



...promoting and creating environments that make it safe and convenient for everyone to integrate physical activity into their daily routine.

Active Living Strategic Plan 2013 - 2016

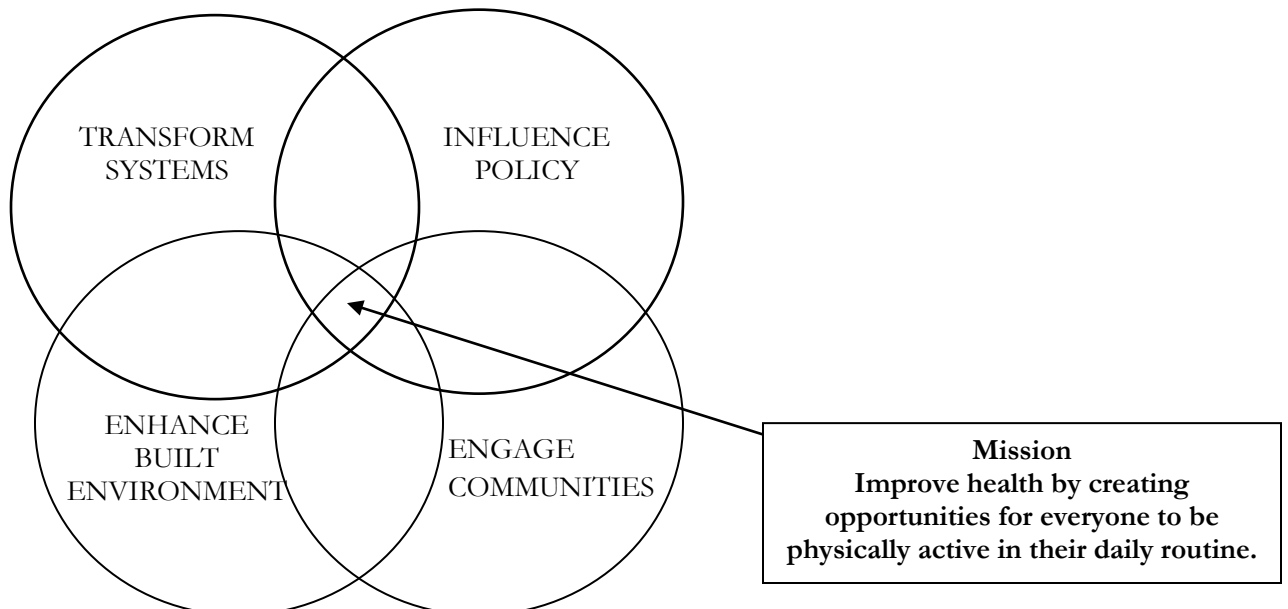
Active Living Ramsey Communities' mission is to improve health through community engagement. We create and promote environments that make it safe and convenient for everyone to integrate physical activity in their daily routine.

Active Living Ramsey Communities Coalition collaborates to enhance the built environment, influence policy, and transform systems to cultivate and support a way of life that makes physical activity in our neighborhoods and communities safer and easier.

December of 2004, leaders, practitioners, and advocates from the State, County, municipalities, schools, businesses, health care, non-profits, community groups, and local residents began Active Living Ramsey Communities.

February 2012, Active Living Ramsey Communities (ALRC) began to update its 2008-2012 strategic plan to assist in clearly identifying the future direction of the coalition. The group reviewed accomplishments and successes of the coalition and its partners; they then identified and established goals and strategies to keep the initiative moving forward. The information below details the strategic effort the coalition identified to continue its work over the next four years—from 2013 - 2017.

The coalition identified four overlapping strategies: (1) transforming systems, (2) influencing policy, (3) enhancing built environment, and (4) engaging communities. After identifying objectives within the strategies it became evident, there is overlap. The objectives that overlap strategies help to advance the mission in multiple ways.



Active Living Ramsey Communities (ALRC) identified the following objectives for the coalition.

STRATEGY I - TRANSFORM SYSTEMS - Systems interventions create change in organizations and institutions.

