

CREATING A TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST



In Minnesota, everyone should be able to get around in sustainable, affordable, and healthy ways. Our families, climate, and communities are counting on you to take action this session!

MAINTAIN AND EXPAND MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Across the state, transportation has a major impact on whether or not Minnesotans can get to work and school, buy groceries, visit the doctor, and connect with friends and family. And with transportation the top source of climate pollution, bold transportation change is critical to solving the climate crisis we're all facing.

We all benefit when it's easy to walk, roll, bike, and take public transit. In recent years, Minnesota has led the nation in advancing transit funding and solutions that connect communities, stabilize our climate, expand access to jobs and resources, and improve daily life for people of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities. In 2025, Move Minnesota and Move Minnesota Action call on state legislators to protect and expand transit funding, improve access to affordability programs, and pass land use policies that will support the transit system that our communities deserve and that future generations need to prosper.

UNRESTRICT FUNDING FOR TRANSIT, BIKING, WALKING, AND ROLLING

Minnesotans want healthy, affordable, and sustainable transportation options—and they support policies that redirect resources to make it happen.

But right now, more than \$2 billion every year of State of Minnesota transportation resources can only be used for highway projects. We need to make it possible for state and local jurisdictions to **flex these State dollars** to invest in the more sustainable transportation system we need to strengthen our communities and protect our climate—today and for the next generation.

To unleash the new and ongoing resources we need, lawmakers should clarify the State's outdated definition of highway purposes to include infrastructure for walking, biking, rolling, and public transit.

In 2023, Minnesota passed a nation-leading climate law that requires state highway projects curb or offset greenhouse gas emissions. By updating the definition of highway purposes, legislators can unrestrict funding so it can go to healthy and sustainable transportation options and ensure our ground-breaking climate law delivers the impact our communities need.



According to a 2022 statewide poll, 66% of Minnesotans said they support improving transportation options by "using funding from the state and federal government which would otherwise go to highway expansion."



PROTECT CRITICAL GAINS FOR TRANSIT AND CLIMATE PROGRESS

For decades, Minnesotans have come together with **Move Minnesota** and **Move Minnesota Action** to secure and defend vital resources for transit, bicycling, walking, and rolling. Our state's historic funding and ground-breaking policies over the past two years are essential for improving and expanding public transit, cutting climate pollution, and improving daily life in Minnesota—and must be protected. Rolling back these wins is unacceptable. We call on lawmakers to reject legislation that would limit or reduce investments in public transit, dilute or redirect the metro-area transit sales tax, block new or existing transit projects, and chip away at Minnesota's climate progress. **These investments are building a better future for our families and communities in Minnesota and we can't reverse course.**

MAKE IT EASIER FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS TO AFFORD TRANSIT

For families and workers who are struggling to make ends meet, transportation can be a big barrier to a better future.

Metro Transit's Transit Assistance Program (TAP) provides annual passes for \$1 fares to people who qualify for public assistance programs. Compared to a standard \$2 fare, TAP can cut a person's transit costs in half, freeing up more of their household budget to meet other essential needs like rent or child care. But, while the Metropolitan Council estimates 624,000 people in the metro are eligible for the TAP program by income alone, 2021 data suggests just 1% are using it.

Lawmakers must ensure more residents have easy access to TAP by integrating the application into the MNbenefits portal. Adding this essential program to the portal where Minnesotans already apply for benefits will make TAP more visible to people it was designed to support, reduce barriers to enrollment, and ensure more people can afford to get around on public transit.

ENSURE MORE PEOPLE CAN ACCESS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION CHOICES

Nearly one-third of Minnesotans would be more likely to use public transit if there were greater access where they live.

But it's hard to provide transit service in some places because too few people live within walking or rolling distance of potential routes and stations. That's why housing and urban planning are essential to ensuring people have choices in how we get around our communities. Instead of sprawling development and isolated neighborhoods, we need policies that **incentivize more housing and businesses in places that are easily accessible and close to one another—especially around transit stops.**

Move Minnesota and Move Minnesota Action call on lawmakers to **pass legislation that allows and encourages more kinds of housing** to be built along corridors with high connectivity and transit use, and **eliminate minimum parking requirements** statewide to help communities bring down housing costs, while also encouraging transit use and moving Minnesota closer to our climate goals.



Learn more at movemn.org and contact Nas Nourkadi at nasn@movemn.org