

Safe Streets and Roads for All

The City of Northfield Minnesota is a growing city located just south of the twin cities metropolitan area. The city has made pedestrian and bike transportation and safety a leading priority in recent years including a 2009 Safe Routes to School plan, a 2019 Pedestrian, Bike, and Trail System study, and a 2022 Pedestrian and Bike Analyzation. The City's goal is to develop a transportation system that is safe and accessible to all users and all forms of transportation. A City developed Action Safety Plan would build upon these studies and provide a framework for future updates. No regional safety plan currently exists. The city would seek input from regional transportation partners including the City of Dundas, Rice County and Dakota County, neighboring townships, and Northfield Public Schools among others, as well as engage local residents, businesses, and colleges to develop a plan to enhance the safety of the City's roads network. The process will build off of the plans mentioned above and existing city engineering policy, and ordinances such as complete streets and the safe systems approach to develop a plan that provides a holistic view of traffic safety.

From 2018 – 2024 Northfield experienced 5 fatal and 14 serious injury crashes according to MnDOT crash reporting. The previous five years 2013 – 2017 experienced zero fatal and 8 serious injury crashes indicating a recent increase in crash severity. Developing a Safety Action Plan will allow the city to determine crash prone locations (hot spots) and possible future hot spots. The city will develop solutions that are cost-effective, quick to build, and will have a large safety impact at these priority high cash areas, and will proactively develop solutions for possible future locations. These solutions will use the most current research on innovative technologies to build solutions that are evidence based and proven to work.

Northfield is committed to providing safe transportation to all residents including in underserved areas. A large portion of the north neighborhoods of Northfield containing about 20% of the city's population is considered underserved. The city will engage in public outreach in these areas to ensure that the voices of this community are represented in the Safety Action Plan.