Objectives

Multimodal Transportation

- A. Advance implementation of State and Regional Bike and Pedestrian System Improvements
 - Collaborate on the I-694 Trail Corridor Study from I-35W to I-35E to develop safe, efficient, and accessible crossing plan for I694 in Ramsey County.
 - Participate in the Snelling Ave Multi-Modal Planning Study.
- B. Advance the development of a Bike and Pedestrian System Plan
 - Improve Bike and Pedestrian system planning by including bike and facilities like bike parking inventory, Nice Ride facilities, benches, pedestrian facilities, and pedestrian gaps by December 2015.
 - Review and update the Ramsey County Trail Map by identifying progress, gaps, goals, and priorities.
- C. Engage communities and transportation agencies to enhance communication and transparency on maintenance and capital improvement projects within the multimodal transportation system.
- D. Identify and work to reduce physical activity health disparities in target populations.
 - 1. Encourage transportation agencies to include underserved communities that are affected by their road projects in early planning efforts.
 - 2. Engage underserved communities in advocating for bike and pedestrian facilities on transportation agencies projects by including key contacts on the Active Living Ramsey Communities distribution lists.

Other system changes

- E. Engage health care organizations in improving health and saving dollars by modeling active living, doctor referrals for physical activity, and promoting the Go Ramsey Mapping Portal.
- F. Create a business community that improves health and productivity by embracing active living principles as a recruitment tool and economic benefit for the organization (i.e. Parks, Complete Streets).
 - 1. Become a member of a Chamber of Commerce in Ramsey County to network with area businesses and provide information at meetings about Active Living Ramsey Communities, Active Living Principles, and the Go Ramsey Mapping Portal.
 - 2. Get area Chamber of Commerce groups and businesses to promote the Go Ramsey Mapping Portal to their employees and/or customers.

STRATEGY II - INFLUENCE POLICY – Active Living Ramsey Communities does not work on influencing or changing state or federal laws. Policy interventions include internal policies and practices as well as ones in local governments. **(Examples are given on how the following policy ideas can be achieved.)**

Objectives

A. Increase support for biking and walking facilities and a multimodal transportation system

1. Cost Participation

- a. Advocate for Ramsey County to change its cost participation policy by June 2013.

2. Local Complete Street Policies

- a. Develop and package a Ramsey County Context Sensitive Solution Policy/Strategy by December 2014.
- b. Encourage and support Ramsey County municipalities to implement Context Sensitive Solution/Complete Streets/Active Living type policies.

STRATEGY III - ENHANCE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - Environmental interventions include decisions about transportation infrastructure, land use, zoning and community design.

Objectives

The Active Living Ramsey Communities (ALRC) coalition, within its four year work plan objective is to “Promote and encourage enhancements for a Multimodal Transportation system within Ramsey County and its connecting Counties”. Within the plan the following are the identified strategic objectives:

- A. Work with Ramsey County in the promotion and support of the Central Corridor Regional Rail system
 - Work with Ramsey County on integration of bike storage and transport opportunities within the Depot.
 - Work with Ramsey County on development of wayfinding sign and mapping opportunities that informs the community of regional and other trail connectivity especially to the Union Depot.

B Collaborate with transportation agencies to review and advise on Ramsey County infrastructure projects, in efforts to ensure infrastructure maintenance and new construction projects address community connectivity issues and provide a safe, efficient, and accessible biking and walking system and facilities within the scope of each project. Review transportation agencies’ five-year Ramsey County road maintenance and construction projects. Specific projects may include, but not limited to:

- Snelling Avenue
- Highway 61 Bike and Pedestrian Facility Improvements
 - Mill and overlay on Highway 61 in downtown
 - Mill and overlay on Highway 61 north of downtown
- I35E Project
 - Cayuga project
 - Maryland Ave. bridge replacement
 - MnPASS lane from St. Paul to Little Canada Road
- Trout Brook Trail
- Pedestrian Bridge
 - Replace pedestrian bridge at Chatsworth St.
 - Replace pedestrian bridge at Grotto St.
- Highway 10
 - Interchange at County Road 96 and Highway 10
 - Unbonded concrete overlay of Highway 10

