

Carbon Reduction Program information

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the CRP which provides federal funds for projects designed to reduce carbon emissions from surface transportation. The legislation also requires each state to develop a Carbon Reduction Strategy¹ (CRS) in consultation with MPOs to identify projects and strategies to support the reduction of transportation emissions. In Minnesota, the CRS was completed in November 2023 and submitted to FHWA for review and approval. MnDOT developed the Minnesota CRS in coordination with MPOs, ATPs, the public, transportation advocacy groups and other partners across Minnesota. Implementation of the CRS requires coordination among MnDOT and partner agencies.

The CRP provides Minnesota with approximately \$20.9 million annually over five years to fund projects that reduce carbon emissions from surface transportation. Program funding is distributed across the state, with some funds allocated proportionally based on population². MnDOT Districts, MPOs and ATPs will select projects to receive CRP funding.

Areas that receive funding will use a consistent set of criteria and scoring techniques detailed in this document to support prioritization and selection of projects. While the primary intent of the CRP is to advance projects that reduce carbon from the surface transportation sector, the Minnesota CRS also advances goals of equity, safety, transportation access and public health.

Eligible Project Types

There are many project types that can address the goals of the CRP and reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The Minnesota CRS prioritizes projects in three broad strategy categories: electrification, travel options and low carbon infrastructure and system management. Most of the projects identified in the CRS are eligible for CRP funding, with exceptions identified in the sections below.

Electrification

The primary goal of electrification projects is the decarbonization of the vehicle fleet in Minnesota. Electric vehicles (EVs) and other zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) are critical to achieving the carbon reduction goals set forward in the CRS because they can reduce transportation emissions for traveling

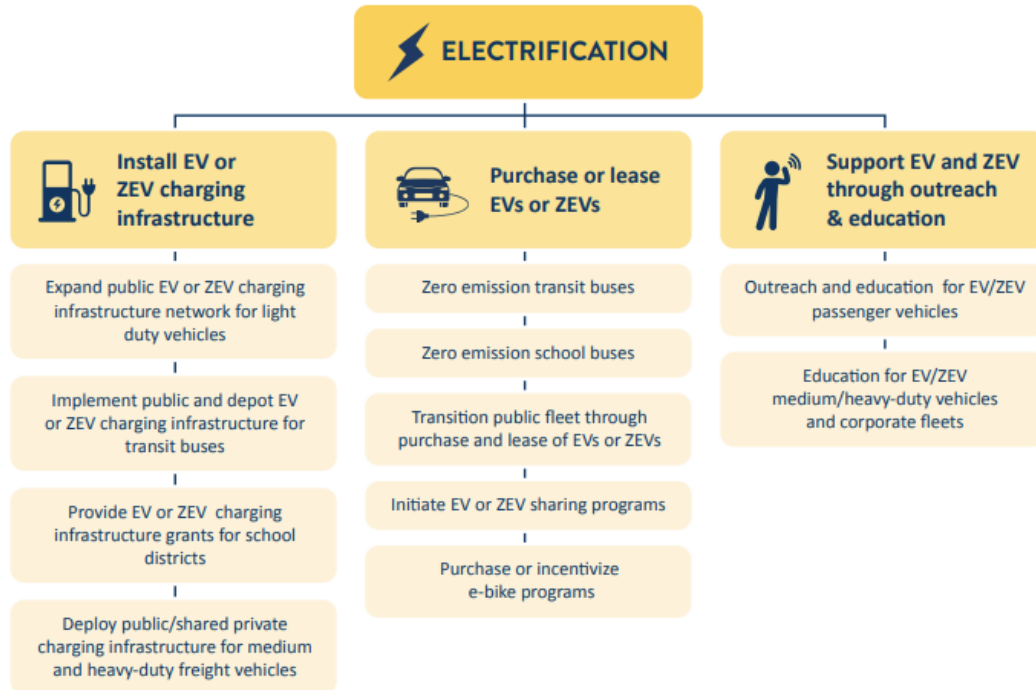
¹ “Carbon Reduction Strategy 2023”, https://edocs-public.dot.state.mn.us/edocs_public/DMResultSet/download?docId=36928262, MnDOT, (2023).

² Under federal law, within each state, 65% of CRP funds must be allocated to areas of the state in proportion to population size and 35% of CRP funds may be allocated in any area of the state (23 U.S.C. 175(e)).

that cannot be reduced or shifted to another mode. There are a wide range of electrification projects and projects that support EVs or ZEVs. Eligible projects can support three strategies in the CRS:

- Install EV or ZEV charging infrastructure.
- Purchase or leasing EVs or ZEVs.
- Support EV and ZEV adoption through outreach and education.

