

LRRB: What's New

MCEA Summer Conference – June 13, 2025



Michael Marti, PE,
SRF Consulting

MN Statutes 162.06 Subdivision 4 Research Account

- Conducting research for improving the design, construction, maintenance and environmental compatibility of state-aid highways and appurtenances;
- Constructing research elements and reconstructing or replacing research elements that fail; and
- Conducting programs for implementing and monitoring research results



LRRB Key Facts



\$4
Million

IN ANNUAL
FUNDING



25+

NEW PROJECTS
EACH YEAR



75+

ACTIVE
PROJECTS



**12 CITY/COUNTY
BOARD MEMBERS**



**100+ TAP CITY/
COUNTY MEMBERS**



LRRB
LOCAL
ROAD RESEARCH
BOARD

Who is the Local Road Research Board?



Lon Aune (Chair)
Marshall County



Kristine Elwood
MnDOT State Aid



Brian Giese
Pope County



Duane Hill
MnDOT D1



Katie Walker
MnDOT R&I



Matt Leonard
City of Monticello



Kyle Shelton
MnDOT R&I



Andrew Witter
Sherburne County



Mark Ray
City of Burnsville



Wayne Sandberg
Washington County

Who is the Research Implementation Committee?



Will Manchester (Chair)
City of Minnetonka



Darrick Anderson
Cass County



Brian Giese
Pope County



Aaron Holmbeck
Nobles County



Ryan Thilges
Blue Earth County



Matt Wegwerth
City of Grant Rapids



Ted Schoenecker
MnDOT State Aid



Fausto Cabral
MnDOT D1



Ben Worel
MnDOT Road Research

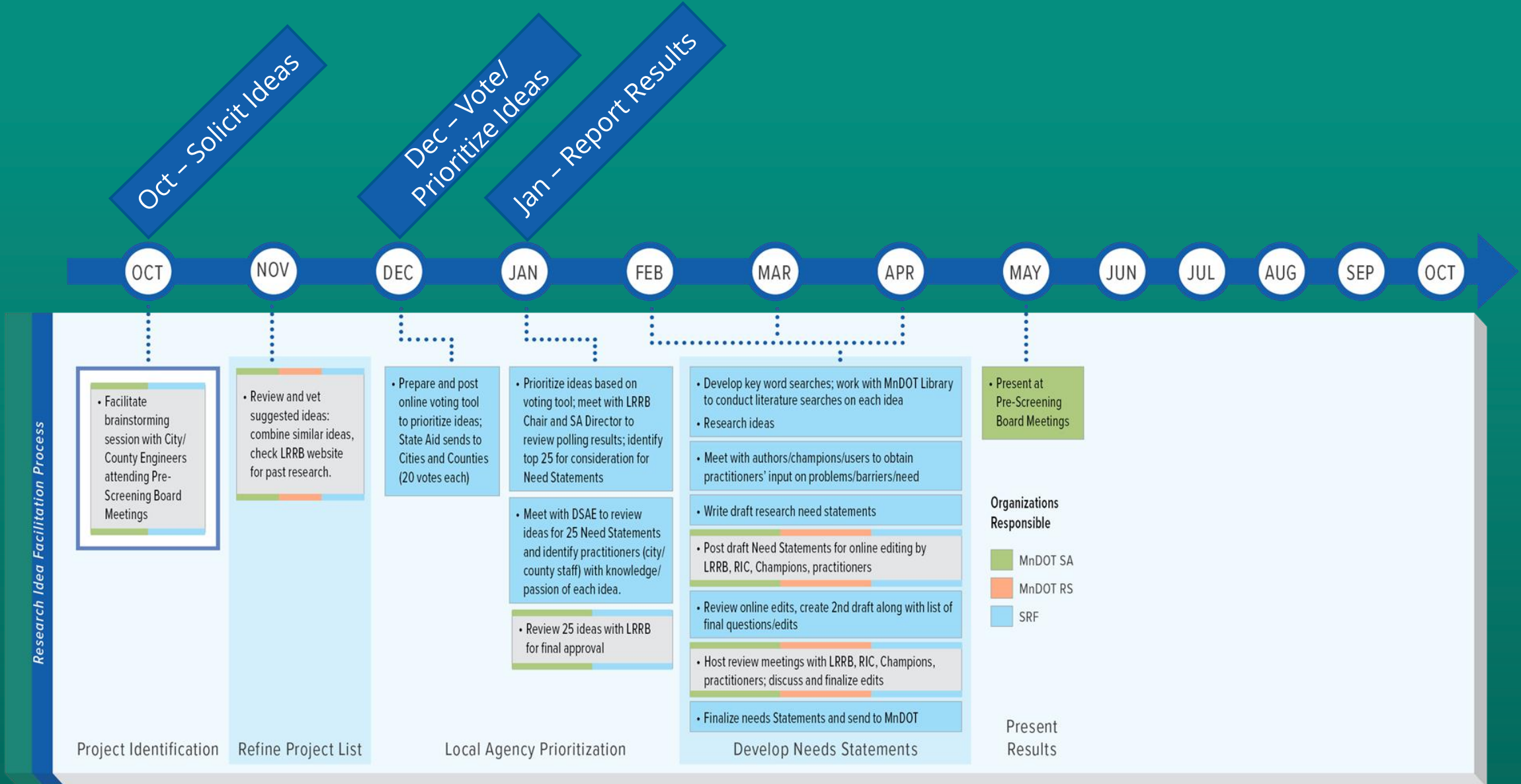


Andrew Wrucke
U of M CTS



Status of LRRB New Ideas Projects

The Needs Statement Process



Brainstorming at Pre-Screening Board Meetings

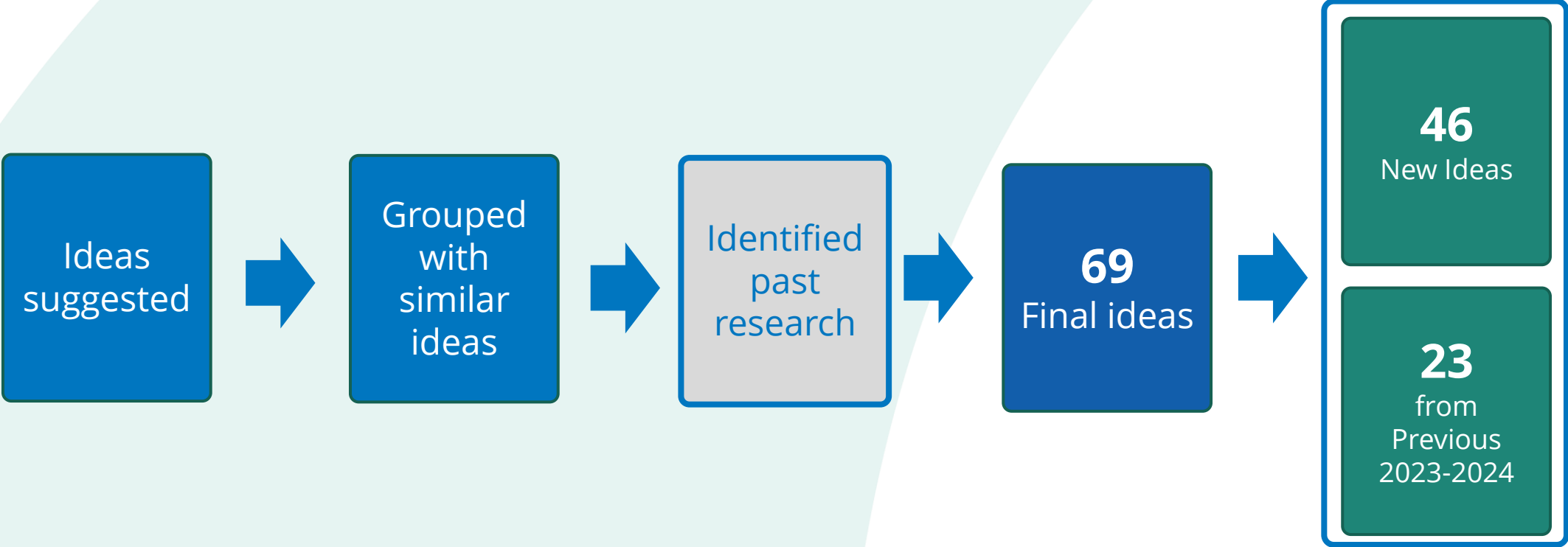
12 Meetings

250+ Participants

2024 LRRB PSB Brainstorming


Mtg	Date	Dist	County/Muni	Location
1	2-Oct		Maintenance	St. Cloud
2	8-Oct	7/8	City	Redwood Falls
3	9-Oct	3	City	Waite Park
4	9-Oct	2/4	County	Moorhead
5	10-Oct	2/4	City	Moorhead
6	10-Oct	6	County	Faribault
7	11-Oct	6	City	Rochester
8	15-Oct	M	City	Minnetonka
9	16-Oct	7	County	Kasota
10	17-Oct	8	County	Montevideo
12	28-Oct		Maintenance	Bloomington
11	2/19 or 20		Technician	Mankato

Process to Reduce the Number of Ideas



Including 5 from IdeaScale

Online Polling to Cities and Counties



Minnesota
Local Road
Research Board

Category
Click any research idea to see full details
Use the arrows to adjust vote count

Remaining Votes 18 Submit »

If you submit now, you can return later.

