



MnDOT Overview

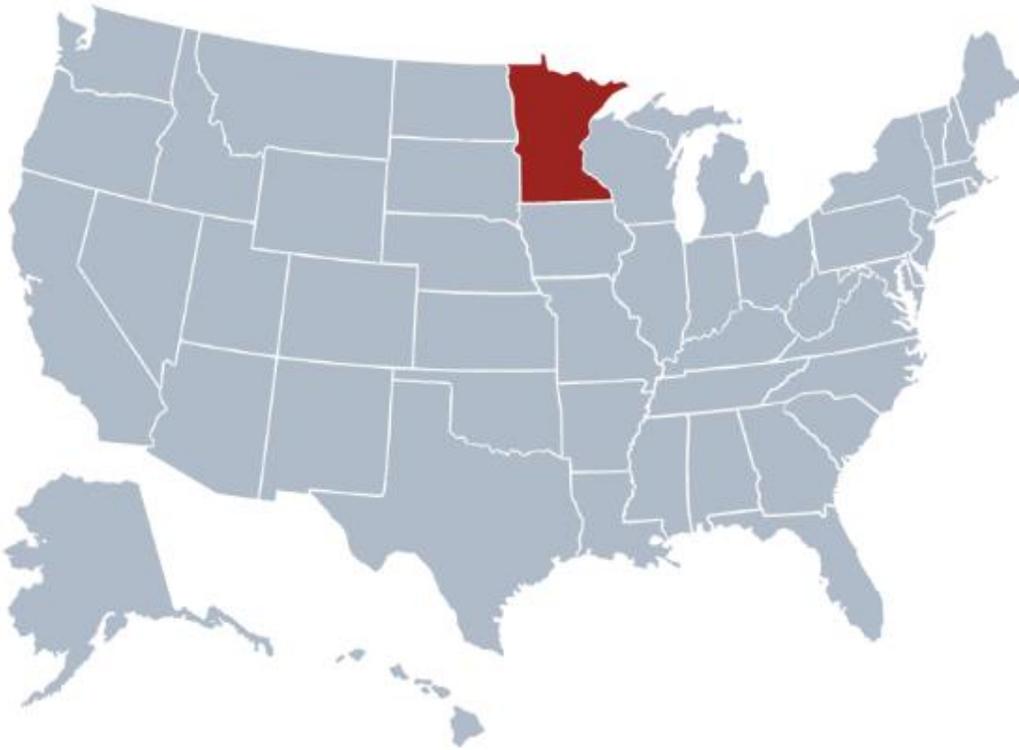
Richard Davis, Director

Public Engagement & Constituent Services

Minnesota Myths



The “real” Minnesota



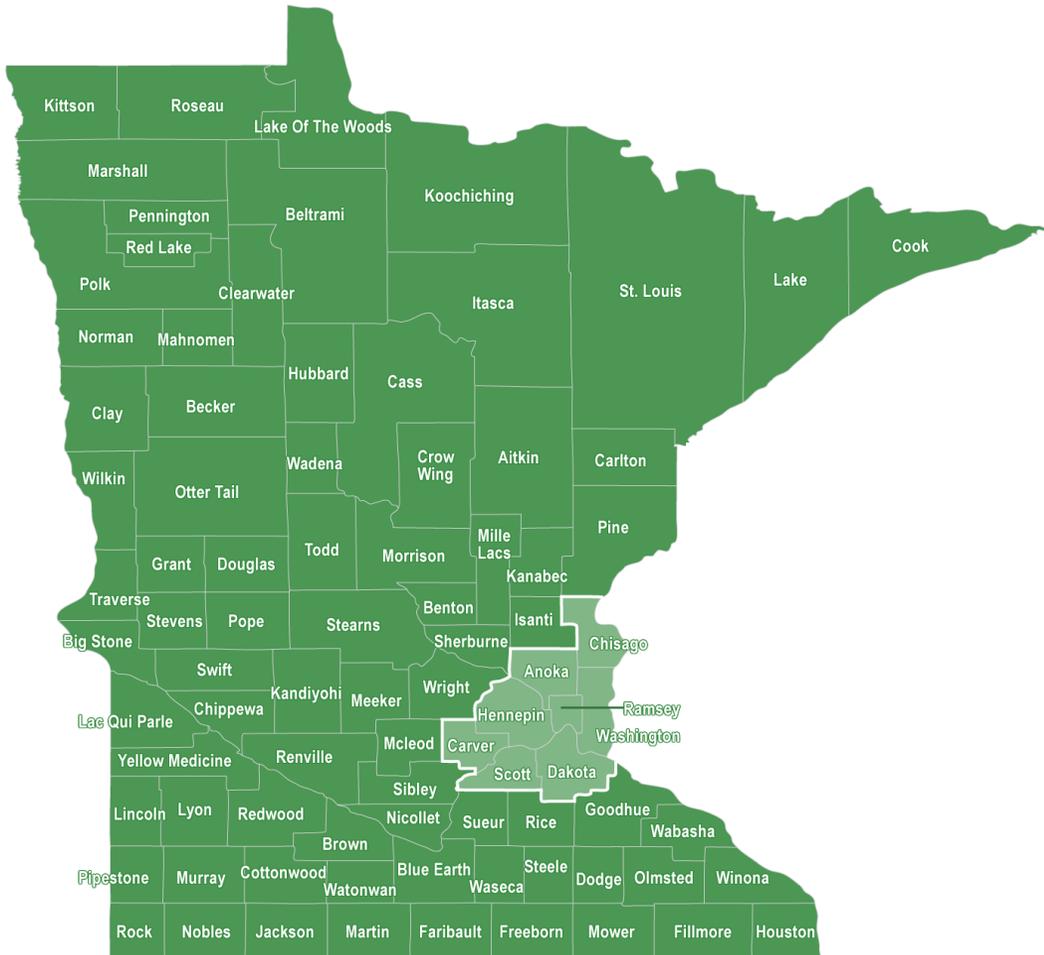
- 5.3 Million residents
 - Up 385K over last decade
 - Driven by people of color and non-natives
- 17% of residents racial minorities
 - Up from 12% decade earlier
- Largest Somali community in U.S.
- 2nd largest Hmong population in U.S.
- Eleven (11) distinct Native American communities
- Highest voter turnout in 2016 election
- 50% of population ages 25 to 64 with post-secondary degree
- Ranked top 5 in civic engagement*
 - * Source: www.wallethub.com “2017 Most Patriotic States in America”

The Future of Minnesota



- Becoming more and more diverse
- One of 7 states with increased number of undocumented immigrants
- More than 80 languages spoken across state
- Heightened awareness and sensitivity to issues re: equity