- Highway 96
 - Redeck County Road 96 bridge over 35E
 - Redeck County Road 96 bridge over 35W
- I35W
 - Replace County Road H bridge over 35W
 - Replace County Road E2 and County Road F bridges over 35W
- Highway 36
 - Interchange at Highway 36 and English Street
 - Replace Highway 36 Bridge at Lexington Ave
 - Replace Highway 36 Bridge over Keller Lake channel
- Replace County Road E Bridge over Snelling Ave
- I94
 - Repair and/or redeck bridges over I-94 between Cretin Ave. and Cedar St.
- Redeck Ramsey St., Grand Ave., and St. Clair Ave. bridges
- Mill and overlay Smith Avenue (into Dakota County)
- Transit for Livable Communities Projects
 - Snelling Ave. (Hwy 51) – 7th St. to Como Ave
 - Hamline Ave – all of it from its southern terminus to where it ends just shy of Hwy 51 in Roseville
 - Marshall Ave - Snelling to John Ireland Blvd
 - Cretin/Cleveland – Hidden Falls Park to Pierce Butler (or the Campus Transitway)
 - University Ave – Rice Street all the way to Minneapolis (this study includes Charles Ave as a bicycle boulevard).
- Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant Redevelopment

C. Create Be Active! Be Green! Recycling Bench routes.

D. Advocate for bike and pedestrian facilities, especially in lower economic areas.

STRATEGY IV - ENGAGE COMMUNITIES - Engaging communities is a critical strategy to realize the objectives identified within all the other strategies - transform systems, influence policy, and enhance the built environment.

Objectives

A. Involve leaders, practitioners, and advocates in ALRC initiative. Active Living Ramsey Communities Coalition will manage, base build, and hold quarterly meetings.

1. Active Living Ramsey Communities will create digests that support and build the capacity of community leaders, practitioners, and advocates in their work to create physically active friendly communities and will disseminate this information in the form of a standalone digest or with meeting notices at least once per month.
2. Active Living Ramsey Communities will create webpages that enhance communication and support Active Living Ramsey Communities' initiatives by January 2104. The website will be updated.
3. Engage two to six new faith base community leaders, policy makers, local neighborhoods, schools, or district councils in coalition efforts by January 2014.

4. Make connections with at least two key contacts from the Met Council and other upstream regional groups by January 2014.
5. Active Living Ramsey Communities will hold quarterly Active Living Meetings through 2017.

B. Active Living Ramsey Communities will administer and coordinate Biking and Walking Team meetings and activities.

1. Active Living Ramsey Communities will hold Biking and Walking team meetings bi-monthly or as needed.
2. Active Living Ramsey Communities will support and work with the Biking and Walking Team and municipalities to develop and update elements of a bike and pedestrian system plan yearly or every other year.
3. Update Active Living Ramsey Communities' printable bike and pedestrian facilities maps yearly or every other year.

C. Engage municipal, county, and special interest groups in the promotion of spaces and places to be physically active.

1. Go Ramsey Mapping Portal data will include all of Ramsey County parks and recreational facilities and pictures on the ArcGIS system.
2. Upload pictures, provide technical assistance and implement organizing efforts to coordinate municipal data input on the Go Ramsey site by January 2014.
3. Active Living Ramsey Communities will manage a Go Ramsey Mapping Portal User Group and will direct, communicate with, and coordinate meetings between municipal partners on mapping portal training, enhancements, promotion, and data entry for the Go Ramsey Communities Mapping Portal.
4. Coordinate and administer the collaboration between IT, Houston Engineering, Public Works, Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources, and GIS on Go Ramsey mapping portal enhancements, upgrades, and maintenance.

D. Incorporate Active Living Ramsey Communities into Ramsey County Parks and Recreation's communication, marketing, and social media efforts by January 2014.

E. Develop a Ramsey County Executive Team in which Park and Recreation, Public Works, Regional Rail, and Public Health as needed to advise and be engaged in the work of Active Living Ramsey Communities.