proposed for inclusion in the alternatives to be evaluated.
- Scoping Document
  - Will be revised to reflect updated Purpose and Need and Evaluation Criteria.
- Next Steps
  - Scoping document
  - Idea development/testing activities
- Cumulative Effects
  - FHWA shared a potential opportunity to explore cumulative impacts analysis under new FHWA guidance.
  - MnDOT and FHWA to work on scheduling a discussion.

#### May 2022

- Purpose and Need Update
  - WSB provided an overview of the revised Purpose and Need document, which includes updated crash analysis using 2016-2020 data.
  - A follow up discussion was held with MnDOT geometrics. Project team was asked to investigate Decision Sight Distance (DSD) and Gap Acceptance Length deficiencies, which are outside the 10 FHWA (+1 MnDOT) Controlling Design Criteria. Geometric memo addendum discussing the results of this analysis was provided to working group members.
- Evaluation Criteria
  - Discussion on revised draft evaluation criteria document. FHWA to provide formal comments.
  - Discussion on how the transit study will interact with the evaluation criteria in Scoping.
- Cooperating and Participating Agency Meeting
  - There is a new EPA representative.
  - FTA is likely to be more involved going forward
  - FHWA to engage EPA and FTA staff prior to meeting to provide project updates.
  - Meeting likely week of June 20<sup>th</sup>, after Juneteenth holiday on Monday.
  - The group discussed the appropriate review period for the updated project documents.
- Communications Update
  - Rapp Strategies, Inc. working on developing messaging.
- Alternatives
  - Another meeting will be scheduled prior to the next working group meeting to put more definition around what can be studied.
- Next Steps
  - Finalize P&N full document
  - Finalize evaluation criteria document

## April 2022

- Purpose and Need Update
  - Discussion on updated average crash rates and frontage road inclusion for safety data
  - Updates provide on status of geometric characteristics
  - Updates provided on addressing future traffic volumes
  - Discussion on if light commercial vehicle counts should be included in analysis
    - The group concurred with not including the light commercial vehicle counts in the analysis since the information would not provide decisional information
  - Discussion on the inclusion/acknowledgement of state statutes as part of Additional Considerations
    - FHWA stated that the state statutes are not applicable to individual the portion of the document are existing TPDP guidance on GHG emissions only requires disclosure, and only for the preferred; therefore, do not include.
  - Request for completion dates of recent completed projects by MnDOT and partners
- Evaluation Criteria
  - Discuss new potential measures
  - Discussion on inclusion of visual impacts
  - Discussion on community cohesion
  - Overview provided on Livability categories and measurements
  - Discussion on changes to cultural resources category and measurements
- Next steps
  - Revise P&N full document
  - Evaluation criteria revisions
  - Initiate alternatives development

## March 2022

- Section 106 (Cultural Resources) Update
  - Overview provided of the status of the Historic Context Study
  - Continuing engagement for integration into the study.
  - Contextual themes identified by the research to date
  - Goal of the study is to create a manageable document that is useful and represents an example of a successful outreach activity with the community.
- Update of Working Group Meeting
  - Revised Purpose Statement
    - General support for and consent on the revised purpose statement as drafted
  - Revised Needs
    - Group discussed if the revised needs accurately reflect concerns identified beyond vehicles on the corridor. Discussion focused on Walkability and Bikeability

- Reformatting of Goals
  - Group presented with revised version of the Project Goals
- Evaluation Criteria
  - Overview provided of changes to the evaluation criteria
- Community Group Letter Response
  - MnDOT to review the letter to get it sent out. Letter was updated to include current signatories.

## February 2022

- PAC Update
  - WSB provided an overview of the February 9, 2022, PAC meeting.
  - Overview provided of some of the main interests and perspectives from PAC members. PAC members in support of combining primary and secondary needs. PAC members favored more emphasis on connections. PAC members had general consent for goals being evaluated earlier in the process.
  - MnDOT representative requested talking points from FHWA on equity and how it can be addressed in the FHWA NEPA process beyond current guidance on environmental justice communities and items identified in the Livability framework.
  - Expectations of PAC and community members
    - High expectations on substantial changes to the purpose and need items.
    - Interest in making connections more prominent in purpose statement.
    - Interest in combining primary and secondary needs.
    - Interest in moving goals evaluation criteria into scoping/earlier in the process.
- Purpose and Need Revisions
  - Discussion on combining primary and secondary needs and the implications for the process and the evaluation criteria.
  - Working discussion on changes to purpose and need focusing on how to address connections in the purpose statement and revisions to goals statement.
- Goals/Evaluation Criteria
  - Team to continue to review goals evaluation criteria and determine applicability at the scoping level.
  - Investigate consistency with Livability White papers.
- Community Group Letter Response
  - Project team requested comments on the draft response to community group letter.
  - Discussed that group letter will include a portion discussing the format for responses on future correspondence and how comments will be addressed.
- FAQ Revisions
  - WSB provided brief discussion of the project FAQ sheet and made request for comments from working group committee members.
- Talking Points
  - WSB requested ideas for talking point items.