Greater Minnesota vs. Twin Cities



- Greater MN vs. Metro divide

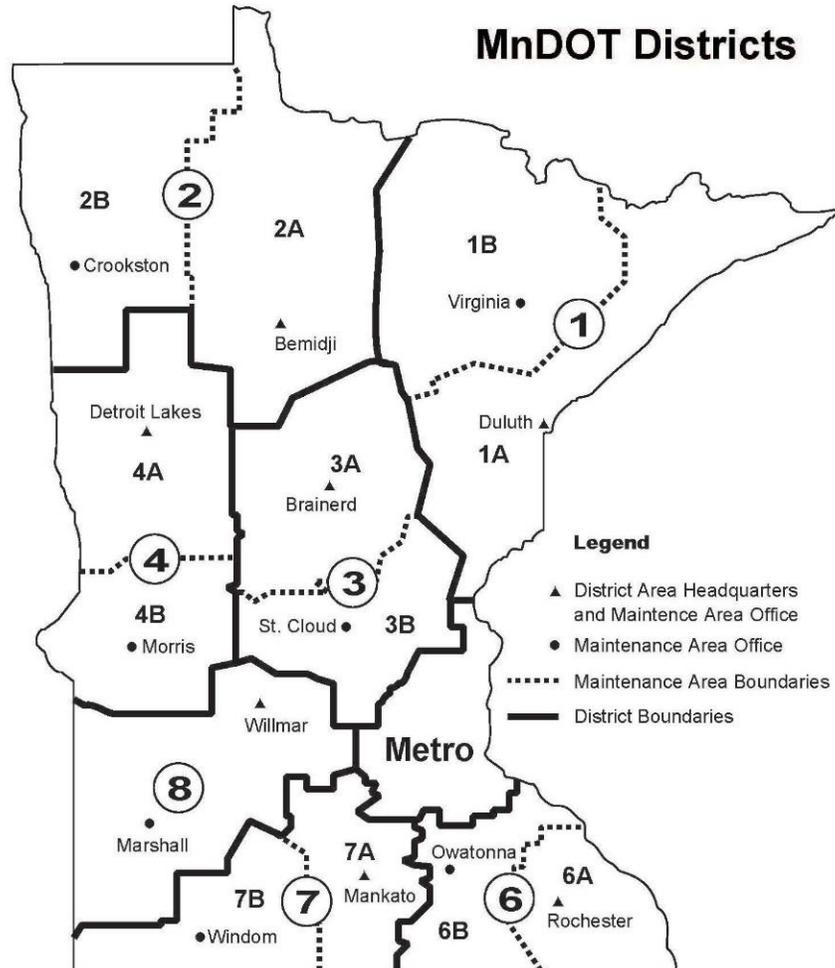
- Transportation Funding
- Political representation