Bridge and Structures (5)	-
0 ↕ Load Posting Implements of Husbandry and Emergency Vehicles for Minnesota's Local Bridge Inventory	
0 ↕ High Performance Concrete: Why do Cylinders Continue to Break?	
0 ↕ Cost of Precast Concrete Structures Escalating and Delayed Supply	
0 ↕ Precast vs. Cast in Place culverts	
0 ↕ Bridge Maintenance - partnership with MnDOT	
Construction/Materials (1)	+
Maintenance Operations (24)	+
Materials and Construction (6)	+
Pavement (1)	+
Policy and Planning (15)	+
Traffic and Safety (9)	+

Full Details

Load Posting Implements of Husbandry and Emergency Vehicles for Minnesota's Local Bridge Inventory

AMC hosted a working group on IOH and there was a recent conference (Alexandria) on IOH. With approximately 15,000 local bridges, developing a representative screening approach for Minnesota's local bridge owners is needed to assure IOH vehicles are properly and consistently evaluated and load posted. Additionally, educational outreach materials are needed for farmers and bridge owners.

District	City	County	Total
1	1	4	5
2	1	8	9
3	6	8	14
4	3	7	10
M	39	14	53
6	5	10	15
7	2	12	14
8	2	3	5
Total	59	66	125

Voting Results

	Total	City	Cnty	Category	Idea
1	111	57	54	Materials & Construction	How to Minimize Reflective Cracking
2	107	58	49	Materials & Construction	Are Seal Coats Cost Effective?
3	100	75	25	Traffic & Safety	Traffic Calming Best Practices (Update)
4	98	47	51	Administration	Lack of Technicians
5	96	60	36	Materials & Construction	Best Practices for Turf Establishment
6	82	44	38	Policy & Planning	Ramifications of Reducing Speed Limits
7	79	45	34	Materials & Construction	Pavement Design - Which to use?
8	73	38	35	Policy & Planning	Pavement Management: What's New? - Leveraging AI
9	69	13	56	Maintenance Operations	Effect of using RAP on Gravel Roads
10	65	14	51	Maintenance & Operations	Sign Management Best Practices
11	63	37	26	Policy & Planning	Managing Utility Congestion in Limited Rights of Way
12	62	16	46	Maintenance & Operations	Best Practices to Deter Beavers, Muskrats and Other Animals from Obstructing Waterways
13	62		62	Policy & Planning	MN County Law Book
14	60	54	6	Environmental	Private Stormwater BMPs - Tracking, Maintenance, Education, & Enforcement
15	54	22	32	Policy & Planning	Quality of Work - Incentives vs. Disincentives

LRRB Summer Meeting

- Earlier this week the LRRB met, reviewed/discussed Need Statements, and...

RIC: 12
funded
projects

LRRB: 6
soliciting
proposals





- We need TAP members!
- Know a lot about the topic? Know very little about the topic but want to learn more? Both qualities make for excellent TAP members.
- Help shape the direction – express your interest using the QR code.



Upcoming LRRB - RIC Research Projects

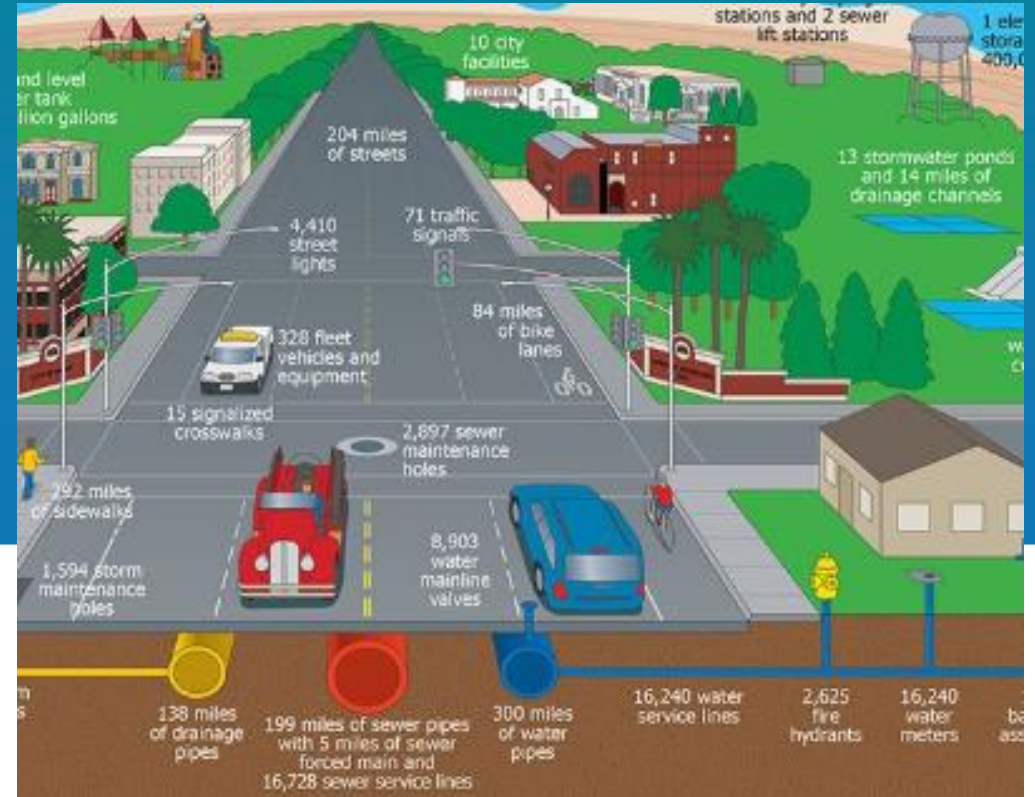


Need Statement	Total Votes	City Votes	Cnty Votes	Category	Idea
RIC1	111	57	54	Materials & Construction	How to Minimize Reflective Cracking
RIC2	100	75	25	Traffic & Safety	Traffic Calming Best Practices Update
RIC5	79	45	34	Materials & Construction	Pavement Design - Tools and Resources for Cities and Counties
RIC7	65	14	51	Maintenance & Operations	Software Platforms for Sign Management
RIC8	63	37	26	Policy & Planning	Managing Utility Congestion in and out of the Rights of Way
RIC9	62	16	46	Maintenance & Operations	Best Practices to Deter Beavers, Muskrats and Other Animals from Obstructing Waterways
RIC10	62		62	Policy & Planning	Development of a Minnesota County Transportation Law Book
RIC12	NA	NA	NA	Materials & Construction	Best Practices for Constructing Longitudinal Joints
RIC14	48	28	20	Traffic & Safety	Identify/Develop Smartphone Wayfinding Applications for Work Zones on the Local System
RIC16				Maintenance & Operations	Guardrail Replacement and Maintenance Guidelines (Update 2010 Resource)
RIC17	42	32	10	Multimodal	Best Practices for Multimodal Expansion on Rural and Urbanized Roadways
RIC19	37	14	23	Traffic & Safety	Guidance for Pavement Markings on Roadways with less than 6,000 Average Daily Traffic

Completed Project



Public Works 101



LRRB Project – PW 101

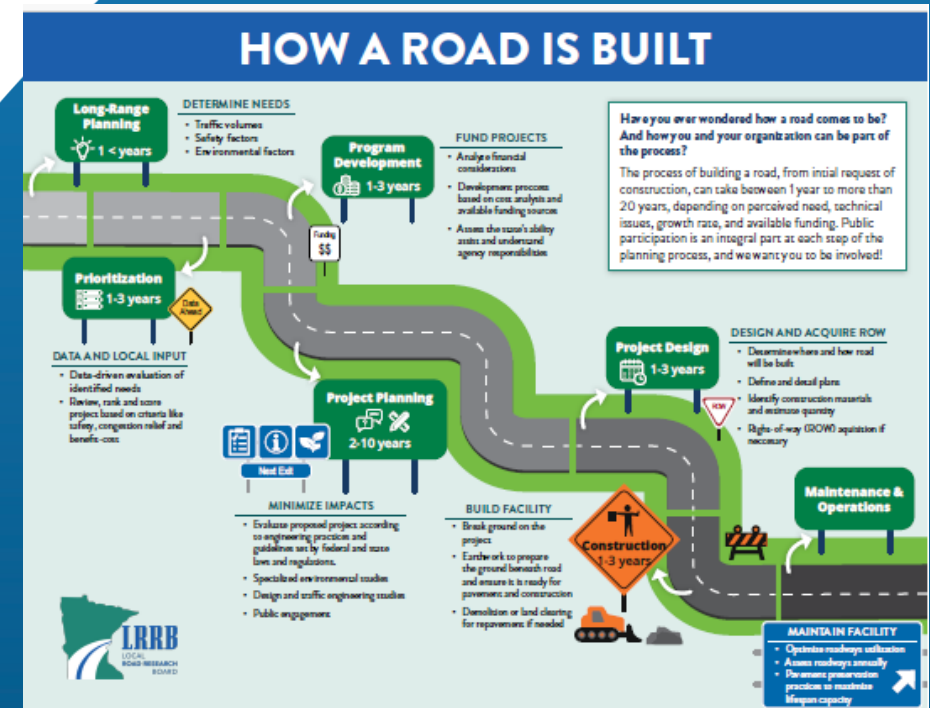
Project Purpose

- City/county engineers often need to explain (and justify) what they do (or do not do) and how long it takes to deliver a successful project.
- Resource to help in answer those questions
 - List of FAQs
 - Road Construction Project timeline

