

# DRIVING CHANGE

Move Minnesota policy leadership ushers in a new era of nation-leading climate action in Minnesota



## IMPACT REPORT

**Instead of endlessly expanding highways that divide our communities and pollute our air, more Minnesotans will be able to enjoy safe biking and walking connections or take fast, reliable public transit—thanks to a groundbreaking new climate law secured by the advocacy of Move Minnesota and Move Minnesota Action.**



### A Model for the Nation

Building on a decade of tireless relationship-building at the State Capitol, Move Minnesota and Move Minnesota Action worked directly with elected transit champions in 2023 to write a cutting-edge policy that will shift the type of roads we build and the way our communities develop to secure a safer climate future.

For the very first time, this policy requires the state and Twin Cities region to turn Minnesota's established climate goals into action on transportation projects and land use plans in ways that reduce driving and greenhouse gas pollution. While Colorado made headlines as the first state to adopt a similar measure, Move Minnesota leveraged connections with advocates and experts nationwide to carefully craft a measure that goes beyond that initial policy to create a new blueprint for states across the country.

### Reducing Driving & Climate Pollution

Vehicle transportation is the largest source of climate pollution. But changing that isn't simply about individual choices—it's about shifting the systems that make us dependent on cars. For generations, highways and car-centric urban planning have fueled the climate crisis and created deep racial inequities in our communities. Thanks to years of advocacy, **Move Minnesota Action played a central role in drafting, advancing, and securing the votes for a nation-leading policy that will help set Minnesota on a new path.**

Transportation for America

How Minnesota set a national example in climate legislation

STREETSBLOG USA

Did Minnesota Just Release the Best Statewide Transportation Bill Yet?

Governing

For the people making government work.

How Minnesota's Transportation Bill Addresses Climate Change

**"With this bill we're putting in place a climate smart system for planning and evolving our transportation infrastructure."**



**Representative Larry Kraft**



## The policy reduces climate pollution by: **CURBING HIGHWAY EXPANSION**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation must now assess the climate impacts of new highway expansion projects and, if the project adds pollution, the agency must find ways to reduce or offset that pollution with transportation projects that give our communities more and better options to bike, walk, roll, and use public transit. These multimodal investments must benefit the communities experiencing harm, or historically disadvantaged communities, when possible. They must also ensure that new highway expansion projects support the state’s goal to reduce the number of miles Minnesotans travel in their cars.



## **CONNECTING URBAN PLANNING TO CLIMATE GOALS**

The Metropolitan Council—the Twin Cities’ regional planning organization—must now adopt land use and development guidelines that require more than 180 cities to stop engineering our lives around cars, and make sure the way our communities grow meets our state climate protection and driving reduction goals.

## **From Passage to Implementation**

In 2024, Move Minnesota Action, partners, and legislative champions are working to make sure this law delivers the impact we need for our families and our futures, including measures that would ensure smooth and effective implementation, and expand the law to all major highway projects, not just expansion projects.

## **A New Legacy for Minnesotans**

Climate change threatens the people and places we love, and our success in Minnesota is a strong reminder that solutions for a sustainable future are still readily available. With this new law in place, instead of sprawling development and isolated neighborhoods, our region will have more housing and businesses in places that are easily accessible and close to one another. Instead of continuing to stoke the climate crisis, Minnesotans will be healthier and more connected, traveling together toward a future where everyone can thrive.

Move Minnesota leads the movement for an equitable and sustainable transportation system that puts people first. We are passionate about connecting communities, ending the climate crisis, expanding access to jobs and resources, and improving daily life for Minnesotans of all ages, races, incomes, and abilities. Learn more at [movemn.org](http://movemn.org).

Move Minnesota Action is building the grassroots and political power necessary to transform transit in Minnesota. Launched in 2021 by Move Minnesota, we are growing our movement through effective organizing, issue education, and electoral advocacy. Learn more at [movemnation.org](http://movemnation.org)



## **WHY IT MATTERS TO MINNESOTANS**

*“As someone deeply concerned about the climate crisis, I’ve made driving a last resort—the bus is a big part of my daily transportation.”* Barbara N.

*“I’m young enough that I’m going to have to live in the climate-change-fueled future that we are creating right now with car dependency.”* Amethyst O.

*“Transit is safer than driving, and it’s better for the air and the earth. More people taking transit means a better chance we can begin to reverse the climate crisis.”* Karl S.

Minnesotans want healthy, affordable, and sustainable ways to get around—and they support policies that redirect resources to make it happen. A recent statewide poll from Move Minnesota found that **66% of respondents support improving transportation options by “using funding from the state and federal government which would otherwise go to highway expansion.”**

Analysis from RMI found that meeting Minnesota’s goal to reduce driving would result in an **average annual benefit of \$3.4 billion in collective economic savings for Minnesota families**—and meeting our state’s climate action goals could prevent \$82 billion in damages to industries ranging from agriculture to real estate.

