Alexandria Area Transportation Study

Douglas County Comprehensive Plan - Transportation
January 14, 2010
Project Partners

- Mn/DOT
- Douglas County
- City of Alexandria
Study Process – Project Area

Study Area

Location Map

(Includes the city of Alexandria and adjacent areas)
Website Survey, County Fair, and Stakeholder Interviews

- An online web survey was developed to solicit input from interested individuals. Over 50 completed surveys were received.

- A booth was set up at the Douglas County Fair to collect input about the study area from residents and commuters.

- Approximately 15 stakeholders, representing major employers, interest groups, transportation users, etc. were interviewed to obtain input on transportation issues and concerns affecting the Alexandria area.
Vision

“Development of a balanced, multi-modal transportation system that enhances mobility, economic vitality, and facilitates the safe and efficient movement of people and goods…”

Transportation Goals

1. Develop an efficient, safe multi-modal transportation system
2. Support transportation improvements that promote mobility and accessibility
3. Develop a transportation system that promotes alternative modes of travel
4. Support transportation projects that promote economic development
5. Consider potential impacts to the surrounding physical and social environment
6. Promote jurisdictional coordination in addressing transportation needs
**Traffic Flow Description**

**SOURCE:** Highway Capacity Manual and WSB & Associates, Inc.

- **FREE FLOW**
  - Low volumes and no delays.

- **STABLE FLOW**
  - Low volumes and speeds dictated by travel conditions.

- **STABLE FLOW**
  - Low volumes and speeds dictated by travel conditions.

- **STABLE FLOW**
  - Low volumes and speeds dictated by travel conditions.

- **UNSTABLE FLOW**
  - Low speeds, considerable delays, and volumes at or slightly over capacity.

- **RESTRICTED FLOW**
  - Higher density traffic restricts maneuverability and volumes approaching capacity.

- **FORCED FLOW**
  - Very low speeds, volumes exceed capacity, and long delays with stop-and-go traffic.

**Existing Capacity Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Traffic Flow</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under</td>
<td>FREE FLOW</td>
<td>Low volumes and no delays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STABLE FLOW</td>
<td>Low volumes and speeds dictated by travel conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approaching</td>
<td>STABLE FLOW</td>
<td>Low volumes and speeds dictated by travel conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FORCED FLOW</td>
<td>Very low speeds, volumes exceed capacity, and long delays with stop-and-go traffic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Traffic Congestion**

- **Approaching-Capacity (green)**: 8.4 miles
- **At-Capacity (yellow)**: 0.8 miles
- **Over-Capacity (red)**: 0.0 miles
- **Total**: 9.2 miles
Existing Conditions – Crashes

Crash Data (2005 – 2007)

Dark areas indicate high frequency of crashes. TH 29 through town has a high crash rate.
The Alexandria area is projected to steadily increase in population as well as employment. Between 2006 and 2030, the population in the Study Area is projected to increase by over 7,900 (39 percent).
Future Conditions – Travel Demand Model

- Covers the greater Alexandria Area
- Used to forecast traffic based on population, employment, and transportation assumptions
- Tests effectiveness of roadway improvements to determine high priority projects

2020, or interim, forecasts were also developed to assist in programming improvements
**Future Conditions – Capacity Concerns**

**Future Capacity Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traffic Congestion</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approaching-Capacity (green)</td>
<td>8.4 mi</td>
<td>26.4 mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At-Capacity (yellow)</td>
<td>0.8 mi</td>
<td>9.3 mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over-Capacity (red)</td>
<td>0.0 mi</td>
<td>1.4 mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9.2 mi</td>
<td>37.1 mi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major areas of congestion include:

- TH 27 near I-94
- TH 29 (Nokomis) north of 3rd Avenue
- CSAH 46 & 23 east of Pioneer Road

Contributing factors to 2030 congestion levels include the addition of 7,910 people and 5,400 jobs from 2006 levels.
Subarea Analyses

1. I-94/ TH 29 Interchange and TH 29 South
2. 50th Avenue Extension
3. TH 29, north of 3rd Avenue
4. TH 29, north of McKay Avenue
5. Intersection of TH 29 with CSAH 42/ 13 near Carlos

Other modes of Transportation: Airport, Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrians
Public Involvement

Douglas County Fair

On-line Survey

Public Involvement

Newsletters

Alexandria Echo Press

Alexandria Area Transportation Study

Alexandria Area to Develop Comprehensive Transportation Plan

The Alexandria Echo Press, in cooperation with the Alexandria Area Transportation Study, is proud to announce the release of a comprehensive transportation plan for the city of Alexandria. The plan will be used to guide transportation decisions and investments in the city, helping to ensure that the transportation system meets the needs of all residents and supports the growth and development of the community.

Open House #1
(October 15, 2009)

Open House attendees listen to a presentation by the project team.

Boards set up around the room gave individuals an opportunity to review existing and future transportation conditions.

Website

www.dot.state.mn.us/d4/projects/alexstudy

 Alexandrina Area Transportation Study

Alexandria Area Transportation Study

The Alexandria Area Transportation Study is currently working on several transportation projects around the city of Alexandria. The projects include improving existing roadways, constructing new roads, and expanding public transportation options. The study will use data collected in surveys and interviews to inform decision-making about transportation projects.

Alexandria seeks ideas for down the road

Do you have ideas about how to make it easier to drive in and around Alexandria? Now is your chance to express your thoughts.

Do you have ideas about how to make it easier to drive in and around Alexandria?

The public is invited to the Alexandria Area Transportation Study open house on Thursday, October 15, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Alexandria City Council Chambers, 704 Broadway.
Committee comprised of approximately 15 individuals representing local agency and interest groups. Their purpose is to participate in the study process by providing local insight, project oversight, and guidance for the direction of the study.

Over the course of the study, the steering committee will meet three times. The first meeting will be January 28th, 2010.
Public Involvement

Schedule – Key Dates

• Origin-Destination Study
  ▪ To be conducted this spring
  ▪ Identify travel patterns

• 2nd Public Open House
  ▪ Spring 2010 – Potential Improvements

• 3rd Public Open House
  ▪ Summer 2010 – Final Plan

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