Technical Advisory Panel	
Will Manchester, Chair	Minnetonka
Aaron Kuznia	Chaska
Adam Nafstad	Albertville
Andy Brotzler	Prior Lake
Anthony Pirkl	LOTW County
Chris LaBounty	Maple Grove
Jenna Obernolte	Stewartville (SEH)
Jeremy Gilb	Chippewa County
Jessie Dehn	Brainerd
Ryan Thilges	Blue Earth County
Research Team	
Sue Miller	SRF
Steve Lund	
Lia Siro	

Deliverables

- **FAQs**
 - General Questions (11)
 - Construction Questions (13)
 - Operations and Maintenance Questions (12)
- **PPT Presentation**
 - Agency Facts (system)
 - Budgets/expenditures/funding
 - Maintenance practices/whys
 - Safety
 - Modes
- **Construction Timeline**
 - How a Road is Built
 - Maintenance Schedule



Deliverables

- **FAQs**
 - General Questions (11)
 - Construction Questions (13)
 - Operations/Maintenance Questions (12)

Winter Maintenance – Schedule

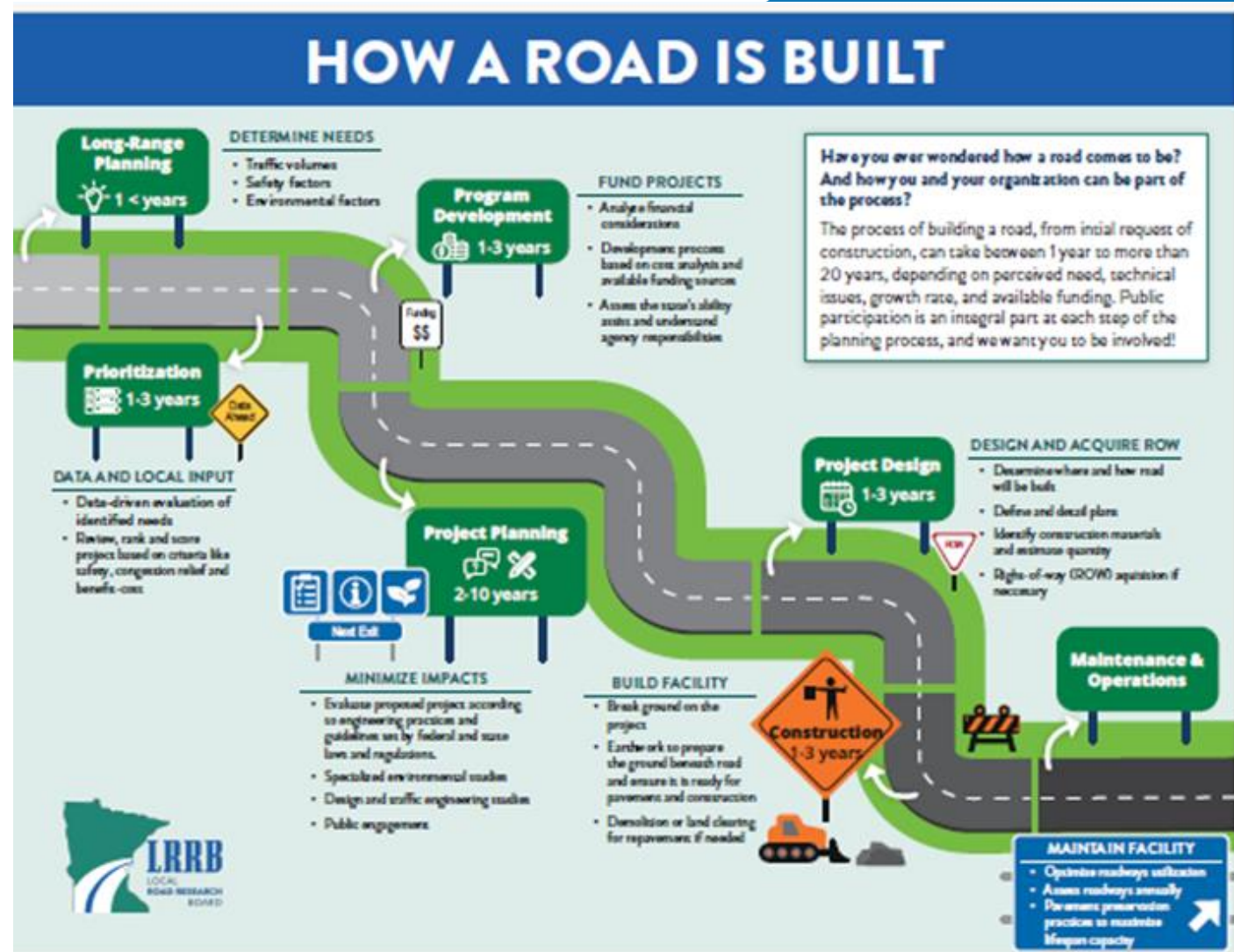
When do we plow snow?

Snow plowing operations are guided by policies and priorities to ensure public safety and efficient use of resources. The Public Works Department plow generally plow snow based on the severity of the storm and the traffic needs of the roadways including:

- **Snow Accumulation:** Snow plowing typically begins after snow has accumulated to a specific depth, often around 2-4 inches, or earlier in cases of heavy or continuous snowfall. The exact threshold can vary based on city or county policy, but most jurisdictions wait until there is enough snow to justify deploying plows, ensuring efficiency.
- **Storm Severity:** During heavy snowstorms, plowing may occur continuously, particularly on major roads, to prevent snow buildup, icy conditions, and drifting snow to ensure safe driving conditions. For lighter snowfalls, plowing is typically postponed until the storm has ended.
- **Priority Routes:** Major arterials, such as emergency routes and high-traffic streets, are plowed first to ensure critical infrastructure remains accessible. These are followed by residential streets and lower-traffic areas. In some areas, city or county crews also clear sidewalks, trails, and bike paths after roadways are addressed roadways.
- **Duration:** Snowplowing often starts in the early morning or late evening to minimize disruptions and ensure roads are safe for commuters. Heavy snowfall may require multiple rounds of plowing.

Deliverables

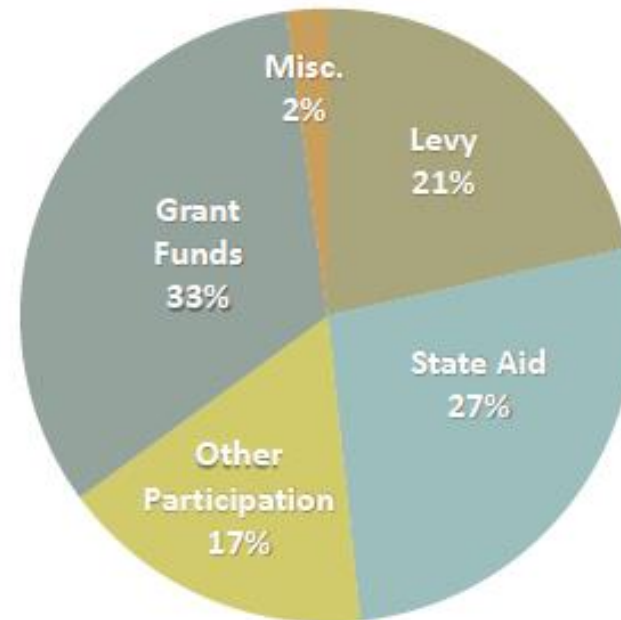
- **Construction Timeline**
 - How a Road is Built
 - Maintenance Schedule



Deliverables

- **PPT Presentation** (*customizable*)
 - Agency Facts (system)
 - Budgets/expenditures/funding
 - Maintenance practices/whys
 - Safety
 - Modes

Transportation Project Funding



Capitol Improvement Plan



Tools for Capital Improvement Planning

2025RIC03

May, 2025



LRRB Project – CIP

Project Purpose

- Investigate how are agencies using tools to track and report investment priorities and programmatic goals?
- What is being used or has been developed?
- Has there been integration to GIS mapping tools ?

Technical Advisory Panel	
Ryan Thilges, Chair	Blue Earth County
Andrew Witter	Sherburne County
Ben Johnson	Olmsted County
Brad Wentz	NDSU
Darin Mielke	Carver County
Jenna Obernolte	SEH - Stewartville
Jeremy Gilb	Chippewa County
Jessie Dehn	Brainerd
Ryan Thilges	Blue Earth County
Andrew Witter	Sherburne County
Justin Bergerson	Isanti County
Kevin Peterson	Washington County
Lyndon Robjent	Carver County
Matt Clark	Chaska
Paul Jurek	Bollig Inc
Justin Sorum	Clay County
Krysten Foster	Otter Tail County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Research Team	
Sue Miller	SRF
Lia Siro	
Brooke McInnes	

