

RBTN & RBB Updates

Regional Bicycle Transportation Network & Regional Bicycle Barrier Updates in the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan



October 2026

metro council.org

What are the RBTN and RBBs?

Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN)

- Sets regional planning and investment priorities for bikeways that primarily serve transportation purposes
- Function like arterials for bikeways, connecting people across the region on high-quality facilities
- Developed through the 2014 Regional Bicycle System Study
- Included in the TPP since 2014

Regional Bicycle Barriers (RBB) and Crossing Areas

- Identifies freeways, expressways, rail corridors, and secondary rivers and streams that are major physical barriers to bicycling
- Sets investment priorities for regionally-funded projects that cross these barriers
- Identified through the 2017 Regional Bicycle Barriers Study
- Included in the TPP since 2020

Como Avenue Trail

Regionally funded RBTN project in St. Paul

Photo credit: City of St. Paul



University & 4th Avenues

Regionally funded RBTN project in Minneapolis

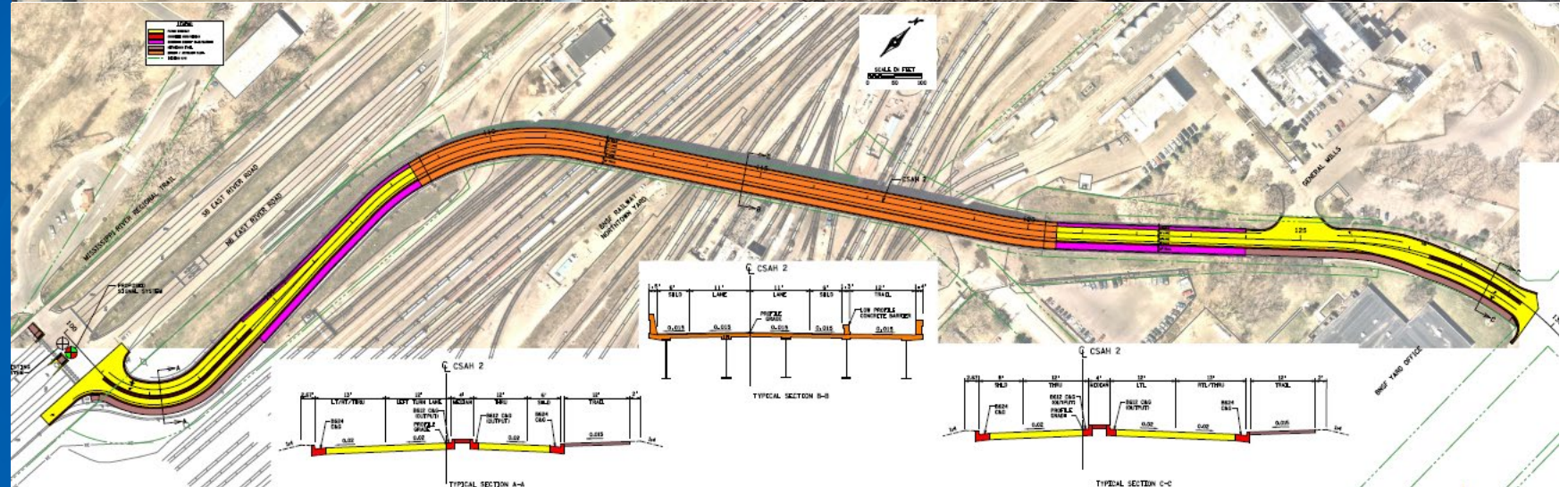
Photo credit: Hennepin County



44th Avenue NE Bridge

Regionally funded bicycle barrier crossing project in Fridley

Before photo and layout credit:
Anoka County



Merriam Junction Regional Trail

Regionally funded bicycle barrier crossing project in Louisville Township and the City of Carver

Photo credit: Scott County



Why is this update required?



Accuracy of system statements

- The RBTN and RBB are planning tools identified in the Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan's (TPP) Bicycle Investment Plan.
- These are identified in system statements that inform local comprehensive plans, which must identify and describe their communities' RBTNs, RBBs, and connecting facilities.
- This update modifies the TPP to include changes previously adopted by the TAB for use in Regional Solicitation. This ensures future updates to system statements reflect the current RBTN and RBB.

When do we update these?



Approximately biennially

- The RBTN and RBB are updated through:
 - Biennial opportunities for local governments to request changes in advance of Regional Solicitations for federal funding
 - Transportation Policy Plan updates
 - Evaluation studies as needed and identified in the Unified Planning Work Program
- Rural facilities do not currently qualify and are not included in this modification. Staff are currently evaluating changes to create rural eligibility.

