Minnesota Department of Transportation
Complete Streets

prepared for the
Transportation Research Conference
Merry Daher, Mn/DOT
May 25, 2011
2010 Legislation

- Defines Complete Streets
- Directs general Mn/DOT implementation for Trunk Highways
- Clarifies local encouragement, but no mandate for CSAH and MSAS
- Directs some tweaks to the State Aid variance process
- Requires a series of reports
Goal

• Develop a balanced transportation system that integrates all modes via planning
• Include users of all types, ages and abilities
Definition

It does not mean

“all modes on all roads”
Adopted Policies

- Albert Lea
- Bloomington
- Byron
- Duluth
- Independence
- Rochester
- St Paul
- Hennepin County
Actions So Far

- MnDOT has a work plan in place to integrate CS into its processes
- Meetings with an External Adv. Committee
- Has clarified the SA variance process for transparency
- Has begun a reviewing SA Rules pertaining to design
- Has 2 research projects to develop planning templates
- Delivered the first Legislative report
Actions So Far

- Have added CS concepts to CSS training
- Meeting with district staff to discuss opportunities to incorporate CS and ADA
- Looking for ways to work with external groups and agencies in complementary activities
- Long term effort the Commissioner has committed us to in terms of Quality of Life and Sustainability
Challenges

• Cost participation
• Advocates want early successes
• Works best through planning process
• Moving CS to Scott Bradley’s unit in CSS to make a tighter tie to the mainstream Mn/DOT functions
Complete Streets Come In Many Forms
Challenges

• City and county engineers have a safety focus
• Maintenance issues – expectations and cost
Complete Streets = Operational Challenges
Particularly in Northern Climates

Complete Street in Summer  How About in Winter?

Multimodal Operations & Maintenance Needs Year-Round
Parting Thoughts

• Biggest impact will happen if we work with our partners to plan how CS will be applied in a region

• If we try to implement one construction project at a time without an overall vision we will not optimize our work or money

• We can make a difference working together cooperatively
Thank you

www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/completestreets