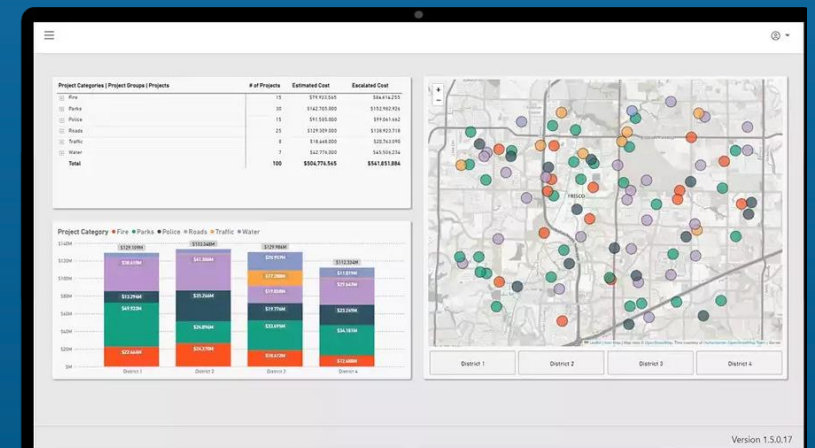
CIP Tools Identified and Evaluated

Vendor Name	Contact Information	Point of Contact
<u>Plan-It</u>	Phone: (952)994-1744 supprt@cipsoftware.com	Shaylan Hurley Chief Support Officer
<u>OpenGOV</u>	Phone: (650)336-7167 Email: pr@opengov.com cespinoza@opengov.com	Christina Espinoza Account Executive
<u>RTVision</u>	Phone: 612.799.0202 Email: marcr@rtvision.com	Marc Rood & Melissa Scherer Business Development
<u>ESRI</u> *	Phone: (651)454-0600	
<u>GRIT</u> *	Phone: (701)231-7767 Email: ndsu.ugpti@ndsu.edu Bradley.Wentz@ndsu.edu	Bradley Wentz Program Director



What was evaluated

- **Cost & Licensing** – how are fees are structured (e.g., per user, per agency, annual subscriptions)
- **Support & Training Costs** (onboarding, support, and software updates)
- **Geospatial & GIS Integration** (internal vs integration of other mapping tools (e.g., ArcGIS). how is data visualized or exported.



ROW Acquisition



Right-of-Way Acquisition

Baseline Timeline

2025RIC05
June 2025



LRRB Project – ROW Acquisitions

Project Purpose

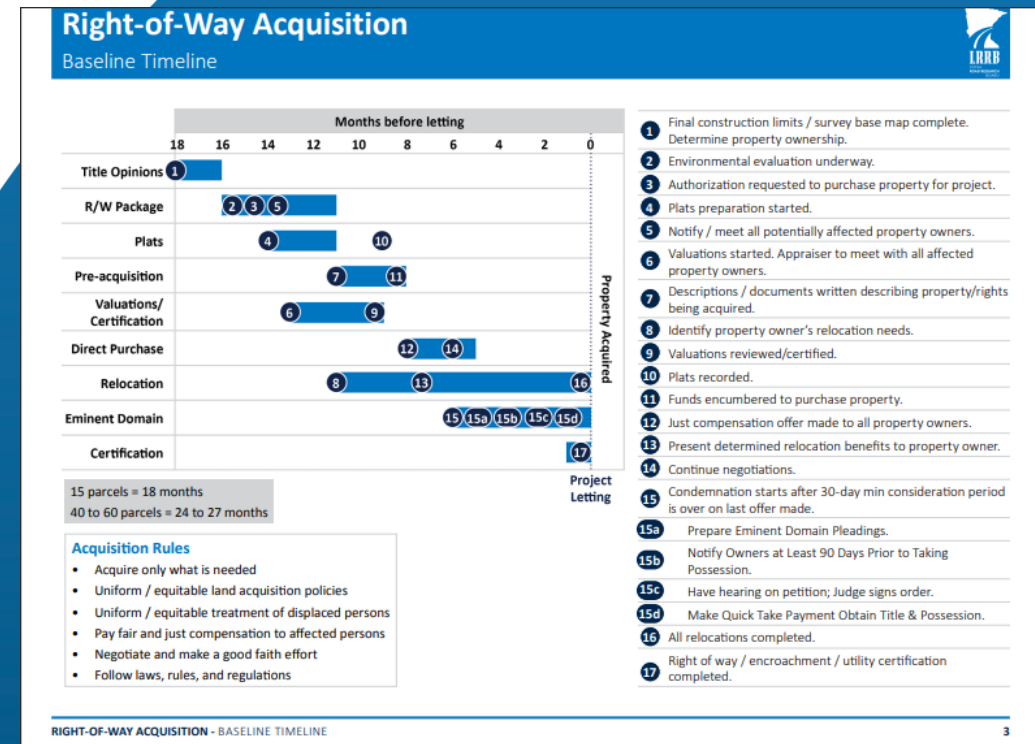
- ROW acquisition costs have risen sharply
 - In 2000 eminent domain compensation was 40% higher than average agency appraisal
 - In recent years 130%
- This project assembled seven adaptable resources to help city/county engineers manage risks, anticipate costs, and improve project coordination.

Note: While some challenges require legal reform, these tools focus on practical steps agencies can take to reduce delays, avoid conflict and build trust with property owners

Technical Advisory Panel	
Ryan Thilges, Chair	Blue Earth County
Jack Hermer	Blue Earth County
Lyndon Robjent	Carver County
Patrick Lambert	Carver County
Rick Sheridan	Hennepin County
Jeremy Douglas	Olmsted County
Seth Greenwood	Nicollet County
Joel Hawbaker	Nicollet County
Jodi Teich	Stearns County
Mike Decker	Stearns County
Research Team	
Sue Miller	SRF
Lia Siro	
Brooke McInnes	

Deliverables

- Property Owner Guidebook
- Staff Frequently Asked Questions
- Procedures Checklist
- Process Tracker
- Process Timeline
- Minimal Determination Amount (MDA) Informational Sheet
- Landowner Notification Template Letters
 - Initial Notification
 - Intent to Purchase
 - Minimum Damage Acquisition (MDA)
 - Temporary Easement
 - Right of Entry Request
- ROW Process & Timeline Baseline



Commercial Drivers License CDLs



LRRB Project – CDLs

Project Purpose

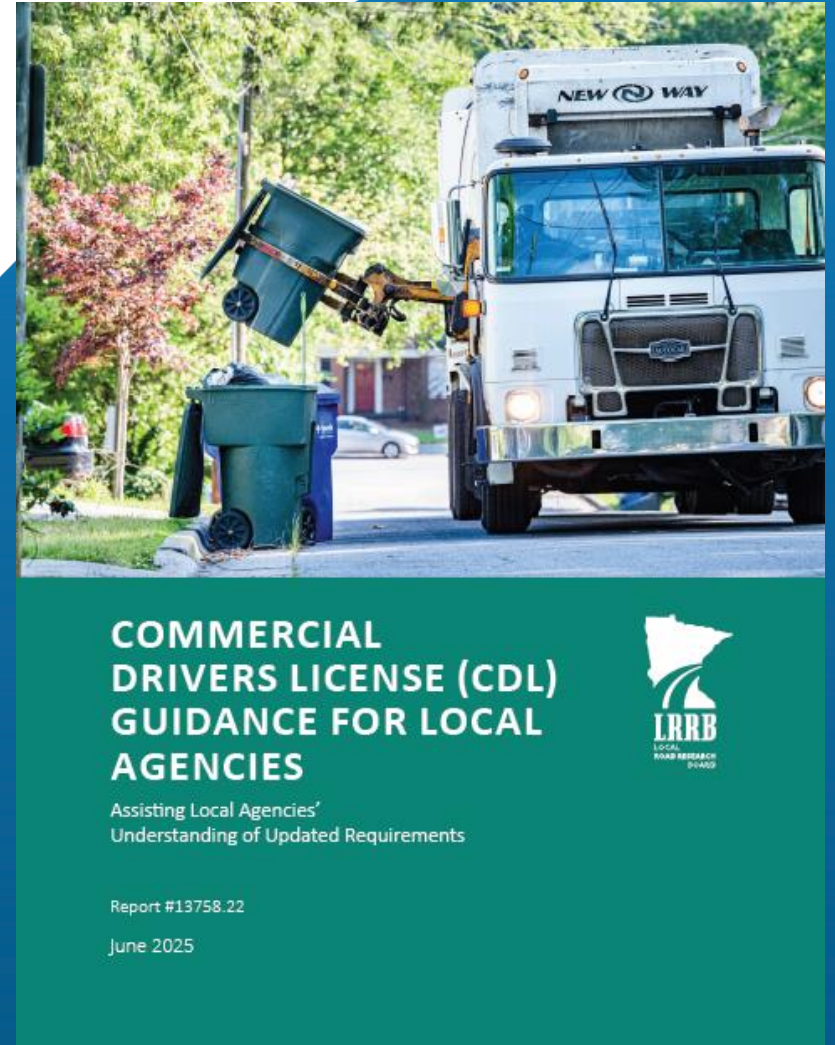
- Summarize skills and knowledge areas necessary to become CDL certified
- Requirements to become a Certified Training Provider
- Identify resources that provide contracted training
- Local Agency Survey

Technical Advisory Panel	
Mark Ray, Chair	Burnsville
Mindy Carlson, Chair	CTS, Mn LTAP
Chris Byrd	Benton County
Chad Wilde	Blue Earth County
Jeremy Gilb	Chippewa County
Ross Biebl	Cloquet
Josh Peterson (TL)	Coon Rapids
Ross Tracy	Coon Rapids
Andrew Wrucke	CTS – MN-LTAP
Tim Plath	Eagan
Tim Kieffer	Golden Valley
Pat McGrath	Grant County
Justin Bergerson	Isanti County
Cole Rossow	Jackson County
Dave Tiegs	LeSuer County
Dan Fischer	Mankato
Caleb Peterson	Mcleod County
Hannah Tjoflat	Mcleod County HR
Tony Marshall	MnDOT
Brian Lillie	MnDOT D7
Sara Freese	MSP MAC
Bryan Boder	St. Louis County
Todd Larson	Stevens County
Research Team	
Rena Kuehl	SRF
Steve Lund	
Lia Siro	