What was the process for updates?



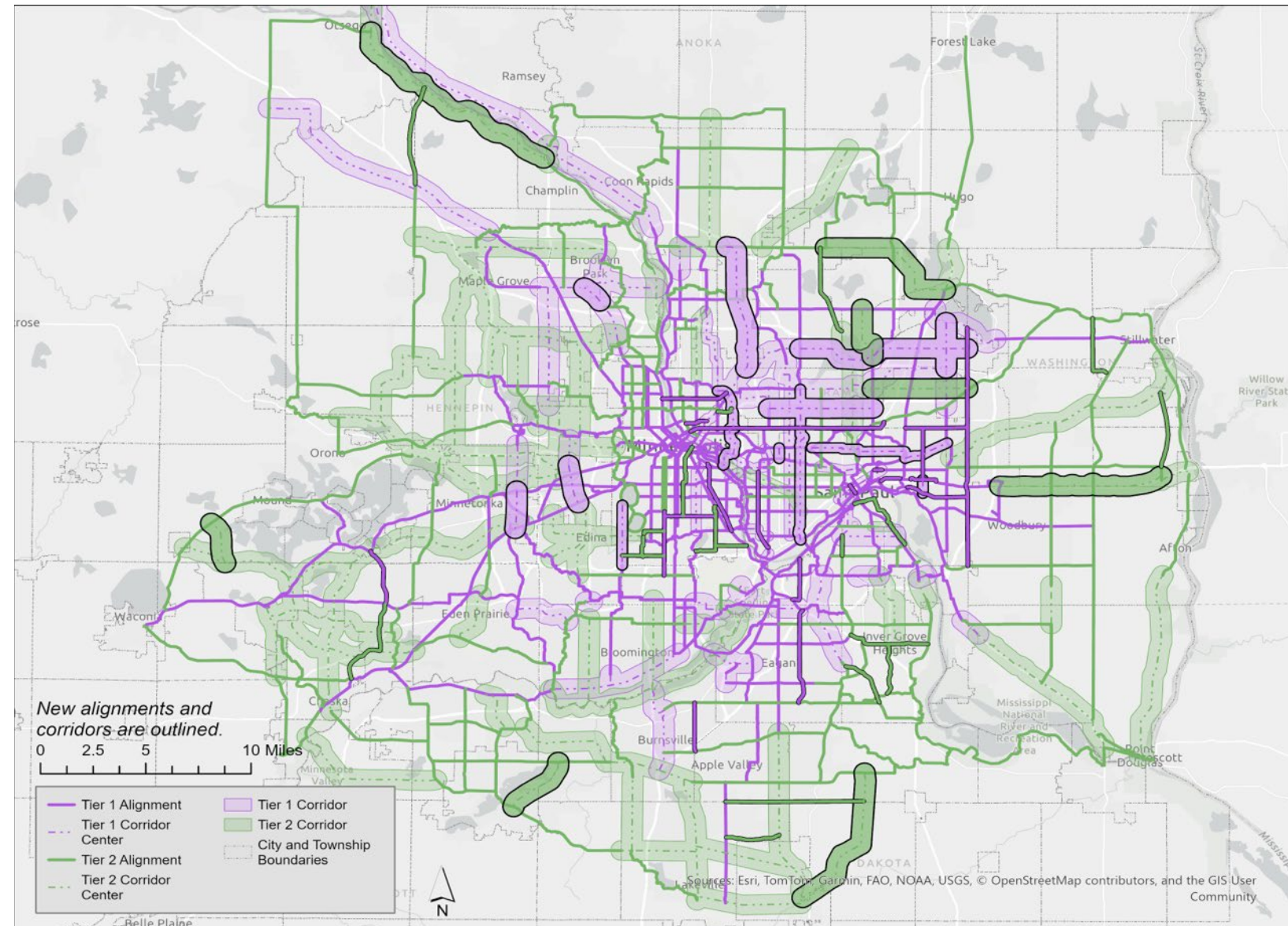
Local partner-initiated updates

- Met Council released a call for updates from local and state agencies
- Requests received were reviewed by staff against established criteria
- Recommendations were vetted with the Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group
- Updated datasets were put out for public comment by TAB as part of the Regional Solicitation package
- Updates were adopted for use in the Regional Solicitation by TAB in April 2026

What are the RBTN updates?

More than 70 changes

- New or extended corridors/alignments
- Shifted corridors
- Designation/de-designation of alignments
- Minor adjustments



What are the RBB updates?