- Online Open House
  - Brief discussion on the status of the MnDOT website and the removal of the open house site. MnDOT stated that the site will be removed when web platform is switched.
  - Website will state status of the project and that the documents are being revised.
- Next Steps
  - Purpose and need revisions
  - Evaluation criteria revisions
  - Update education materials
  - Scoping document revisions

January 2022

- Tier 1 Expectations Discussion
  - Discussion of expectations on the preferred alternative to be identified in the final Tier 1 EIS.
- Historic Resources update
  - MnDOT Cultural Resource Unit (CRU) provided an update on the Section 106 investigations.
  - MnDOT CRU has started working with MnDOT Tribal Affairs Office to set up meetings with urban tribal groups for public engagement. This effort is to engage with any tribal affiliated persons and is considered separate from tribal consultation.
  - Consultant is continuing work on historic context. Requested by MnDOT CRU to be made aware of any properties needing specific evaluation. MnDOT CRU is pushing out the schedule and the date of the draft document availability because of delay on feedback from groups that they have had trouble reaching.
  - MnDOT CRU offered to be involved with broader public engagement to fulfill MEPA/NEPA requirements in addition to their current Section 106 public engagement requirements.
  - Phase 1a literature search for archaeology is completed
- Section 7 Activities
  - Discussion on timing of mussel surveys and field work
- Online Open House
  - Discussion on the removal of open house and associated documents
  - WSB provided an update and summary of comments received to date.
- Purpose and Need Revisions
  - WSB provided outline and overview of key potential revisions to the purpose and need
  - Sustainability/resiliency definitions
- Comment Documentation
  - Status of community group letter response
- Next Steps
  - Purpose and need revisions
  - Evaluation criteria revisions

### December 2021

- Comment Documentation - WSB provided quick overview of comments received
  - Total commentors (website, Open House, email): 452
  - Total individual comment topics: 2,215
  - Of the 452 commentors, 328 commentors used 1 of 4 form letters (approx. 73%).
  - Discussion held on response to Community group letter
- Purpose and Need Revisions – Direction Discussion
  - MnDOT walked through timeline and evolution of draft revision of purpose and need
  - Commissioner requested that the new draft purpose and need be released to working groups by February.
  - FHWA stated that they need more time to review the latest draft purpose and need outline before providing final input.
  - FHWA stated that they are initially ok with supporting transportation objectives as stated in the draft purpose and need outline.

### November 2021

- Update provided on status of Section 106 investigations
  - Initiation of consultation with consulting parties
  - Draft historic context anticipated in May
- Overview provided of Public comments to date, process or tracking, and approach for providing formal comments
  - Group discussed the development of an FAQ
- Update provided on Purpose and Need/Eval Criteria/Goals/Termini. Discussion had on approach to comments received.

### October 2021

- WSB is working with MnDOT to create surveys for freight organizations and initiate engagement with non-English-speaking populations; youth; the elderly; and adjacent communities through faith/community centers
- Overview provided on Cooperating and Participating Agencies Follow-Up
- Review of scoping document comments and discussion on documenting the following:
  - Historic resources
  - Where to discuss the lid
  - Greenhouse gases
  - Noise
  - Economic impacts
  - Public and agency involvement
- Discussion on transit ideas and the framework for alternatives development



### September 2021

- WSB provided overview of the intent of recent work by the Bike and Pedestrian Working Group and provided a summary of work to date. Discussion on bike and pedestrian group and the materials presented.
- Overview presented of upcoming meeting with Cooperating and Participating Agencies – September 30, 2021, from 8:30 – 10:30 am.
- Discussion on messaging regarding the framework for development of alternatives.
- Discussion on status of documents regarding development of alternatives that was sent to group for comment. WSB has addressed comments and will schedule meeting with FHWA to get clarification on a few items.
- Update on Outreach Activities events was provided including overview of upcoming events for October.
- Several issues discussed at the first Bridge Working Group meeting were raised, including how to navigate current bridge project needs in the program area relative to the Rethinking I-94 NEPA process.
- Document review comment/discussion on SD/DSDD to be covered at next meeting.

### August 2021

- Cooperating and Participating Agencies - Overview of Agenda for upcoming meeting
- Section 4(f) - Memo comments/discussion on pedestrian bridges. MnDOT had concern with pedestrian and other bridges being considered Section 4(f) solely on basis of being labeled a trail by other entities. They are concerned that this will have implications on future projects and the restrictions on future improvements and projects. FHWA recommended that further discussion may be needed on how to approach Section 4(f) properties at a program level and decision not be applicable to just this project.
- Alternatives – updates provided on the draft process memo and draft of ideas generated to date.
  - MnDOT noted a need for further discussion on approach for transit options with Metro Transit prior to Transit working group on ideas that fall under their purview.
- Updated and discussion on outreach activities
- Details on the Bridge Working Group discussed - tentative timing was 3rd Wednesday either in advance of or following the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC). MnDOT to send out meeting place holder (reoccurring).
- Discussion on Bike and Pedestrian Group activities - Overview on factors to evaluate potential ideas for bike and pedestrian at different crossings to provide clarification to FHWA.

### July 2021

- Cooperating and Participating Agencies
  - Concurrence responses on updated Coordination Plan received from CRWD, EPA, and Met Council.

- With current engagement schedule, target second half of September for next Cooperating and Participating agency meeting.
- Section 4(f)
  - No additional comments received on memo.
  - FHWA still reviewing Griggs St. and Mackubin St. ped bridge CATEX documents.
- Alternatives
  - Process memo updated to address comments.
  - Group discussion on several outstanding comments from FHWA on the draft ideas identified to date memo.
- Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document (SD/DSDD)
  - No additional comments received on sections 10-12 (distributed prior to last meeting).
  - DSDD working draft provided to the group. DSDD will change as the project progresses and need further review, but want to get comments on initial framework and approach.
- Bridge Working Group
  - Group will help determine how to proceed with ongoing bridge projects in the corridor.
  - MnDOT working on plans for working group, targeting first meeting in August.
- 22nd Avenue Pedestrian Bridge
  - MnDOT has updated project schedule. Need 40 months from the start of public engagement.
  - Will discuss next steps relative to Rethinking I-94 with MnDOT Bridge Office and bridge working group.