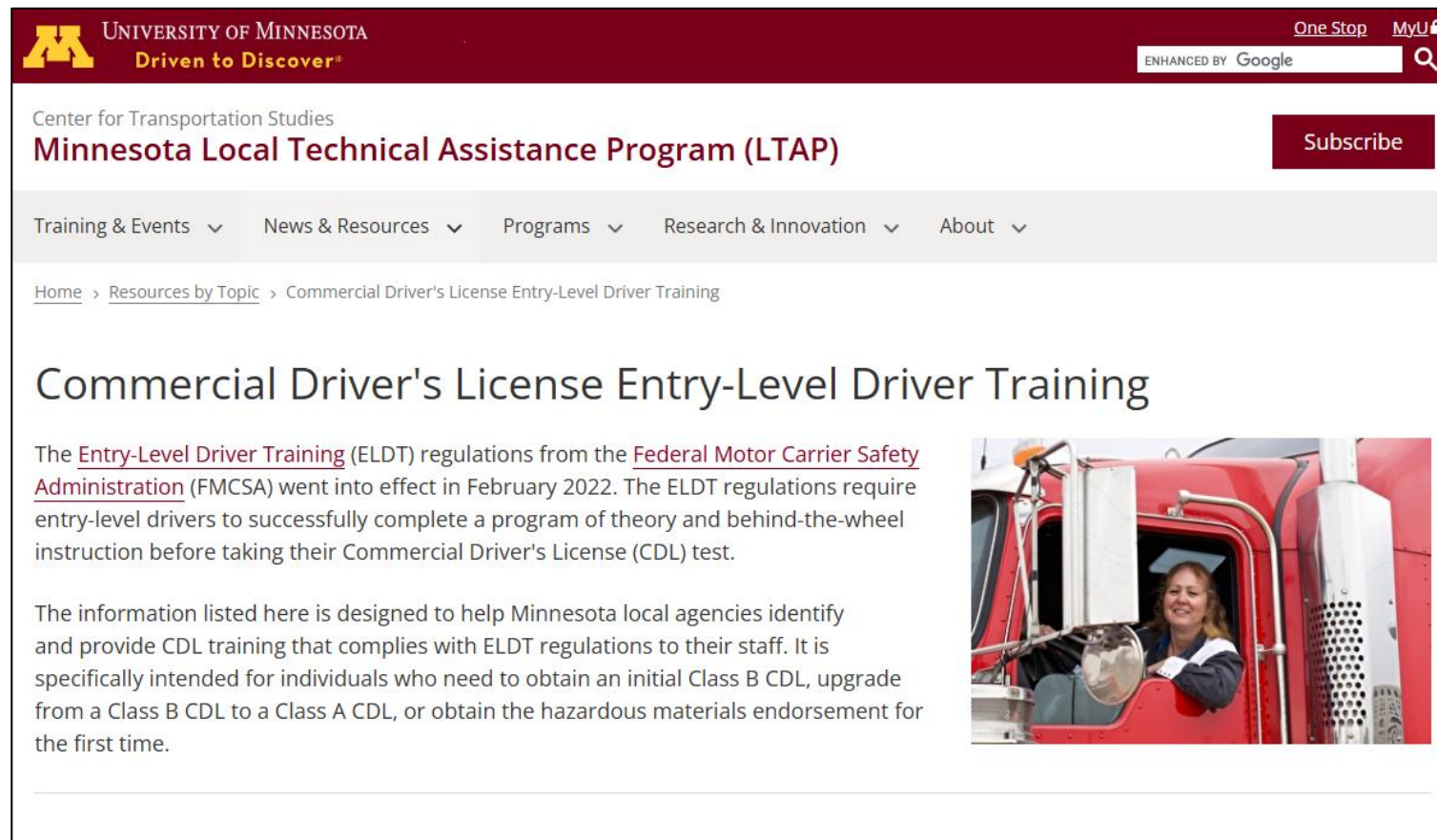
Deliverables

Two documents:

- CDL - Guidance for Local Agencies
 - FMCSA Standards
 - Training Resources
 - How to become a trainer
 - Summary of MN Survey
 - Existing Training (matrix)
 - Framework for developing an Internal Program
- CDL - Developing an In-House Training Course



MN CDL Clearinghouse - LTAP Website



The screenshot shows the website header with the University of Minnesota logo and "Driven to Discover" tagline. Navigation links include "One Stop" and "MyU". A search bar is present with "ENHANCED BY Google". The main content area features the "Center for Transportation Studies" and "Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)" with a "Subscribe" button. A navigation menu includes "Training & Events", "News & Resources", "Programs", "Research & Innovation", and "About". The breadcrumb trail is "Home > Resources by Topic > Commercial Driver's License Entry-Level Driver Training". The main heading is "Commercial Driver's License Entry-Level Driver Training". The text explains that the Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) went into effect in February 2022. It states that ELDT regulations require entry-level drivers to successfully complete a program of theory and behind-the-wheel instruction before taking their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) test. A second paragraph notes that the information is designed to help Minnesota local agencies identify and provide CDL training that complies with ELDT regulations to their staff, specifically for individuals who need to obtain an initial Class B CDL, upgrade from a Class B CDL to a Class A CDL, or obtain the hazardous materials endorsement for the first time. An image of a woman in a graduation cap and gown sitting in the driver's seat of a red truck is shown on the right side of the page.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

One Stop MyU

ENHANCED BY Google

Center for Transportation Studies
Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) [Subscribe](#)


Training & Events ▾ News & Resources ▾ Programs ▾ Research & Innovation ▾ About ▾

Home > Resources by Topic > Commercial Driver's License Entry-Level Driver Training

Commercial Driver's License Entry-Level Driver Training

The Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) went into effect in February 2022. The ELDT regulations require entry-level drivers to successfully complete a program of theory and behind-the-wheel instruction before taking their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) test.

The information listed here is designed to help Minnesota local agencies identify and provide CDL training that complies with ELDT regulations to their staff. It is specifically intended for individuals who need to obtain an initial Class B CDL, upgrade from a Class B CDL to a Class A CDL, or obtain the hazardous materials endorsement for the first time.



Research Implementation Committee (RIC)

Project Highlights

*MCEA Summer Conference
6/13/25*

Pedestrian Crossings

Need for Research

Many smaller towns and tribal communities are bisected by higher speed (>45mph) roadways, making it challenging to cross

Scope

Create a comprehensive overview of pedestrian crossings for both pedestrians and drivers


Deliverable

Resource Guidebook







Table of Contents



Minnesota
Pedestrian Crossing
Laws



Summary of Data
Collection and Research
















Implementation
Resources


Acknowledgments

Appendix

MN Statutes – Driver/Vehicle Related


Short Version of Laws (Click for full language)	Relevant To
Drivers shall stop to yield to peds crossing the road within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk	 
When vehicles stop at a marked crosswalk or intersection with no marked crosswalk for peds, approaching drivers from the rear shall not pass the stopped vehicle	 
Drivers of vehicles shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian on any road	
Vehicles shall yield to peds lawfully within the intersection or adjacent crosswalk when this signal is exhibited	 
Vehicles shall yield to peds lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk	 
Vehicles facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow must not enter the intersection	 
Vehicles shall stop before entering a crosswalk, and shall yield to peds	 

Summary of Data Collection and Research



Summary of Pedestrian Crossing Features or Treatments

- Signage/Markings/Signaling
- Road Geometry Change
- Surface Texture/Markings
- Landscape
- Other Less Common Practices



Data Collection

- Synthesis of relevant research reports and studies

Pedestrian Crossings

Project Coordinator: Dave Glycer, MnDOT Research

Technical Liaison: Jon Large, Mahnommen County

Technical Advisory Panel:

- Vic Lund, St. Louis County
- Joe Gustafson, Washington County
- Nick Sanford, Olmsted County
- Tom Prew, MnDOT State Aid
- Kristi Sebastian, FHWA
- Mark Wagner, MnDOT OTE
- Michael Bowman, White Earth
- Trudy Kordosky, MnDOT D4
- Nathan Gannon, MnDOT D4
- Jerilyn Swenson, MnDOT D4

Video

Determining Speed Limits on Municipal Roads

Need for Research

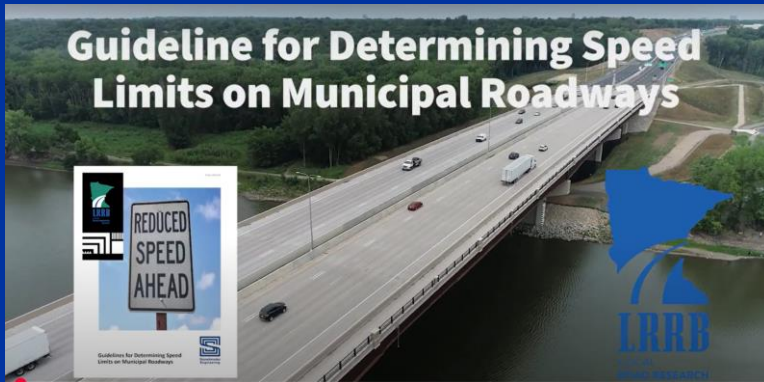
RIC members wanted a video capturing the highlights from the 2023RIC07 study

