Achieving Sustainability

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Sustainability Is Not New

Mn/DOT has long been a leader in CSS and environmental excellence.

. . . so we’re well along on the path to sustainability!
Today Sustainability is More Important Than Ever
The New Normal

National Mobility Has Fallen to the Lowest Point Ever Recorded

Health Care Spending Jumps After Age 55 (2004 US Health Care Spending by Age)

Household Net Worth Fell by More than $17 Trillion Dollars

Labor Force Growth Is About To Slow Sharply
Consumers have entered an era of personal responsibility & financial sobriety. They expect government to do the same!
“Making Things Better” May Offer the Greatest Potential

• Future economic growth depends on increased productivity (more than labor force size) – Innovation!

• Future productivity depends on decisions and investments made today

• The largest gains will likely come from investments that lead to better outcomes

• Sustainability moves us in this direction!
Sustainable transportation practices respect, support and regenerate environmental systems, the economy and society over many generations.
Did That Look Familiar?

NEPA’s Declaration of National Environmental Policy requires the federal government to use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony.
How About This?

Environmental Justice . . . will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.
Sustainability Is the Next Step

The Environment – A sustainable transportation system is compatible with and may enhance the natural environment, reduces emissions and pollution, and reduces the amount of resources required to build, operate and maintain it.

But also (and every bit as important) . . .
The **Economy** – Sustainable solutions support long-term economic vitality in a manner that is cost-efficient over the life of the facility and within a society’s ability and willingness to pay.

**Society** – Sustainable solutions increase opportunity and improve quality of life for all by ensuring transportation is accessible, safe and secure; provides mobility choices; and is an asset to communities.
How Do We Achieve This?

- Use all resources wisely
- Consider the needs of future generations
- Evaluate a wide range of risks
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Conserve energy and natural resources
- Involve the public in transportation planning processes
- Improve quality of life (now and for future generations)
- Encourage innovative approaches to the design, operation and maintenance of our facilities
Sustainability Has Many Pieces

- Modal Planning
- Complete Streets
- Environmental Review
- Research
- Asset Management
- CSS
- Performance Based Design
- Scoping
- Risk Assessment
- Innovative Finance
- Livable Communities
- Quality of Life
- Hear Every Voice
Sustainability Brings It Together

• Acknowledges the “new normal”
• Supports investments that contribute to quality of life now and into the future
• Balances the environmental, societal, and economic considerations
• Prompts innovation and creative thinking
• Collaboration is key - Mn/DOT controls only a few of the things that contribute to quality of life
Putting it Into Practice
A Few Recent Examples

• Grand Rapids complete streets project
• TIGER 2 application
• Flood mitigation program
• State Smart Transportation Initiative
• Quality of Life research
• HUD livable communities
• More...
Putting More Pieces Together

• Build on what Mn/DOT already does
  – Incorporate sustainability into the vision and plans
  – Evaluate where and how to increase sustainability in planning, maintenance, operations and project delivery
  – Continue improvements in internal business practices
  – Continue research
  – Increase collaboration
  – More, more, more
Vision – Balancing Our Priorities

Tradition al
- Safety
- Mobility
- Preservation

Emerging
- Quality of Life
- Environmental Health
- Economic Competitiveness

State of Good Repair
Quality of Life
Economic Competitiveness
Environmental Health
Safety
Vision
Evaluating and Increasing Sustainability in the Program

- FHWA released the beta version of a Sustainable Highway Self-Evaluation Tool
- A collection of best practices (credits) and scoring system to measures sustainability
- Using it to evaluate where Mn/DOT is today and identify priorities for increasing sustainability
Welcome!

FHWA Sustainable Highways Self-Evaluation Tool

The Sustainable Highways Self-Evaluation Tool identifies characteristics of sustainable highways and provides procedures and techniques to help agencies and organizations apply and integrate sustainability best practices into highway and other roadway projects and programs within system planning, project development, and operations and maintenance. While the words “highway” and “roadway” are both used in this tool, the FHWA Sustainable Highways Self-Evaluations Tool is designed to be applied to all roadway projects, not just highways.

Why is this useful?

What do you want to do?

Learn

A guided tour through this website to learn about sustainable highways and integrating sustainability best practices into Systems Planning, Project Development and Operations & Maintenance.
The Goal
More (better) projects like St. Peter

- True collaboration
  
  “It’s not Mn/DOT’s problem or the city’s or the contractor’s – it’s OUR problem”

- Preserve historic character

- Utility reconstruction with an eye to the future

- Environmental best practices

- Pedestrian Improvements

- Mobility and safety improvements

- Business vitality (during and after the project)
You Are Key!!

You are on the “front lines” of sustainability every day

• How can you increase sustainability?
• What do you need to succeed?
• What does Mn/DOT need to do next?
Thank you!

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