#### June 2021

- 22nd Avenue Pedestrian Bridge - MnDOT gave an overview of the 22nd Ave pedestrian bridge project in Minneapolis located between 22nd and 23rd Ave over I-94, connecting Seward and Cedar-Riverside neighborhoods. Known as Augsburg Pedestrian Bridge with Augsburg University located on north side. Discussion conducted on implications of Rethinking I-94 for 22nd Ave pedestrian bridge project. How to design to not preclude potential Rethinking I-94 alternatives.
- John Ireland Blvd Bridge Project - MnDOT gave overview of the John Ireland Blvd Bridge project located just east of current logical termini (Marion St.). Discussion on coordination with bridge office taking place on potential managed lane alternatives from Rethinking I-94 project. MnDOT scoping project for 2025-26 with project including full replacement of deck but no pier or approach improvements. Replacing in-kind exactly at its current location. FHWA recommended that this project should wait, there are too many unknowns. Discussion on what would happen regarding federal performance requirements if this investment were not made in the current planned timeline.
  - Proposal to start a bridge working group to address similar issues as they come up.

- Cooperating and Participating Agencies - Final edits/comments on the Cooperating and Participating Agencies letter. First part of August is recommended date of meeting with Cooperating and Participating agencies
- Section 4(f) Memo Comments - WSB provided an overview of the Section 4(f) Memo. No comments received since sending out last draft in May. Unresolved issue: Griggs St. and Mackubin St. pedestrian bridges. Clarification provided on potentially historic sites, which will be reflected in separate memo.
- Alternatives - Discussion on items of concern/review key comments. FHWA provided comments on several documents prior to meeting. MnDOT initiated discussion on differences between replace existing, replace and enhance existing, and what is reflected in no-build discussion. MnDOT wanted clarification on combining No Build and Maintain Existing infrastructure. Brainstorming ideas - Will conduct brainstorming activity at next meeting.
- Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document (SD/DSDD)
  - Will discuss at next meeting.

#### May 2021

- Cooperating and Participating Agencies - Discussed comments/changes to revised Public Involvement Plan (PIP), Coordination Plan, and status letter. Materials will be revised and provided for further comments.
- Meeting Updates with Resource Groups
  - Water Resources: WSB provided overview and needed clarification on comments received on the water resources memo and items discussed at meeting held earlier this month with MnDOT and FHWA.
  - Contaminated materials: Moving forward with investigation. Anticipate Phase 1 sometime in June. Information likely available in July.
  - Cultural resources: Working on public engagement process, coordinating with WSB on outreach activities. MnDOT-CRU will be invited to community leaders meeting to introduce the Section 106 process to provide details on investigation.
- Section 4(f) Revised Memo
  - Revised memo shared, asked for comments within 3 weeks from FHWA.
  - Discussion regarding whether only active recreation uses are considered 4(f) vs places for contemplation, green space, etc. Park areas do not necessarily need to have amenities for active recreation, but this is where "significance" of the resource comes in. OES discusses with FHWA, try to decide together but FHWA has the final say.
  - Discussion on whether evaluation does or does not consider areas where there is a lack of recreational facilities. If a park were impacted, would try to compensate/mitigate. Not clear that anything would be done to address a gap not created by the project.
  - Discussion on whether there is a recreational facility concept similar to wetland banking. Analogy is not fully transferrable.

- Resource Evaluation Memo / EAW Items
  - FHWA: No changes needed at this time, update as more information becomes available.
- Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document (SD/DSDD)
  - Several comments received, will follow up directly with commenters to clarify a few items.
- Alternatives
  - A few comments were received on alternatives materials.
  - Brainstorming ideas will take place at a future meeting.

#### April 2021

- Cooperating and Participating Agencies - Overview of draft update letter to Cooperating and Participating agencies on status since October 2020. Purpose of new letter is to reengage with agencies after the pause in the project. Key items: Notification of updates to Coordination Plan; Introduce Josh Colas as new project manager; Send Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for review.
  - Overview of updated Coordination Plan. Key changes: Minor text edits; Updates to contact info: USFWS, Hennepin County, MDH; Schedule updates.
  - Public engagement plan - Overview of the Public Involvement Plan and comments received from FHWA. Updated version to be distributed once comments from MnDOT received and addressed. Key Contents: Project background - similar to information in existing plans; Engagement process - tools, techniques, messaging; Stakeholder groups; Document review process.
- Noise Analysis - April 13th meeting update - Data collection activities, monitoring locations, etc. Monitoring will take place this summer and fall. Discussed concerns with reduced traffic volumes due to COVID-19. MnDOT and FHWA are comfortable with modeling approach in place to begin monitoring process. HDR proposal to use "sound curves" to identify areas for further analysis. Intent for Tier 1 is to understand existing conditions and whether noise mitigation would need to be considered for alternatives. In what areas would walls need to be analyzed?
- Evaluation Memo / EAW Items - Overview and discussion on write-ups on resources analyses and how they will be evaluated/studied in Tier 1 document. The intent is for the text to be consistent with SEE items from the Scoping Document and EAW.
- Scoping Document/Draft Scoping Decision Document - Status update - Working through early sections until alternatives are available. Provided Draft text – Chapters 1 – 8 and evaluation criteria portion of Chapter 9. Intent is to gather feedback on initial information to reduce burden of reviewing document later.
- Alternatives – Overview of proposed draft process – presented the draft Range of Alternatives Development Process memo.
  - Brainstorming and public outreach: April-Mid May
  - Assign ideas to categories: mainline, interchange, "elements": Late May.
  - Organize ideas into alternatives: June-July.
  - Refine alternatives to be studied: August.
  - Evaluate alternatives: August-December.
  - Ideas generated to date.