Figure 1: 2023 Minnesota CRS Electrification priority strategies and project types, MnDOT 2023³



Travel Options

Travel options projects reduce per-capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Reducing VMT supports achieving the carbon reduction goals set forward in the CRS because a reduction in per-capita VMT reduces per-capita transportation emissions. Eligible projects can support six strategies in the CRS:

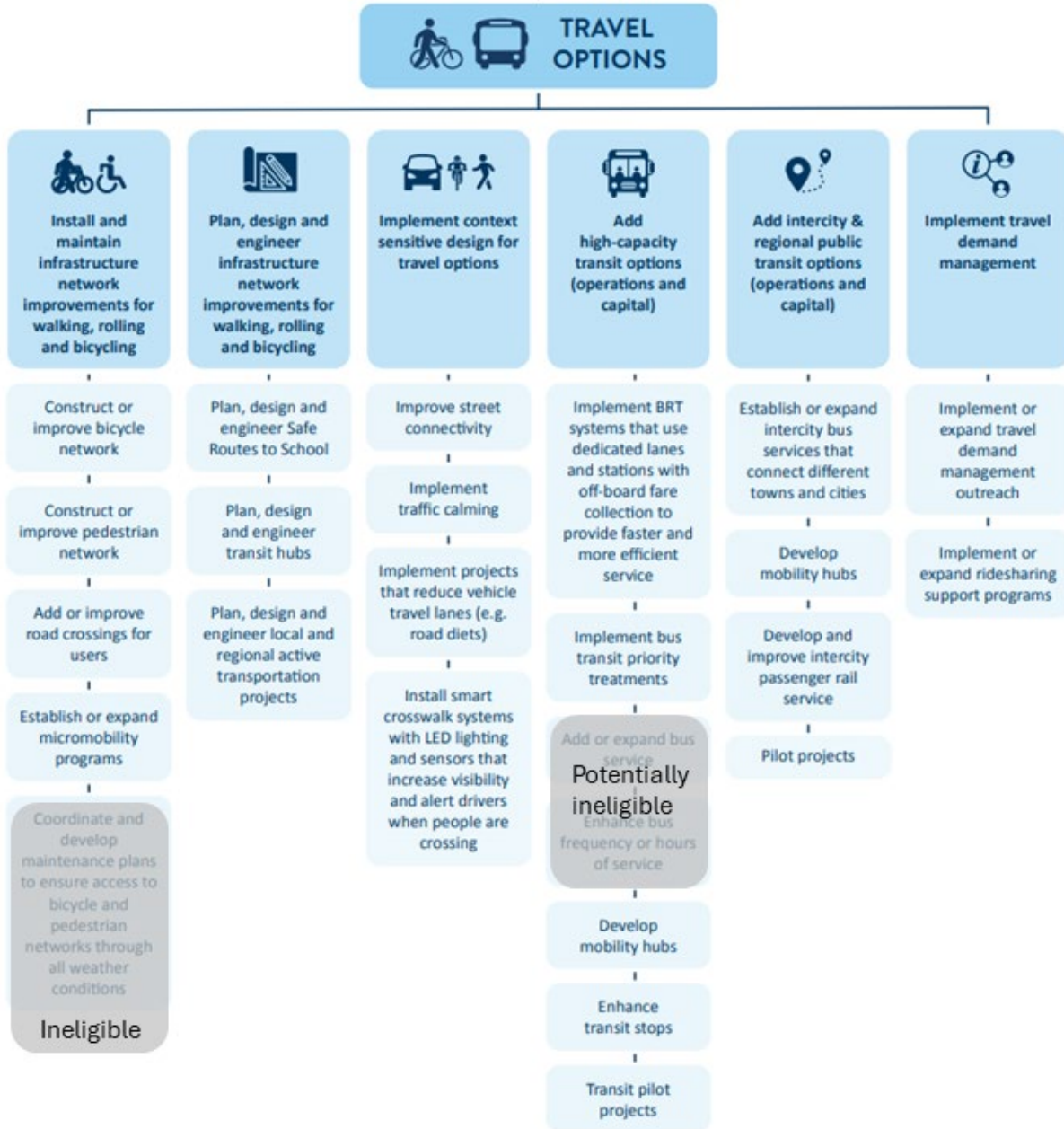
- Install and maintain infrastructure network improvements for walking, rolling and biking.
- Plan, design and engineer infrastructure network improvements for walking rolling and biking.
- Implement context sensitive design for travel options.
- Add high-capacity transit options.
- Add intercity and regional public transit options.
- Implement travel demand management.