Scope

Create a short video summarizing the 2023RIC07 study

Deliverable

YouTube Video



Video

Determining Speed Limits on Municipal Roads

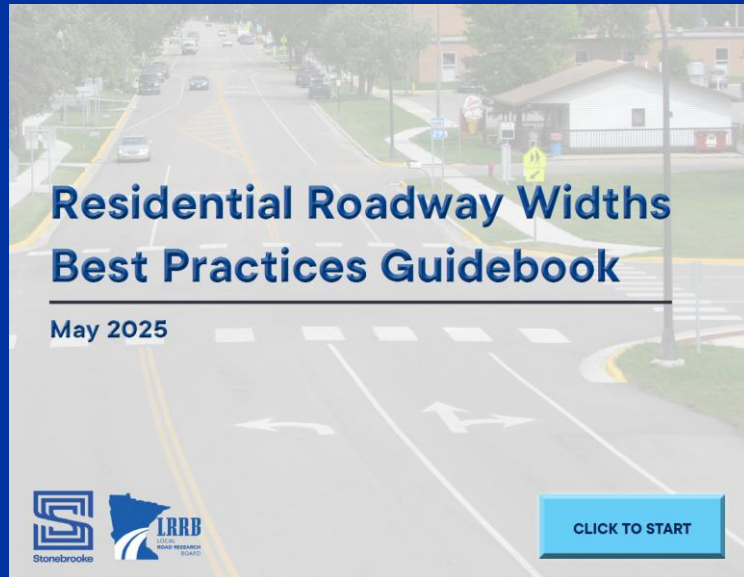
Project Coordinator: Marcus Bekele, MnDOT Research

Technical Liaison: Will Manchester, Minnetonka

Technical Advisory Panel:
Vic Lund, St. Louis County
Tim Plath, Eagan
Ken Johnson, MnDOT
Debra Heiser, St. Louis Park
Andrew Scipioni, Edina

“Close” to Final Projects

Residential Roadway Widths Best Practices Guidebook



DESIGN OVERVIEW
DESIGN ELEMENTS
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
RESOURCES

DESIGN SPEED*	LANE WIDTH*	SHOULDER WIDTH*	CURB REACTION DISTANCE	CLEAR ZONE	CROSS SLOPE*	SUPERELEVATION*
MAXIMUM GRADE*	PARKING LANE WIDTH	ROAD WIDTH - PARKING 1 SIDE	ROAD WIDTH - NO PARKING	SIDEWALK WIDTH (RESIDENTIAL)	SHARED USE PATH WIDTH	BICYCLE LANE WIDTH

Roadway design elements play a crucial role in ensuring safety, efficiency, and accessibility for all users. Properly designed roadways help accommodate various transportation modes while balancing factors such as vehicle speed, traffic volume, and surrounding land use. Achieving the right balance requires considering best practices that prioritize safety, mobility, and community context. This section presents agency standards or guidance for key design elements, a visualization of the design element, and general considerations for Residential/Urban areas.

Agency standards or guidance

AGENCY STANDARD OR GUIDANCE	UNIT (FT)
MNDOT State Aid Rules (RD 1100-1000-1001) 30-42 MPH	10 - 11
MNDOT Facility Design Guide	10 - 12
MNDOT Bicycle Design Manual	14
Iowa IURAI (Statewide Urban Design and Specifications)	10 - 12
2018 AASHTO Green Book*	10 - 11 Normal, 12 Industrial
NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) 2012 Urban Street Design Guide	10 - 11
MNDOT	See AASHTO
WISDOT	10 - 12
2020 Minnesota State Fire Code	-

*FHWA Consulting Criteria

DESIGN OVERVIEW
DESIGN ELEMENTS
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS
RESOURCES

DESIGN SPEED*	LANE WIDTH*	SHOULDER WIDTH*	CURB REACTION DISTANCE	CLEAR ZONE	CROSS SLOPE*	SUPERELEVATION*
MAXIMUM GRADE*	PARKING LANE WIDTH	ROAD WIDTH - PARKING 1 SIDE	ROAD WIDTH - NO PARKING	SIDEWALK WIDTH (RESIDENTIAL)	SHARED USE PATH WIDTH	BICYCLE LANE WIDTH

Visualization of the design element

General Considerations for Lane Widths for Residential/Urban Areas

Functional Context

- Consider 30-foot lanes for streets with design speeds < 35 mph.
- Use 10-foot lanes where moderate truck or bus volumes are expected or speeds approach 40-45 mph.

Safety & Crash Reduction

- Favor narrower lanes (30-11 ft) to reduce vehicle speeds and crash severity.
- Avoid excessive lane widths (>12 ft) in urban areas; wider lanes correlate with higher crash rates.
- Consider using 20-foot lanes even in retrofit situations to improve safety and operations.

Complete Streets & Multimodal Design

- Narrow lanes free up space for bike lanes, sidewalks, and medians.
- Narrow lanes shorten pedestrian crossing distances and improve visibility.
- Prioritize active transportation in residential and mixed-use areas.

Design Flexibility & Context Sensitivity

- Use engineering judgment to adjust lane widths based on:
 - o Roadway classification
 - o Traffic mix (cars, trucks, buses)
 - o Non-motorized user presence
 - o Adjacent land use
 - o ROW constraints

Capacity & Operations

- Lane widths >30 feet do not increase capacity on urban streets, avoid over-designing.
- Only consider >30-foot lanes with caution; they may reduce vehicle throughput.

Environmental & Urban Design Impacts

- Narrow lanes promote traffic calming, safety and better urban design outcomes.
- Avoid overdesigning in neighborhoods where wide lanes can degrade the pedestrian realm and reduce safety.

General considerations

Definitions

14

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◀
▶

Definitions

12

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◀
▶

“Close” to Final Projects

Rules & Guidelines for Prescriptive Right of Way

Prescriptive Right of Way FAQ
2025RIC04

Right of Way

A right-of-way is an easement that grants an entity or individual the legal right to pass through or use another person's land for a specific purpose, such as transportation or utilities. ROW can be public (e.g., streets, highways) or private (e.g., driveways).

Easement

An easement is a legal interest in land that allows a person or entity to use another's property for a specific purpose without owning it. Easements can be created by agreement, dedication, or through prolonged use.

Prescriptive Easement

A prescriptive easement is established through continuous, open, and unauthorized use of another's land for a statutory period (15 years in Minnesota). The use must be visible, uninterrupted, and without the landowner's explicit permission.

Statutory Easement

A statutory user easement is an easement obtained under Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. §160.05) through six years of continuous public use and maintenance by a road authority. This differs from a prescriptive easement, which requires a longer period of unauthorized use.

Fee Simple Title

Fee simple title is the most complete ownership of land, granting the owner full rights to use, transfer, or modify the property, subject only to applicable laws and regulations. Unlike easements, fee simple title represents full property ownership rather than a right of use.

What is the difference between easements acquired by prescription and “statutory user”?

- Prescriptive Easement:** Requires 15 years of continuous, open, and unauthorized use. Can be used by private or public parties to establish an easement. Conclusive existence of easement requires court decision. Types of easement are not limited to roads (e.g., pond, building, etc.)
- Statutory User Easement:** Requires only 6 years of continuous public use on a government road authority under Minnesota law. Can only be used for street and only by a road authority.

How can the limits/width of a statutory user road be determined?

Statutory user roads are limited to the width of the road as actually used and main depends upon historical use, which may include:

- Traveled path:** main roadway for vehicles/pedestrians
- Shoulders and sidewalks:** adjacent spaces used for safety and access
- Drainage ditches:** necessary for water runoff management and lateral support road
- Utility corridors:** space used for water, sewer, gas, and communication lines
- Snow storage areas:** areas historically used for snow storage
- Roadside mowing and vegetation management:** ensuring visibility and safety
- Lighting and signage:** traffic control and safety measures

Can a statutory user road be used for multi-modal transportation?

Under Minn. Stat. §237.162 subd. 3, multi-modal use (bicycles, pedestrians, transit) is allowed. Once a highway easement is created by statutory user, that easement can be used for multi-modal use, you want to consider:

- Safety evaluations
- Consideration of public accessibility
- Compliance with local regulations

Other Ways Roads Are Dedicated

Roads can be dedicated through:

- Plat dedication** (when streets are included in a subdivision plat) Minn. Stat. §505.01
- Direct Purchase** (A straightforward, negotiated transaction to acquire road easement or fee title, with appraisal and recorded deed.) Minn. Stat. §412.211
- Eminent domain** (government acquisition for public use with compensation) Minn. Stat. §117
- Common law dedication** (landowner's intent and public acceptance over time)
- Dedication by ordinance** (local government decision to establish a public road on land that the local government already owns)
- Gift or devise** (landowner either donating or selling fee title or an easement for a public road) Minn. Stat. §465.03
- Annexation or consolidation** (road ownership transfers as municipal boundaries change) Minn. Stats. §164.14 and §414.038
- Cartways** (providing access to landlocked properties under Minn. Stats. §164.08 and §435.37
- County or State Reversion/Transfer**

