

Minneapolis, MN

Access Minneapolis 10-Year Transportation Action Plan



Minneapolis, the cultural and economic hub of the Upper Midwest, has been focusing residential and employment growth in its downtown and historic neighborhoods as part of a long-term strategy for improving regional quality of life and economic development. With increasing traffic congestion and limited opportunities for expanding roadways, Minneapolis realizes that its growth ambitions must be supported by a more efficient transportation network. This means emphasizing accessibility over mobility, and investing in a fast, frequent and reliable transit system.

Together with Meyer Mohaddes and SEH, Nelson\Nygaard developed a 10-year transportation master plan for Minneapolis, providing tools for the city to achieve its growth goals. With transit as a major emphasis of the plan, Nelson\Nygaard developed a citywide “Primary Transit Network,” where the key roadway performance measures will no longer merely be auto LOS, but how well the corridor supports rapid and reliable surface transit. By committing the city to operate its streets to benefit transit, the regional transit provider, Metro Transit, can commit to reinvest its savings into improved service in Minneapolis.

The primary focus of Nelson\Nygaard's work was to develop a plan for reallocating lane space for transit in downtown. Recommendations included consolidating transit on some streets and bike and cars on others with the goal of

optimizing access for all roadway users. One of the most visible outcomes of Nelson\Nygaard's planning work is MARQ2, double-width transit lanes through the heart of downtown Minneapolis, which officially opened in December 2009. Nelson\Nygaard also helped the city rethink its overall transportation performance measures to guide local traffic engineers in balancing the needs of all modes of transportation. Finally, Nelson\Nygaard recommended how the city's parking system and parking requirements, along with transportation demand management efforts, can support Minneapolis' larger goals.

All materials developed for Access Minneapolis can be found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/>

Project Duration:2005-2007

Total Budget:\$600,000

Nelson\Nygaard Budget:\$163,500

For more information:

City of Minneapolis
Department of Public Works
233 City Hall, 350 S. Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Contact:

Anna Flintoft
Transportation Planner, Public Works Dept.
612-673-3885