

Mapping Infrastructure Climate Risk and Resiliency Opportunities

Governor Walz recommends a **\$5 million general fund appropriation** to create a web-based planning tool for metro area communities and watersheds to use to protect local infrastructure from the adverse effects of extreme weather events and climate change.

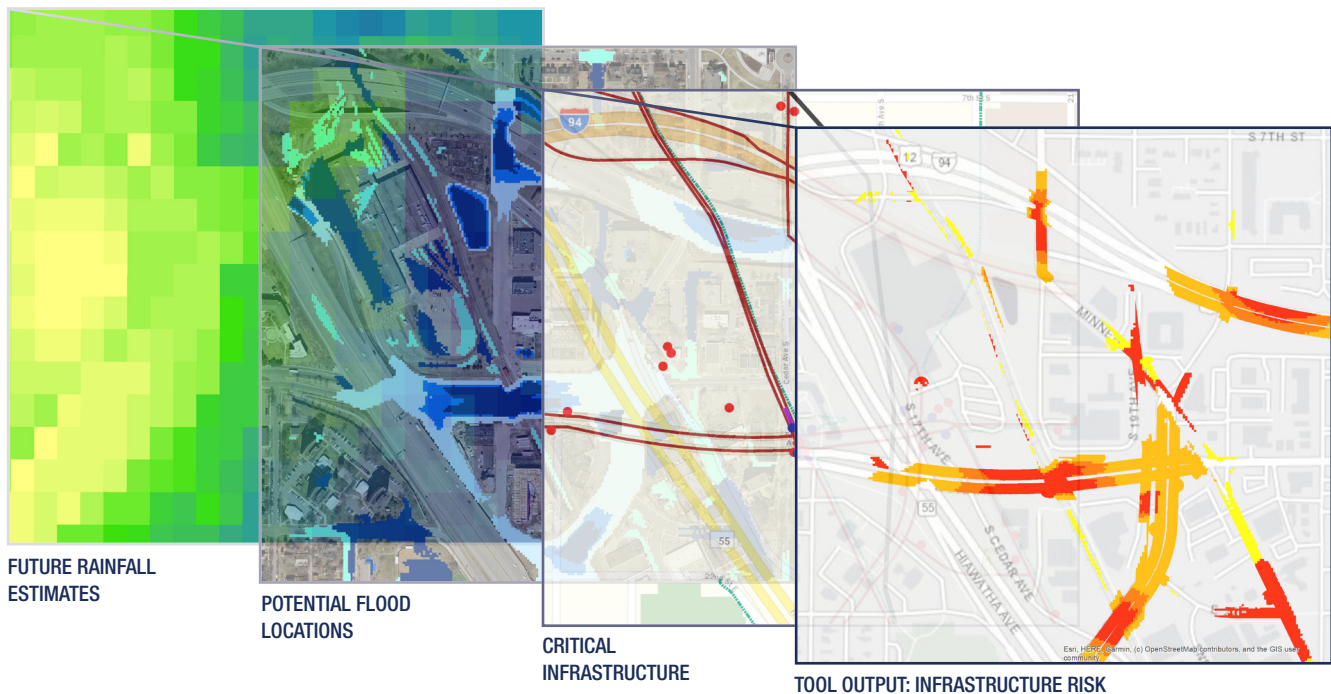
Local governments can use this resource to help prioritize funding to build and retrofit infrastructure to be resilient to more frequent and intense weather patterns.

COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION

This project aligns with the Met Council's Climate Action Work Plan commitment to support and collaborate with partners to advance regional climate adaptation efforts. It directly supports both the State Water Plan and the Minnesota's Climate Action Framework goal to build more resilient communities.

- **Improve data and modeling** Minnesota needs accurate climate data to assess vulnerabilities to the changing climate and guide planning for new and replacement infrastructure.
- **Climate-smart communities** Build the capacity of Minnesota communities to protect against and withstand the effects of climate change.
- **Healthy community green spaces and water** Expand and protect tree canopies; parks and other green spaces; and lakes, rivers, and wetlands that provide community resilience benefits.
- **Resilient buildings, infrastructure, and business:** Help the built environment and local economies become more resilient to climate change.

BRINGING INFORMATION TOGETHER TO MAKE DECISIONS



SAFEGUARDING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Twin Cities represents over half the population of Minnesota, and adverse climate impacts present increasing risk to its residents and businesses. Extreme weather events over the last decade, including flooding, severe weather, and even drought, are already impacting Minnesota's built and natural systems just like it has in other parts of the country and the world.

We have critical knowledge gaps in regional water and infrastructure data. This makes it challenging to get current and accurate information about threats to infrastructure. This project will bring updated information together in an interactive tool that will guide local government funding and design decisions around critical infrastructure used daily by residents of the region like roads, bridges, bike paths, housing, electricity, and the internet.

EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS

Input from a broad cross-section of city, county, watershed, and agency stakeholders shaped this proposal to support local governments, organizations, and residents of the region with current and accurate data. It can also help lessen disproportionate impacts to people experiencing inequities because of geography, historic disinvestment, or limited household resources.

- Local government staff can prioritize and target community public works projects and grant opportunities.
- State agencies can prioritize state bonding funds, and award climate and resiliency grants.
- Communities and advocacy organizations can identify areas of risk that might affect people experiencing inequities.

Infrastructure doesn't stop at the borders of city or township. That's why a regional approach is critical. Once developed, this planning and decision support toolset could be a baseline to expand statewide.

RECOMMENDING RESOURCES AND SOLUTIONS

This project will go beyond compiling data to create a map of future climate risk. It includes resources to help local organizations and communities apply that knowledge, and take the steps toward resiliency. Resources like an "Adaptation Scorecard" will highlight areas of improvement and offer a menu of potential solutions to consider.

Additionally, this proposal will build knowledge and capacity through trainings and engagement with GreenStep Cities, Minnesota GreenCorps, University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

With accurate data, effective resources, and community capacity we can proactively take steps to reduce the shocks to our infrastructure systems caused by extreme weather and truly develop regional resiliency.