- Ideas sorted into categories: mainline and access/interchange (for ideas that apply to both), mainline, access/interchange, "project elements."
- Project elements include items such as bus shoulders, BRT, frontage road connections, technology items, spot geometric changes.

#### March 2021

- John Ireland Bridge Project - Discussion on potential implications for Rethinking I-94.
  - Located just east of current program area. MnDOT Bridge Office proposing superstructure replacement. Recently scoped for 2025, not programmed yet.
  - Deck mill & overlay on Marion St (current eastern terminus) is also planned, would be ~7-year preservation investment vs. ~20-year for John Ireland.
  - FHWA staff noted that they will need to discuss and compare the two bridge projects internally.
- Discussion on State and Federal Environmental Process
  - Check in to make sure we are meeting all requirements and not missing any steps.
  - Helps to clarify expectations within the corridor among groups involved. For example, MnDOT is doing a voluntary EIS, not mandatory as some groups believe. Mandatory triggers will likely be avoided.
- Update and Discussion on National Policy Direction
  - Will need to develop language on why we are doing certain analyses and not others.
  - Example: Greenhouse Gas Emissions
    - Recent executive orders directing federal agency heads to begin addressing this issue, including development of figures for the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) and other gases.
    - MnDOT MICE tool currently used for calculating emissions for informational purposes.
      - FHWA staff noted that in terms of GHG emissions and SCC, the directive to agency heads is to start looking at how to address this. The current understanding is that until there is new guidance, Rethinking I-94 is grandfathered into the pre-executive order rules.
      - Potential requirement may be to simply multiply emissions figures by SCC. Until state-level numbers are developed, this cannot be completed.
      - Current approach should be to move forward with MICE tool for reporting tool until nationwide conversations play out further. Unclear if there will be opportunity vs obligation to do additional analysis.
    - Recommendation to engage MnDOT air quality/noise staff in discussions on when to start MICE calculations. Should discuss how to set expectations and relay information and assumptions to the public, especially understanding of when calculations would/could be updated.
  - NCHRP Report 456 - Guidebook for Assessing the Social and Economic Effects of Transportation Projects
    - Discussion on whether methodologies presented in this report may be useful for addressing Livability concepts in environmental document.

- In general, current rules and guidance address many of these topics. Other areas addressed by current approach for traffic analysis, MMLOS, etc.
- Section 4f Update
  - Revised memo shared with the group. Incorporated additional comments received from MnDOT.
  - The group agreed that regardless of permit status, community gardens should not be considered Section 4(f).
  - Discussion regarding represent facilities such as Pelham Blvd cycletrack where a portion is on a MnDOT bridge and a portion is not on the bridge?
    - FHWA - If no long-term public interest, not subject to 4(f), and therefore no OWJ. Should still avoid, minimize, mitigate, just not under Section 4(f).
    - Current understanding is that if MnDOT owns bridge that has a 4(f) facility, then MnDOT is OWJ.
  - Question posed to group regarding status of Griggs and Mackubin pedestrian bridges.
  - Discussion on public interest in river and freeway crossings considering conversations around land bridge proposals. WSB to conduct additional research on land bridge examples.
- Update to Cooperating and Participating Agencies
  - WSB to develop update message on project status for Cooperating and Participating Agencies and will include revised schedule.
  - Public Involvement Plan to be shared with agencies.

#### February 2021

- PAC Meeting Update
- Primary and Secondary Needs Discussion
  - Group discussed comments shared at recent PAC meeting (02/05/21) regarding the division of project needs into primary and secondary and the potential for combining into a single list.
    - FHWA perspective is go to the public with what we have and adjust based on further feedback.
  - Discussion on how to better explain how issues in the corridor will be addressed through NEPA/MEPA and Livability paths.
  - Discussion on addressing bike/ped needs.
  - Discussion on how and where transit fits into NEPA/MEPA and Livability paths.
- Section 4f Discussion Items
  - Update on ROW permits for community gardens.
  - Update on Section 4(f) memo.
- Scoping Document Working Draft Updates and Overview
  - Goals and Purpose and Need
  - Mussel Survey Update
  - Discussion on SEE Impacts in the Scoping Document
  - EAW Documentation

## January 2021

- Section 7 Review and Field Work Timeline: Update given on Section 7 schedule for fieldwork. It was decided that discussions with USFWS should start now to determine which species could be impacted and what the BA should look like. BA will have a “living methodology,” and may need to change in terms of methods and schedule as the project evolves.
- Section 4(f) Discussion: MnDOT will provide additional information on agreements/permits with regards to community gardens within MnDOT ROW.
- Upcoming PAC Meeting: Discussion on the PAC/PPC/TAC meeting materials and comments
- I-5 Project in Oregon Discussion: FHWA to reach out to City of Portland for details on the reasoning for the city pulling out of the project.
- Scoping Document Working Draft: Overview of document provided. Key resolutions included:
  - Decision to add section detailing differences in conditions because of COVID-19.
  - Purpose and need – Agreement on placing goals prior to purpose and need.
  - Schedule – agreed that general time range is ok for scoping document.
  - EAW - MnDOT stated that Rethinking I-94 should complete EAW and place in appendix.
  - Cumulative – Decision was to address cumulative since it is mandated in MEPA.
  - FHWA will get back on decision regarding clarification on environmental consequences from FHWA Technical Advisory T6640.8A. What needs to be included for these items?