- Economic priorities
- Demographics

- Different thoughts about transportation modes

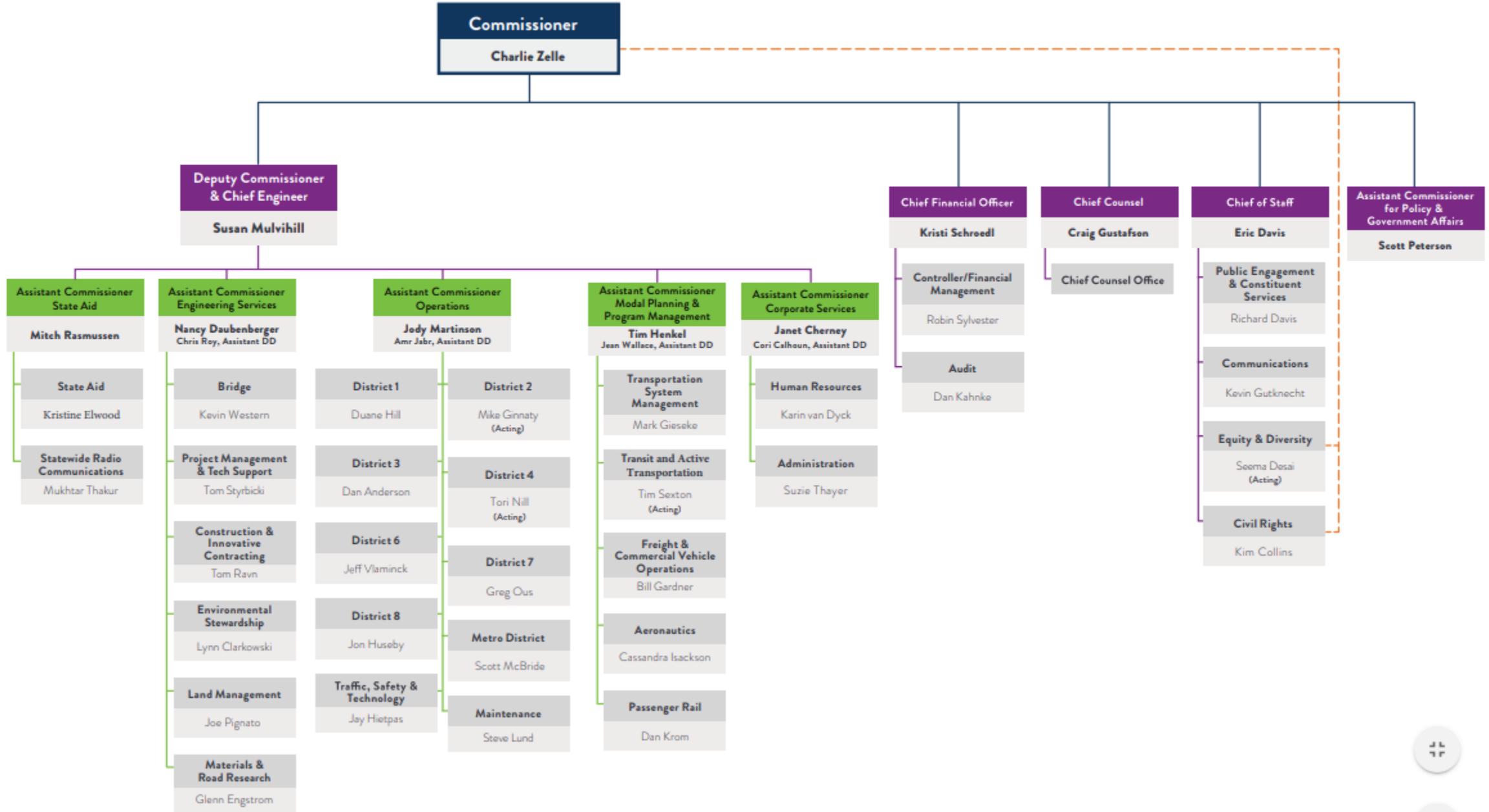
- Light rail
- Transit
- Bicycling
- MnPass