4 changes

- Shift Diamond Lake Regional Trail/TH 55 crossing area in Medina
- Identify new expressway barriers in Scott County on CSAHs 21, 42, and 82

Barrier Crossing Areas

- Shifted Tier 2 Barrier Crossing Area

Bicycle Barriers

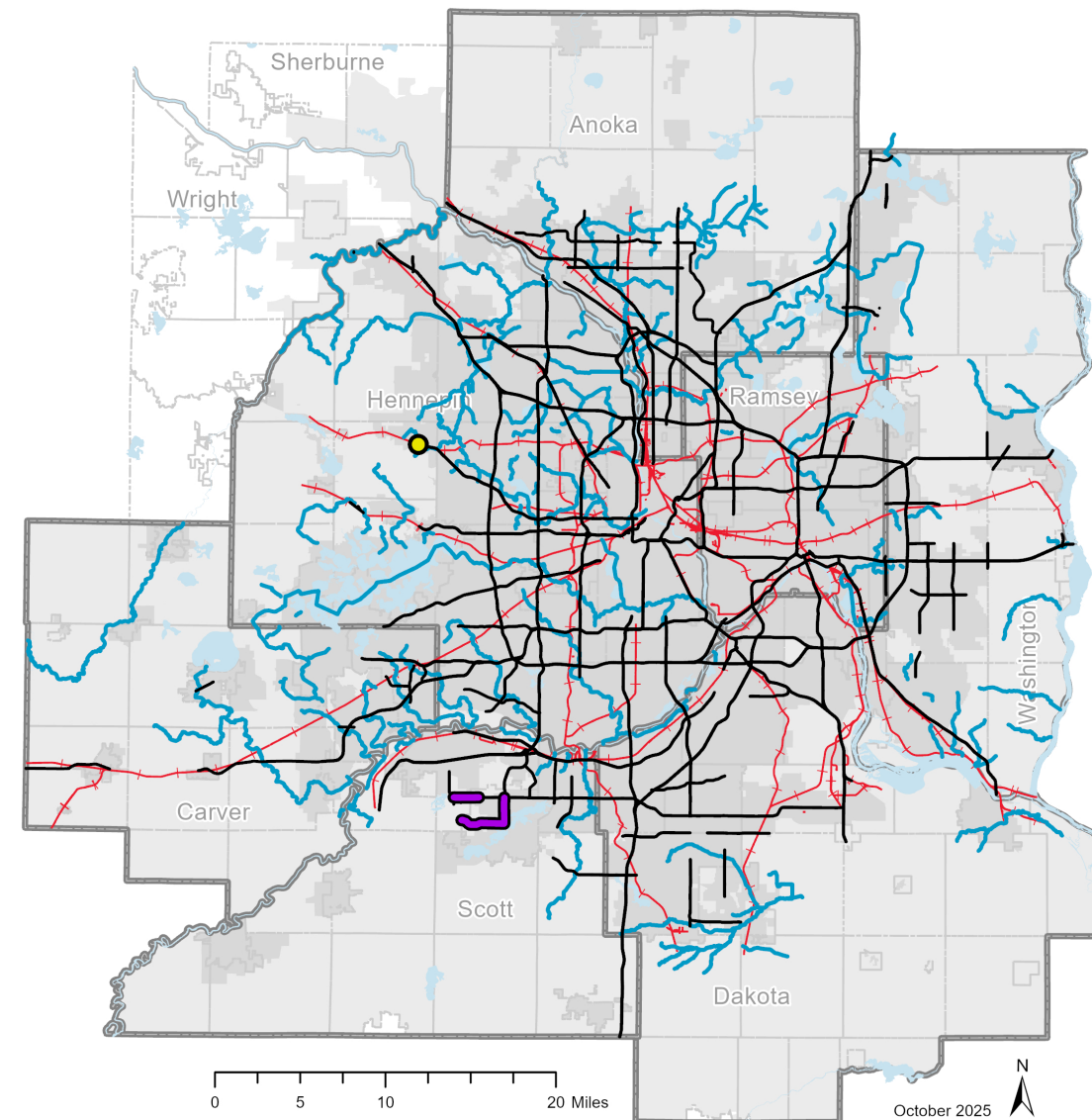
- New Expressway Barriers

Existing Bicycle Barriers

- Railroads
- Streams
- Expressways and Freeways

Reference Layers

- Rivers and Major Lakes
- County Boundaries
- City Boundaries
- MUSA 2040
- MPO Area



A person wearing a blue jacket and a helmet is riding a bicycle away from the camera on a snowy, icy path. To the left is a metal guardrail covered in snow. The background shows snow-covered trees and a building. The text "Thank you" is written vertically in large, white, outlined letters on the right side of the image.

Thank you

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