## December 2020

- Cooperating and Participating Agencies: New USFWS Contact for distribution list. Decision made to let agencies know that we are on hold and wait to give full update. In addition, decision made to update Coordination Plan and give new version to agencies when ready with an update on all items at once in early 2021.
- Section 4f Discussion Items: Update given on Section 4f/6f work since last meeting.
  - Community gardens were dismissed based on research into state of practice. Sorted into different categories based on traditional Section 4f criteria such ownership, openness to the public, etc. and whether they comprise the entirety of the resource in question.
  - Reviewed pedestrian bridges - Mackubin St - Should be considered Section 4(f) - Griggs St - Likely Section 4(f)
  - Ox-Cart Trail Garden included in memo for now because of historical marker - will need further investigation.
- Scoping Document Outline and Content: Outline discussion. MnDOT gave permission to move project description before P&N.
- Content Discussion: Discussion on inclusion of greenhouse gases (GHG). Decision was to use US 53 as guide for how we address GHG and there is no current mandate to use GHG in alternatives analysis/decision-making process .

- Agency Resolutions update: Minneapolis Resolution - Currently in draft form, has not been passed; Saint Paul Resolution - Very similar to Minneapolis language.
- Reconnect Rondo Draft Letter and Responses: Overview given on background information for MnDOT use on the topics and example projects raised in the draft letter. MnDOT Commissioner to discuss responses.

#### October 2020

- MnDOT Contract for Historic Properties: Overview of MnDOT cultural investigation underway to determine National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible properties. Public engagement related to the study will either follow or take place at the same time as the NEPA process related to I-94 project. Reconnect Rondo is doing a parallel historic study. The current MnDOT study is attempting to coordinate with the Reconnect Rondo study.
- Cooperating and Participating Agencies: Letter drafted to cooperating and participating agencies to let them know that communication plan and other critical information will not be available and that scoping meetings will be delayed. Letter notes engagement activities are paused until early 2021 and there is not an exact timeline for bringing forward alternatives. Draft letter was sent to group for comments.
- Environmental Resource Maps and Memos: Overview of the EJ memo presented and the baseline conditions for the analysis were discussed.
- Contaminated Properties Memo: WSB requested assistance on how to address a few of the MnDOT comments. It is recommended that a meeting be set up with the Project Management Team to discuss memos.
- Historical and Archeological Memo: Limited changes since previous draft. NRHP label on map legend was updated based on comment received.
- Threatened and Endangered Species Memo: No comments
- Section 4(f) and 6(f) Resources Memo: Discussion started with status and that all comments were addressed. Overview was given on undetermined properties. Meeting recommended with FHWA for concurrence on property determinations.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Approach: It was noted that an adjacent project considered bike and pedestrian accommodations as a primary need.
- No TAC meeting for October through December.

#### August 2020

- Cooperation and Participating Agencies: Update given on status of Purpose and Need and Evaluation Criteria and confusion on part of Participating Agencies on what concurrence means.
- Plain Language Evaluation Criteria: Overview given of the Plain Language evaluation Criteria document and feedback provided by the group. A revised document will be produced.
- Environmental Resource Map Revisions: Resource maps were presented to the group and discussed. Key items discussed was the need for an additional map be created that shows key community locations that are not identified on other resource specific maps.



- Environmental Resource Memos: Summaries provided of environmental resource memos to date (Water Resources, What's in my Neighborhood [HazMat], Endangered Species, Section 4(f)/6(f)). No comments mentioned except for Section 4(f)/6(f) map, which discussion centered on further guidance and needs for identification of properties that could meet the criteria. Group will provide further comment on all reviewed material.

#### July 2020

- Advancing PAC and Community Engagement Activities: Recommendation made to have individual meetings with individual PAC members in short time slots (e.g. 20 minutes) to provide the Purpose and Need and project goals.
- Environmental Resources Maps Discussion: The known resources that would need to be dealt with at Scoping and Tier 1 were mapped and presented to the group. The following resources were mapped: endangered species (federal), historic structures, wetland & floodplain (Not including NWI data), What's in My Neighborhood, and Section 4(f) & Section 6(f). Key items from discussion:
  - Historic Resources Map: Data to be provided on eligible and potentially eligible bridges within the corridor
  - Contaminated Resource Map: The current version of the WIMN resource map has a lot of information that may not be of relevance or impact the program area. Further discussion with the Contamination Group will be needed to simplify and refine the map.
  - Section 4(f) and 6(f) Resource Map:
    - Resources that are not Section 4(f) or Section 6(f), will be addressed and justified as to decision on not being considered a Section 4(f) property.
    - DNR listed resources will be addressed as a category of its own.
    - The Met Council Regional Trail Search Corridors, Allianz Stadium, and Augsburg's College's Football stadium will not be considered Section 4(f) resources.
- Evaluation Criteria Discussion: The Evaluation Criteria was updated based on comments received and "Mobility" discussion was revised to clarify that the measure will be used to compare each alternative with the No Build alternative rather than between alternatives
- Cooperating and Participating Agency Discussion: It was stated that the revised Evaluation Criteria and Purpose and Need was expected to be shared with the Cooperating and Participating Agency for concurrence soon.