How was this Road Established?

```

    graph TD
      Q1{Is there recorded evidence of an easement in the count land records?}
      Q2{Is there an executed but unrecorded easement in City/County/Town files?}
      Q3{Are there records of a Township proceeding under MS.164.07?}
      Q4{Has the road been used and maintained as a public road for 6 or more continuous years?}
      Q5{Is there evidence of Common Law dedication? Evidence that owner intentionally and voluntarily offered land for public use, which was accepted by public or local government?}
      Q6{Did the first repairs (beginning of 6-year period) commence after August 1, 2020?}
      Q7{Was the notice in MS.160.05.(b) provided to owners?}
      A1[• Dedicated in plat - MS. 505 - and not subsequently vacated.  
• Easement instrument or deed conveying easement  
• Final certificate in condemnation MS.117]
      A2[Consult City/County/Township Attorney]
      A3[Consult Township Attorney]
      A4[Collect evidence and Consult City/County/Township Attorney]
      A5[Collect all maintenance records (grading roadwork, repairs, mowing, snow removal) and consult City/ County/ Township Attorney]
      A6[Consult City/County/Township Attorney]

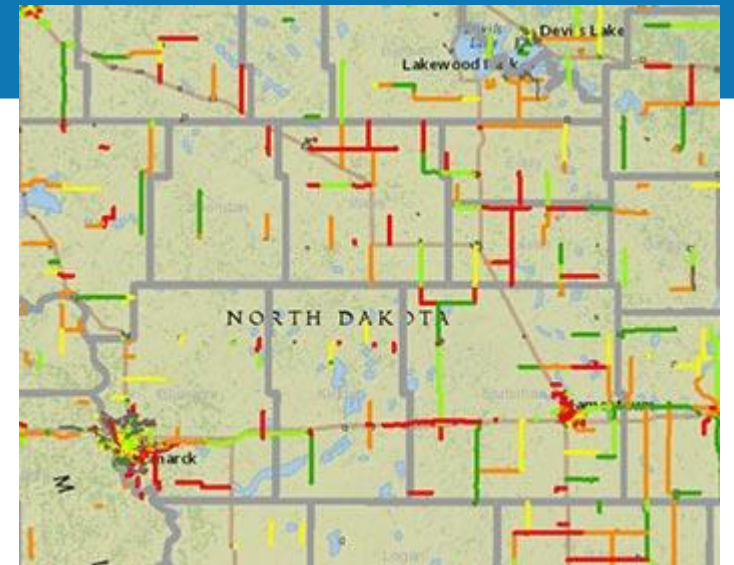
      Q1 -- No --> Q2
      Q1 -- Yes --> A1
      Q2 -- No --> Q3
      Q2 -- Yes --> A2
      Q3 -- No --> Q4
      Q3 -- Yes --> A3
      Q4 -- No --> Q5
      Q4 -- Yes --> Q6
      Q5 -- No --> A6
      Q5 -- Yes --> Q6
      Q6 -- No --> A5
      Q6 -- Yes --> A4
      A5 --> Q7
      A4 --> Q7
      Q7 -- No --> A6
      Q7 -- Yes --> A4
    
```

Thank You



Research Implementation Projects in Progress

Asset Management/GRIT



LRRB Project – Asset Mgmt

Project Purpose

- Develop a Pavement Lifecycle Tool
- Assist with implementation of GRIT:
 - Earlier [LRRB GRIT report](#) (MN pilot study)
 - MCEA Pavement Committee decision
 - Survey of MN counties
 - Develop FAQs
 - Develop videos (basic and how to's)

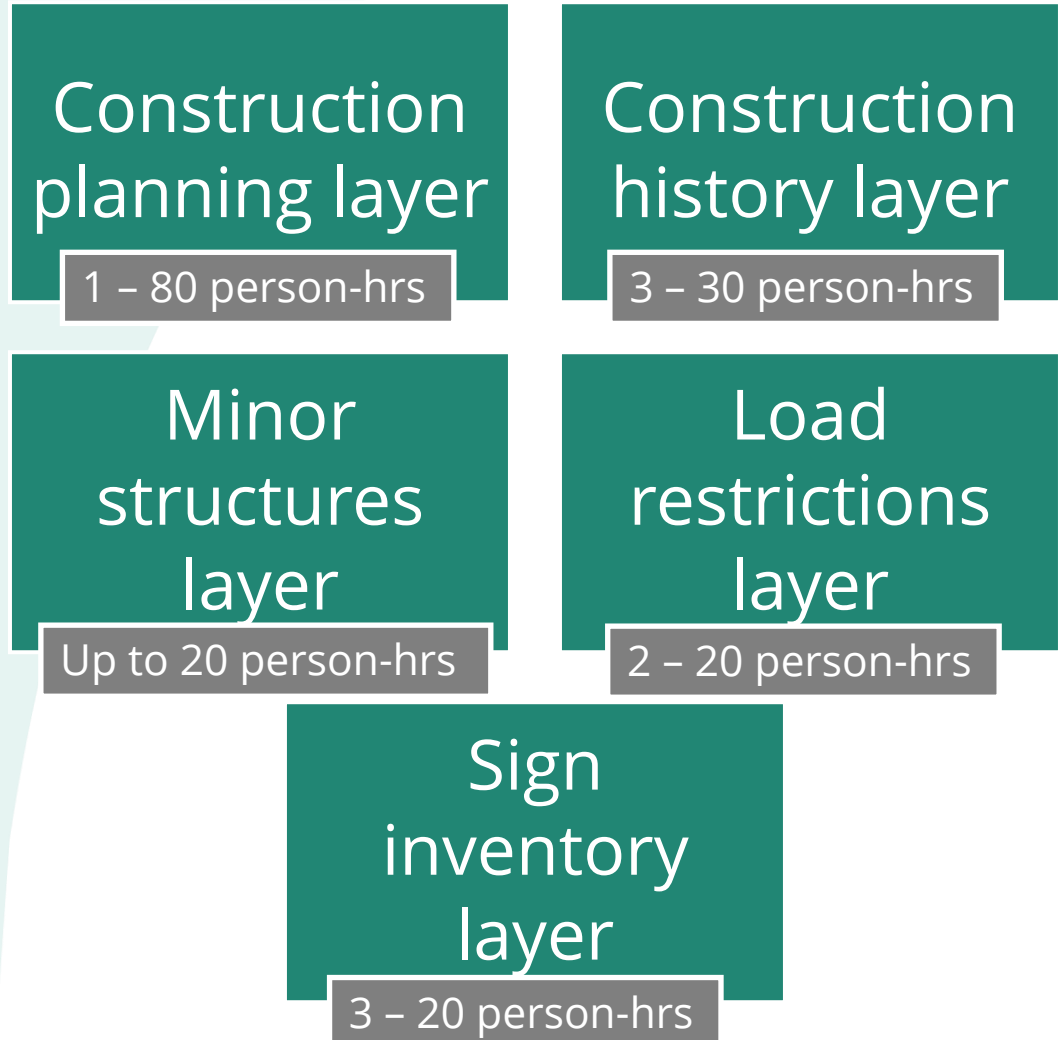
Technical Advisory Panel	
Bruce Hasbargen, Chair	Beltrami County
Lyndon Robjent	Carver County
Adam Nafstad	City of Albertville
Guy Kohlhofer	Dodge County
Todd Howard	Dakota County
Will Manchester	City of Minnetonka
Chris LaBounty	City of Maple Grove
Nick Peterson	City of St. Paul
Brad Wentz (UGPTI)	NDSU-UGPTI
Mel Odens	Kandiyohi County
Lon Aune	Marshal County
John Brunkhorst	McLeod County
Rich Sanders	Polk County
Brian Giese	Pope County
Kent Exner	Hutchinson
Steven Bot	St. Michael
Chad Hausmann	Wright County
Aaron Holmbeck	Nobles County
April Wellman	Faribault County
Jim Olson	Becker County
Adam Nafstad	City of Albertville
Research Team	
Mike Marti	SRF
Becky Alper	
Jimoku Salem	

LRRB Project – GRIT

How GRIT works

- Push pin method for adding/editing roadway segments/features
- User-friendly for non-GIS users
- Built on Google Maps with multiple viewing options:
 - Map view
 - Satellite imagery
 - Street view (where available)