- System and safety improvements

- Noise walls
- Rumble strips



- 8 Districts
- ≈ 3,300 full-time employees
 - 5,000 including seasonal and temporary workers
- 29K trunk highway lane miles
- 31K snow/ice lane miles
- 4,500 rail line miles
- 232 navigable river miles
- 135 publicly owned airports
- 4,800 state-owned bridges
- Avg. 140 annual projects (proj. – 2017-2020)



Key Issues Affecting Public Engagement

- Engagement can occur on a one-off basis with varying levels of degree/success
 - Lessons learned typically remain within projects - limited pathway to share out
 - Consultant participation can add expertise and capacity but also encourage over-reliance
- Staffing structure impacts ability to ensure ongoing engagement
- Lack of consistency in project manager buy in and/or understanding of public engagement and who/why/how to make it happen
- Methodology lacking to guide decisions on what appropriate levels of engagement look like
 - for various stages of the project development life cycle
 - for various types of projects
- No widely used systemic tracking mechanism internally for documenting public engagement and closing the loop with our public

Policy – Seeking Statewide Consistency



POLICY STATEMENT

MnDOT is committed to increasing transparency and collaboration and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to participate in public engagement.

The Public Engagement policy focuses on internal duties and responsibilities related to plans, projects, programs, services and activities. The policy serves as a foundation for MnDOT's commitment to public engagement by its employees. MnDOT pledges on-going engagement and relationship building with the public to earn trust and mutual understanding.

Engaging early allows sufficient advance time for local partners to assess, plan, and budget for the associated impacts and opportunities. MnDOT will keep the public informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input can influence decisions.

REASON FOR POLICY

- To establish expectations for MnDOT employees
- To ensure compliance with the law
- To identify individual and team roles and responsibilities for public engagement activities, including consultants, contractors and sub-recipients

Professional expectations

The public trust and confidence in MnDOT employees is critical to the success of the agency. MnDOT must use its authority and resources in the public interest. The department also expects its employees to adhere to the highest ethical values when conducting state business, [MnDOT Code of Ethics Policy](#) and [Minnesota Statutes 643A.38](#).