#### June 2020

- Preliminary Range of Alternatives & Alternatives Discussion: The group felt the "Mainline Alternatives" was clearer; however, group felt the other two categories – "Access/Interchange Alternatives" and "Project Elements" – will need to be revisited and revised. Elements listed under "Access/Interchange Alternatives" and "Project Elements" included items that were too detailed for the scoping level. Other items discussed included:
  - Impacts associated with alternatives that have fatal flaws and/or with high high-level cost estimates can help screen alternatives without requiring detailed modeling or design.
  - Avoiding alternatives with major constraints (i.e. large ROW acquisitions, removal

of major bridges) should be a part of the focus on developing a range of alternatives.

- Cooperating and Participating Agency Comments Discussion: Comments were received from cooperating and participating agencies on the purpose and need and evaluation criteria. Revised versions of the purpose and need and evaluation criteria will incorporate the comments.
- Updated Evaluation Criteria: Changes were made to the evaluation criteria such as combining mainline and access/interchange criteria into one table, and including additional measures and descriptions for clarity under certain evaluation criteria categories.
- Revised Plain Language Purpose and Need and Statement of Goals: Overall, the group was pleased with the plain language purpose and need draft. The Project Team will continue to work on the document to ensure that it is ADA compliant before it goes to the public.

#### May 2020

- Facilitated Meeting Discussion: A update of the TAC/PPC facilitated meeting was provided to the group.
- Updated Purpose and Need Discussion: Update given on the May 2020 revisions, which included a discussion on how the bridge and medium truck traffic sections of the purpose and need document are still in progress. The cooperating and participating agencies and community advisors will provide feedback before the document goes to the public.
- Cooperating and Participating Agencies Discussion: Update provided on the May 12 cooperating and participating agency meeting. The cooperating and participating agencies were asked to provide feedback on the purpose and need and evaluation criteria.
  - Concurrence on the Coordination Plan was provided by FTA and USEPA.
- Plain Language Purpose and Need and Statement of Goals Discussion: An outline and anticipated page numbers for the plain language purpose and need were requested in preparation of putting together the plain document. The intent of the document is to summarize the full technical purpose and need document without deviating from its intent and language to avoid confusion and miscommunication with the public. Document should have more visuals and less text. Recommendation by the group included the following:
  - The plain language purpose and need document needs to clarify the categorization of needs: the terms “primary” and “secondary” are not used to prioritize needs.
  - Consider expanding upon efforts to address items under the livability framework and providing more distinction between NEPA process and livability framework parallel path in the statement of goals section.
- Evaluation Criteria Discussion: Feedback received at the facilitated meeting and draft responses were shared with the group. The group continued to discuss how some measures could be more quantitative and how equity and other livability topics could be better measured. Other group recommendations included:

- A separate measure reflecting mode choice/mode split will not be provided.
- The livability framework being developed at the District level. Livability framework measures should remain quantitative as much as possible.
- Use of the HPDP provided guidance on how to address greenhouse gas (GHG), but not as part of the evaluation criteria.

#### April 2020

- Joint TAC and PPC Meeting Preparation: In April, the Environmental Working Group focused on preparing for the April 28th facilitated joint meeting with the TAC and PPC. Since the meeting was held virtually, additional preparation and coordination was provided. The group prepared for this meeting by discussing roles and responsibilities, ground rules, breakout group discussion topics, presentation materials, and handout materials.
- Cooperating and Participating Agencies: The next Cooperating and Participating Agencies meeting is scheduled for May 12th, 2020. The topics to be discussed include Purpose and Need and Evaluation Criteria.

#### March 2020

- Purpose and Need: In February, the full purpose and need document was updated based upon the second review from the Environmental Working Group. The updated document (Version 3) is under review by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Policy and Planning Committee.
- Definitions: Definitions for mobility and connectivity, as well as other key terms and acronyms, are included in a glossary attached to the purpose and need document.
- Evaluation Criteria: The group discussed updated evaluation criteria and write-ups provided for each measure. Additional detail is being explored for the Goals and Livability measures.
- Alternatives: The group discussed the approach for defining alternatives related to the mainline and access/interchanges along with what could be considered as an element of an alternative (as opposed to a standalone alternative). The group recommended resolving the purpose and need and evaluation criteria before advancing into the range of alternatives.
- Visual Impact Assessment: The group discussed the timing and consideration of preparing a Visual Impact Assessment for this project along with new policies and guidance on the topic. Additional discussion will be provided on this topic.

#### February 2020

- Evaluation Criteria: In February, revisions were made to the evaluation criteria based on comments and discussion from January. It was suggested to look into the National Highway Institute's guidance on performing quantitative analysis for Environmental Justice measures. The group was informed that summaries of how the measures will be defined are in progress. The group suggested that definitions from Rethinking I-94 Phase 1 be used to define goals and livability framework measures.

