A New Route to Complete Streets? Using the TCAPP Model in Grand Rapids, Minnesota

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Fundamental objective of the TCAPP Tool:

“The right people at the table, at the right time, with the right information.”
Mn/DOT’s Commitment to Complete Streets and a “collaborative” planning process:

…from Mn/DOT’s Complete Streets Report, published in December 2009:

“Mn/DOT is committed to partner with a broad coalition including local governments to build on existing Context Sensitive Solutions practices and to develop and implement a statewide complete streets policy…”
Simultaneous Goals of the Grand Rapids Complete Streets Planning Process:

- **Goal #1**: Pilot test the SHRP2 TCAAP Decision Guide framework and conduct a rigorous analysis and evaluation of the tool.

- **Goal #2**: Develop and implement the Complete Streets Planning Process.
The TCAPP Decision Guide
(go to [http://www.transportationforcommunities.com](http://www.transportationforcommunities.com))
Grand Rapids Complete Streets Planning Process

1. Develop Vision and Goals for Planning Study
   - LRP-2, COR-3

2. Finalize Scope of Planning Process
   - LRP-1, COR-1
   - *Conduct Collaboration Assessment*

3. Identify Problems and Opportunities
   - COR-2

4. Finalize Evaluation Criteria, Methodology and Performance Measures
   - LRP-3, COR-4, COR-5
   - *Conduct Collaboration Assessment*

5. Develop Range of Solutions
   - COR-6, LRP-6, LRP-7

6. Select Preferred Solution Set
   - COR-7, LRP-8

7. Develop Implementation Priorities
   - COR-8, COR-9

8. Finalize Plan

COR-1 = Approve Scope of Corridor Planning Process
COR-2 = Approve Program Statement and Opportunities
COR-3 = Approve Costs for the Corridor
COR-4 = Reach Consensus on Issues of Social, Cultural, Ecological, Environmental Review and Analysis
COR-5 = Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methodology, and Performance Measures
COX-6 = Approve Range of Solution Sets
COX-7 = Approve Preferred Solution Set
COX-8 = Approve Evaluation Criteria and Methodology for Prioritization
COX-9 = Approve Reasons for Implementation

LRP-1 = Approve Scope of Long Range Transportation Plan
LRP-2 = Approve Vision and Costs
LRP-3 = Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methodology, and Performance Measures
LRP-4 = Approve Strategies
LRP-5 = Approve Plan Concepts
LRP-6 = Approve Preferred Plan Elements
Why Grand Rapids?

- 8,200 population, wide variety of system users
- Regional economic center
  - Blandin paper mill
- Destination for recreation
- Engaged residents
Complete Streets Plan: Goal

To enhance the City residents’ and visitors’ quality of life through development of a multimodal transportation network that improves safety, access, and mobility and provides more active recreation opportunities
Complete Streets Plan: Objectives

- Decrease crashes involving bikes/pedestrians
- Improve the health of community residents
- Increase opportunities to bike and walk
- Provide connections to trails and other active recreation opportunities
- Provide multi-modal access to major destinations
- Consider and balance the needs of all users (pedestrian, bike, transit, auto, freight)
Many streets in the City do not have sidewalks

Some existing multi-use trails are not connected throughout the city

Ped/bike access to major destinations (schools, parks, beaches, library, job centers) is limited
Complete Streets Plan: Challenges

- Main streets through downtown are high volume, high freight, and high speed routes.
- Difficult for pedestrians and bikes to cross major highways and the river.
Who is involved?

Public Sector
- City of Grand Rapids
- Itasca County
- Mn/DOT District 1 and Central Office
- FHWA
- Arrowhead Transit
- Mn/DNR

Stakeholders
- Get Fit Itasca
- Itasca Community College
- School District
- Chamber of Commerce
- Blandin Foundation
- Visit Grand Rapids
- Trails Task Force
- ADA/senior reps
- Bike advocates
- Trucking advocate/rep
- …and others!
What we have accomplished to date:

1. Developed vision and goals
2. Develop range of potential solutions
3. Identify problems and opportunities
4. Conducted focus groups
What remains to be done:

1. Finalize evaluation criteria, methodology and performance measures
2. Develop range of solutions
3. Select preferred solution set
4. Develop implementation priorities
5. Finalize plan – to be incorporated into city comprehensive plan update
Thanks very much!

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