Legal context

We are obligated to read, understand and comply with the law in all aspects of our work to ensure that all people have the opportunity to participate in our decision-making. There are numerous legal provisions that require MnDOT to pursue public engagement actively. Examples include:

- The [Title VI Program](#) is MnDOT's pledge to provide its programs, activities and services free from discrimination. As a recipient of federal funds, MnDOT and its sub-recipients must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes. Under MnDOT's

SENIOR OFFICER

Susan M. MuWihill, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner/Chief Engineer

POLICY OWNERS

Kim Collins, J.D.
Director, Office of Civil Rights
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POLICY CONTACT

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POLICY HISTORY

2016-09-27, Established

[MnDOT Policy Website](#)

• Part I Internal Policy

- Enacted in Fall 2016

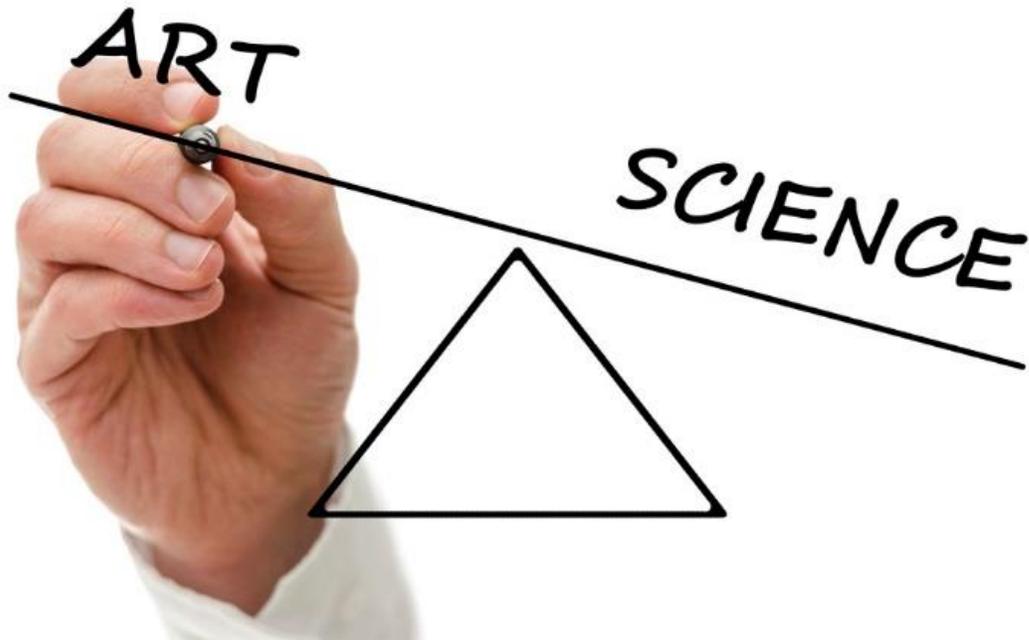
- Training with district staff members re: roles and responsibilities

• Part II – External

- Due Fall 2018

- Includes additional expectations and accountability

What's Working at MnDOT



- Training, tools and processes for uniform application across the organization
 - SDIC, Conflict Management, IAP2, Communicating Across Cultures, etc.
 - Project Development/Public Engagement Continuum
 - Strategic Planning Framework
 - Pre/Post Project Surveys re: engagement
 - Time sheet recording (capturing engagement related work)
- Additional resources
 - Full time public engagement staff in district offices to supplement project teams
- Knowledge sharing
 - Monthly practitioners' conference call
 - Employee newsletter
 - Case studies
 - Public Engagement "ihub" site
- Piloting constituent panels for ongoing feedback
 - Metro District - Community Connections
 - Central Office - Two-Way Advisory committee

Thank you!

Richard Davis

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