- Revised Purpose: During the February meeting, the group agreed to revise bullet #3 of the Purpose document to “Improve mobility for people and goods on, along, and across the I-94.” This revision was intended to align with the discussion provided at the facilitated TAC/PPC meeting.
- Notice of Intent: The group was also informed that the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a tiered EIS had been delivered and it was published in the Federal Register on February 20, 2020. The group also discussed ways to inform the public regarding the NOI. How information will be distributed will be further discussed with the public engagement efforts.
- Introduction to Alternatives: During the February meeting, the group discussed an initial list of range of alternatives for feedback and to discuss how alternatives will be addressed/developed for the project. The group discussed how to consider certain elements/features that could be applicable to multiple alternatives and may not be warranted as a standalone alternative. This was an initial discussion related to alternatives. Additional discussion related to the development of the range of alternatives will occur with the TAC

#### January 2020

- Plain Language: In January, the group discussed the distribution and timing of plain language documents to align with public meetings and the concurrence points for the participating and cooperating agencies.
- Purpose and Need: In January, the second review of the full purpose and need document was underway for this group. Comments provided by the group were updated in February and added to the version that was provided to the TAC for review. Outstanding data items include medium truck data and future bridge conditions (in process).
- Evaluation Criteria: In January, the group discussed updated evaluation criteria, comments/responses from the TAC review, and the proposed schedule for committee and public review.

#### December 2019

- Facilitated Meeting: At the December meeting the group discussed the comments that were received at the joint facilitated meeting between the TAC and PPC on the logical termini, purpose, goals, and evaluation criteria. Additional text revisions were discussed to include in updated documents that will be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) which will likely be in February. The group also discussed commitment letters that will be coming from MnDOT to the two cities and counties regarding their efforts for studying problems outside of the logical termini. Draft letters were presented for review and comment. MnDOT intends to get the letters out by mid-January.
- Notice of Intent: Anticipated publication may be in February.
- Purpose and Need – Revised Draft: At the December meeting the group also discussed the upcoming revisions that will be made to the draft Purpose and Need document. A revised draft was targeted for distribution ahead of the end of the month. It was noted that some I traffic data was still needed, and that bridge data was also missing. Discussions with the

Metropolitan Council and MnDOT were still ongoing regarding the overarching documents framing the purpose and need. Subsequent updates to the draft purpose and need document may be needed, but for the upcoming draft, to maintain current form and content with information regarding the regional Transportation Policy Plan and the State Highway Improvement Plan (MnSHIP) remaining as other considerations.

- Evaluation criteria was not discussed at the December meeting. However, revised criteria were prepared and distributed to the Project Management Team and to the Environmental Working Group committee members in late November. The revised criteria incorporated some of the measures suggested by the Metropolitan Council.
- Purpose and Goals: The purpose and goals documents have been updated based on discussion from the 12/11 TAC/PPC meeting. See facilitated meeting discussion above.
- Logical Termini: Based on the 12/11 TAC/PPC meeting, WSB has drafted a letter stating MnDOT's commitment to study beyond the proposed logical termini. MnDOT will share comments of the first draft of the letter. See facilitated meeting discussion above.

#### November 2019

- Facilitated Meeting: At the November meeting, the group discussed the agenda, materials, and roles of those presenting at the joint meeting between the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) on December 11, 2019. Updates to the logical termini, purpose and goals were discussed. Outlines of the draft presentations were presented and assignments were given for refining the educational materials on the environmental process.
- Notice of Intent: Prior to the November meeting the revised NOI was been submitted to FHWA for its review process. The NOI is in good shape for publishing early 2020. At the December meeting, the group discussed timing the publication of the NOI with the meeting of the Cooperating and Participating agencies, the coordination plan, the schedule, and the draft Purpose and Need.
- Purpose and Need – Revised Draft: At the November meeting the group discussed whether to move pedestrian and bicycle needs from “secondary” needs to “primary” needs. It was discussed that “primary” and “secondary” does not denote that something is less important, rather what is driving the project. There will likely be additional discussion, but for now, the pedestrian and bicycle needs will remain as secondary. The group also discussed a letter submitted to the project regarding evaluation criteria and project purpose/need by the Metropolitan Council. MnDOT was preparing a response to the letter and would be having follow-up discussions which could influence the purpose and need document.
- Revised Evaluation Criteria: At the November meeting, the group discussed the Metropolitan Council's letter regarding evaluation criteria that was presented to the TAC in October. The Council indicated that they wanted more criteria associated with non-motorized travel and travel choices. They also wanted their Transportation Policy Plan to be the focus or overarching framework for the development of the evaluation criteria. The committee discussed that the purpose and need and the social, economic, and

environmental (SEE) resources needed to be the framework for the criteria and to look at the suggestions provided by the Met Council to determine if some of their suggested measures from the letter made sense to incorporate. WSB agreed to review the criteria suggested by Met Council staff to see if they addressed measures under purpose and need, SEE resources or project goals.