GRIT's layers – Data Entry Survey Results

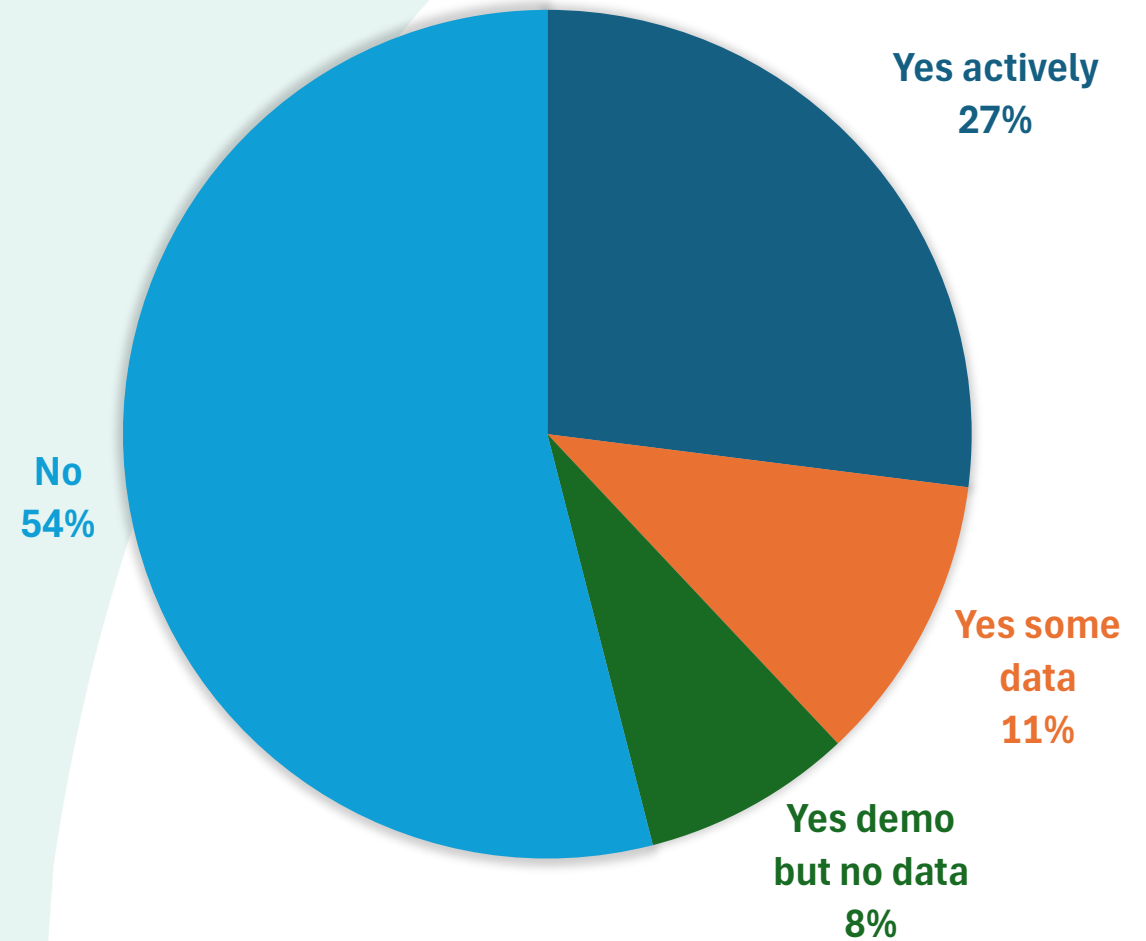


LRRB Project – GRIT

GRIT Use – Poll!



GRIT SURVEY RESULTS



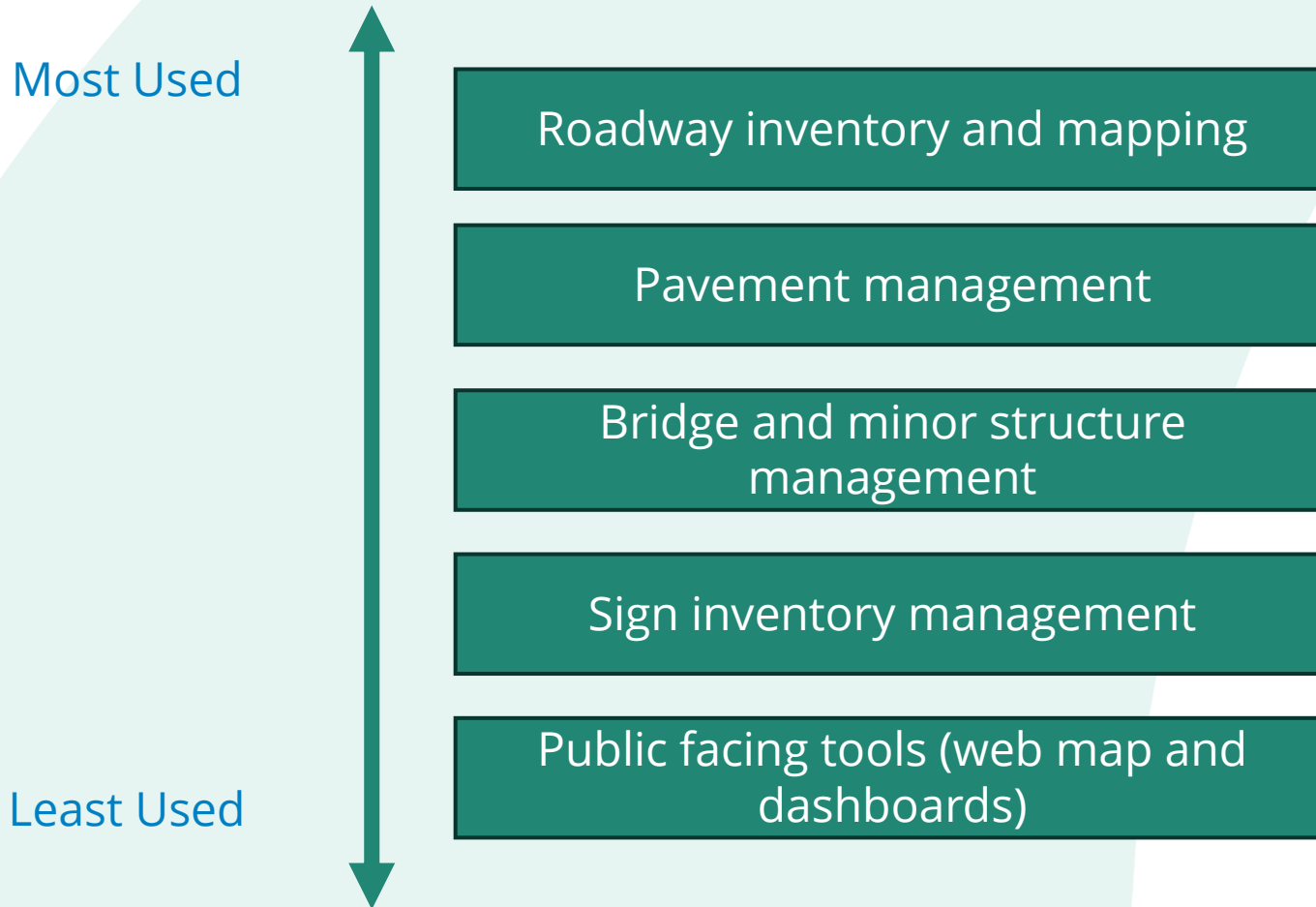
LRRB Project – GRIT

Survey Results

- Among those who use it:
 - Differentiation between people who use the data (decision makers) and people who enter the data (technicians)
 - Generally, they find it simple to use and helpful in management transportation assets
- Among those who don't use it:
 - Unfamiliarity
 - Desire for greater understanding
 - Not sure how to use

LRRB Project – GRIT

GRIT's Features – Survey Results



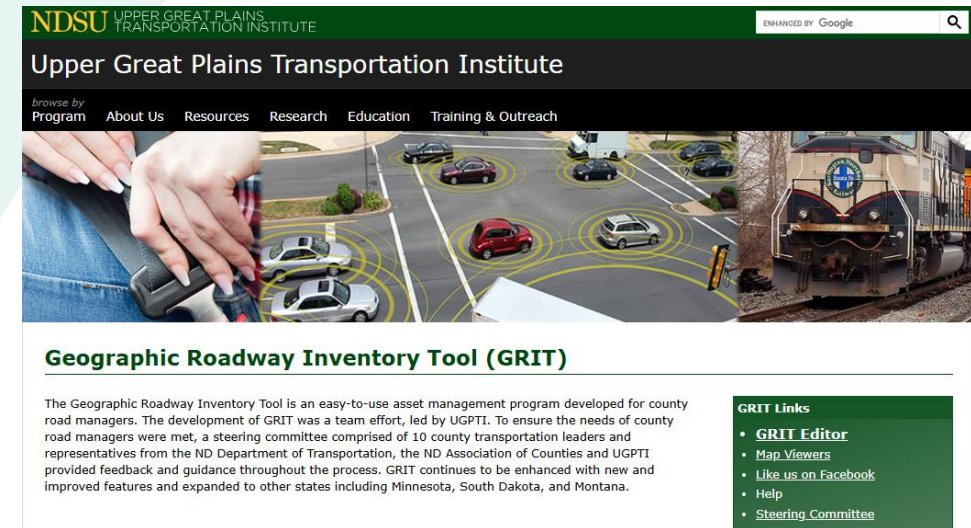
Poll – Possible Future Features



LRRB Project – GRIT

Videos that are being produced:

- Overview video (3 minutes):
 - What is GRIT?
 - Value proposition for counties
 - Overview of the different layers/functionality
- How to video (3-5 minutes):
 - How to get access and log in
 - Process to go more in depth with GRIT:
 - Who to go to for help
- How to use the outputs as a decision maker (3 minutes)
 - Goes deeper; focus on managing pavement
 - Interviewees: Brad Wentz, Aaron Holmbeck (Nobles), and Bruce Hasbargen (Beltrami), Brian Geise (Pope)



The screenshot shows the website for the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI). The header includes the NDSU logo and the text "UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Program", "About Us", "Resources", "Research", "Education", and "Training & Outreach". The main content area features a large image of a hand using a stylus on a tablet displaying a map with yellow circles around cars, and a train in the background. Below the image is the title "Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool (GRIT)" and a paragraph of text describing the tool. To the right of the text is a green box titled "GRIT Links" containing links for "GRIT Editor", "Map Viewers", "Like us on Facebook", "Help", and "Steering Committee".

Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool (GRIT)

The Geographic Roadway Inventory Tool is an easy-to-use asset management program developed for county road managers. The development of GRIT was a team effort, led by UGPTI. To ensure the needs of county road managers were met, a steering committee comprised of 10 county transportation leaders and representatives from the ND Department of Transportation, the ND Association of Counties and UGPTI provided feedback and guidance throughout the process. GRIT continues to be enhanced with new and improved features and expanded to other states including Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana.

GRIT Links

- [GRIT Editor](#)
- [Map Viewers](#)
- [Like us on Facebook](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Steering Committee](#)



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