

Mapping Infrastructure Climate Risk and Resiliency Opportunities

Supplemental budget recommendation

The Governor and Lt. Governor's budget recommends \$5 million to develop a climate impact assessment tool, and refine and generate new data that will feed into it. This tool will help pinpoint areas and infrastructure at risk from the climate and extreme weather events.

Local governments can use these data and tools to help prioritize funding to build and reinforce infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of these more frequent and intense weather patterns.

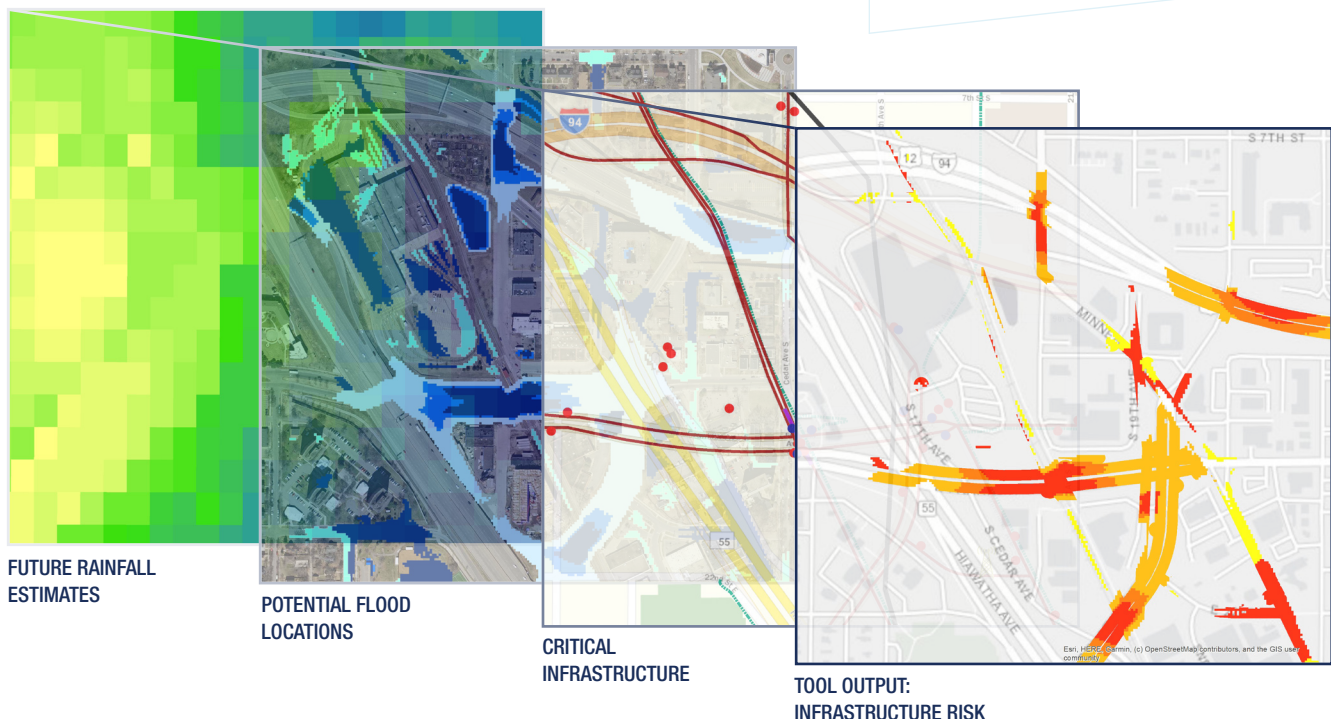
SAFEGUARDING INFRASTRUCTURE

This project will help guide local government funding and design decisions. These decisions can help minimize future, costly replacement of under-designed infrastructure and target investments in areas at risk from hotter temperatures, severe storms, flooding, and increased drought. This includes critical infrastructure used daily by residents of the region like roads, bridges, bike paths, housing, electricity, and internet.

CONNECTING DATA SOURCES AND FILLING DATA GAPS

While datasets related to flooding, groundwater flow, infrastructure, and topography exist, there are critical gaps in regional flooding, groundwater flow and infrastructure location data. This makes it challenging to get current and accurate information. In addition, with rapid regional development the data that local governments and agencies collect is not always keeping pace.

BRINGING DATA LAYERS TOGETHER



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

This project will support local governments, organizations, and residents of the region. These stakeholders will use and benefit from current and accurate data integrated into the tool that the project will create.

- 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 those that are economically or socially disadvantaged.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND FLOODING ARE GROWING CONCERNS

Covering over 3,000 square miles, the region represents over half the population of Minnesota, and adverse climate impacts present increasing risk to its residents and businesses. Flooding, severe weather, and even drought are already impacting Minnesota's transportation, power, internet, water, sanitary and stormwater systems just like it has in other parts of the country and the world.

We will see more frequent flooding of roadways and basements, posing an increased risk of drowning; more flood-damaged homes and sewer backups threatening the health of residents; and less reliable transit, power, and internet services, limiting access to work and school.

These impacts also disproportionately fall on disadvantaged areas and communities of color because of geography and limited household resources.

EXTREME WEATHER IMPACTS THE TWIN CITIES REGION

Unprecedented, extreme weather events have happened across the region and nation over the past decade and are a visceral reminder of the impacts of repeated wet years and intermittent periods of drought.

- From 2014 to 2019, the Twin Cities experienced the equivalent of seven years of rainfall in six years. The collective amount of water stressed our built environment – basements flooded, rivers and streams left their banks, and “localized flooding” became common terminology.
- This was immediately followed by the 2021 drought, which required Minnesota to activate its statewide drought plan and impose metro-wide water restrictions.

This proposal was developed with input from, and if approved, will be implemented through, a broad cross section of city, county, watershed and agency stakeholders convened by the Met Council. Once developed, this planning and decision support toolset approach could be expanded statewide by our agency partners.