#### October 2019

- **Facilitated Meeting:** The group worked on the agenda and goals for a joint TAC and Policy and Planning meeting to discuss draft environmental documents related to: logical termini, project purpose, goals and evaluation criteria
- **Notice of Intent:** The NOI has been submitted to FHWA for its review process. The NOI is anticipated to be published late 2019/early 2020. Edits were discussed for submitting the information for publication.
- **Participating and Cooperating Agencies:** The group discussed confirmed agencies and how to integrate those that have not responded to the formal request. The date for a first meeting of the agencies to present draft information regarding the project background, logical termini, purpose and goals was also discussed.
- **Purpose and Goals:** The purpose and goals documents have been updated based on comments provided by the TAC. The group discussed the comments and the revised documents. WSB will make edits as needed and send updated versions to the TAC.
- **Logical Termini:** WSB presented a revised logical termini document based on the comments received from the TAC. There were some comments that required additional group discussion. WSB will update the logical termini document and responses to comments based on the feedback received. Information will be resent to the TAC.
- **Purpose and Need Comments:** WSB presented the comments received on the draft document to the group and highlighted the comments that were being addressed. The group discussed approximately 15 comments that required additional clarification and input. WSB will make the revisions to the document and bring back to the group at the November meeting. An outline of the document and key elements/ideas will be presented to the TAC in October.
- There are still some items for which data is needed. Data is still needed for some existing traffic condition information, transit travel times and future traffic conditions.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** The group discussed the comments recently provided by the TAC on the evaluation criteria and framework that were presented in September.

#### September 2019

- **Notice of Intent:** The NOI has been submitted to FHWA for its review process. The NOI is anticipated to be published late 2019/early 2020.
- **Revised Evaluation Criteria:** The group reviewed a performance evaluation framework to assess how alternatives will be evaluated. A set of evaluation criteria have been prepared to be used as part of the Scoping Decision Document and the Tier 1 EIS. The evaluation criteria will be used to assess the project purpose and need, SEE impacts, and

Goals/Livability as outlined in Phase 1. Information on draft evaluation criteria will be presented to the TAC in September.

- Purpose and Need Comments: The group has reviewed and provided comments to the initial Purpose and Need draft. The document is currently being updated to reflect the comments prior to being submitted to the TAC for review and comment.
- Purpose and Goals: The purpose and goals documents have been updated based on comments provided by the TAC.
- Logical Termini: WSB is in the process of revising the logical termini document based on comments provided by the TAC. It will be brought to the environmental working group for additional review before being presented to the TAC.

#### August 2019

- Schedule Discussion: Project schedule update presented and will be made available on SharePoint.
- Participating and Cooperating Agencies Discussion: Update on the revised letters and noted that they will be sent out the following week. The Notice of Intent (NOI) drafted and submitted to FHWA for posting on the Federal Register. Estimated posting in October or November 2019.
- Draft Evaluation Criteria Discussion: Discussion on draft materials provided included: inclusion of other coordinated projects (i.e. LID project) to be evaluated during the Tier 1 EIS; the use of Tier 1 information for evaluation of specific projects (Tier 2); not using Met Council's definition of environmental justice; and ROW goal to not relocate or displace impacted residents. The group stated that the goal is to minimize impacts as much as possible; however, it was noted that even replacing the existing infrastructure may still have ROW impacts. Discussion on how scoping measures should focus on evaluation criteria and not design criteria.
- Draft Purpose and Need Discussion: A status update of purpose and need provided and status on ongoing studies and durations:
  - Traffic Forecasting (1-2 months)
  - Existing models/conditions information (2 months)
  - Metro Transit, reliability data pending (1-2 months)
  - Multi-modal LOS

#### July 2019

- Schedule Discussion: Updated schedule presented with incorporated additional items regarding outreach and modified internal review times.
- Participating and Cooperating Agencies Discussion: Agency lists provided so committee could provide any edits/comments or identification of other potential agencies and their participation. The revised draft invitation letters provided to the group. Committee agreed to send letters in July or August and CC those agency participants in current working groups and committees, so they are aware of its timing.
- Draft Logical Termini Discussion: The draft logical termini memo presented with

- recommended revisions. Committee instructed to provide additional comments.
- Draft Evaluation Criteria Discussion: Materials presented on the draft evaluation criteria. Items discussed included the overall approach with explanation on the process for scoping the Tier 1, and individual projects. Clarification added that there will be different and/or additional measures between the scoping and Tier 1 documents. The different categories were presented for the evaluation criteria based upon purpose and need items and Social, Environmental, and Economic (SEE) impacts.
  - Section 106 Approach Discussion: Meeting set up to identify level of effort for historic and archaeological resources on the corridor at the Scoping and Tier 1 EIS levels.
  - Contaminated Properties Discussion: A review of contaminated properties approach was discussed for the various documents. MnDOT is going to work on a revised approach to potentially include more information in the Tier 1. Detailed information to be completed at the Tier 2 level. Consensus that no Phase 2 work likely to be included in the Tier 1.

#### June 2019

- Introduction and Working Group Purpose Discussion: Topic centered on the role of the committee, which is to provide input and feedback on the development of materials related to the environmental documents developed for the project.
- Schedule Discussion: Draft schedule was presented, and the committee discussed agency review times and the need for MnDOT to provide input on public outreach review times, and ensure all committee reviews are covered.
- Participating and Cooperating Agencies Discussion: Overview of difference between cooperating and participating agencies. Draft invitation letters presented to group.
- Draft Logical Termini Discussion: Draft logical termini memo presented with the western limits identified as I-35W/TH 55 and eastern at the Marion Kellogg (last location before I-35E). A main concern was where to start and stop the managed lanes. Other concerns discussed included: the tunnel, the ability to include a managed lane, defining terms within the document, and clarifying a few examples used within the document.
- Draft Purpose and Goals Statement Discussion: Status overview given focusing on the template used, the current traffic and transit data being gathered, the document content, and the need for updates on baseline information.
- Contaminated Properties Approach Discussion: Level of detail in each document was discussed. A decision was made that the scoping document will start with identifying known sites and then advancing to traditional detailed information in Tier 1, when alternatives are more known.