³ “Carbon Reduction Strategy 2023”, MnDOT, (2023).

Figure 2: 2023 Minnesota CRS Travel Options priority strategies and project types,

MnDOT 2023

(CRP ineligible project types noted)⁴



⁴ “Carbon Reduction Strategy 2023”, MnDOT, (2023).

Low Carbon Infrastructure and System Management

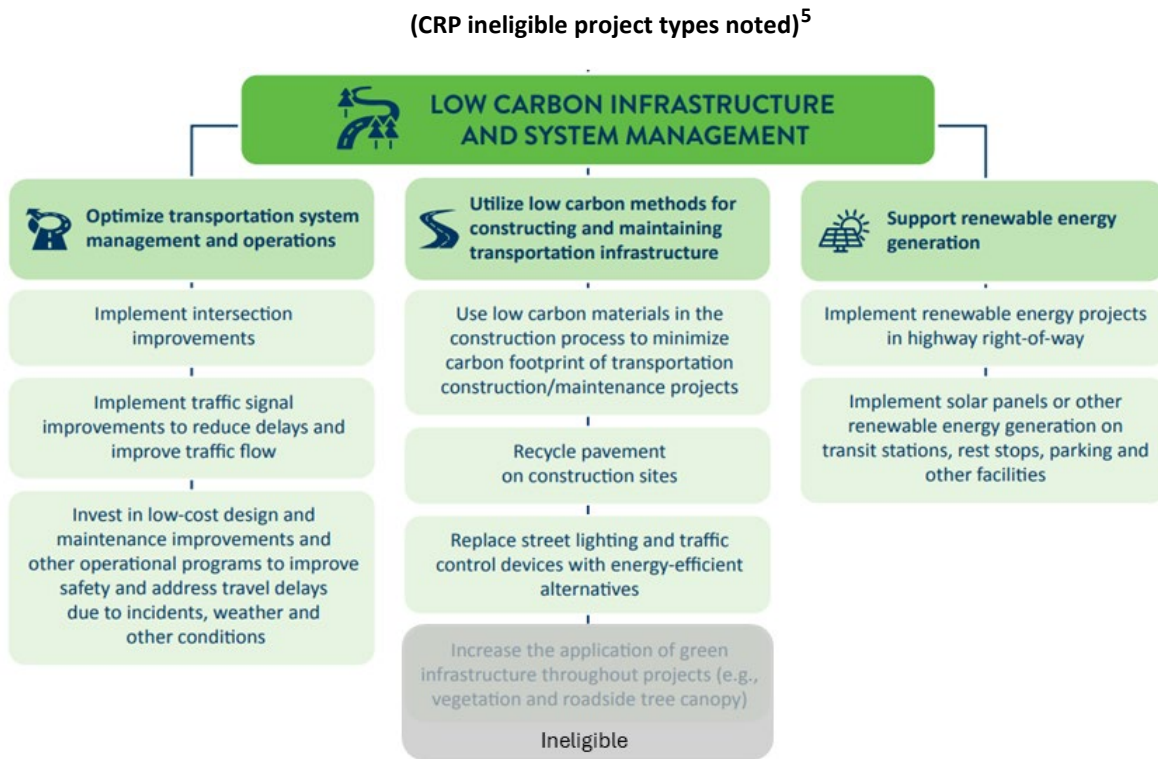
Low carbon and infrastructure system management projects reduce carbon emissions throughout the entire transportation process, from construction and maintenance of infrastructure to vehicle operations. These projects support the use of:

- Low carbon materials in project construction.
- Improving construction and maintenance practices.
- Reducing emissions associated with transportation infrastructure and vehicle operations.

Eligible projects can support three strategies in the CRS:

- Optimize transportation systems management and operations.
- Utilize low carbon methods for construction and maintenance of transportation infrastructure.
- Support renewable energy generation.

Figure 3: 2023 Minnesota CRS Low Carbon Infrastructure and System Management priority strategies and project types, MnDOT 2023



⁵ “Carbon Reduction Strategy 2023”, MnDOT, (2023).