



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

our streets MPLS

ourstreetsmpls.org

701 N 3rd St, Suite 001A
Minneapolis, MN 55401

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2021 was a year of change and growth at Our Streets Minneapolis. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we shifted our approach and launched several new advocacy campaigns, all focused on transforming our city transportation system to put people first. Along with new projects, we brought back Open Streets Minneapolis for three exciting events and achieved major victories in our County Streets for People campaign. We continue to prioritize projects that directly impact racial justice and climate action.

We have evolved our advocacy approach to highlight our accountability to the people of Minneapolis. This means that we strive for transparency in every step of our advocacy. We make requests of decision-makers publicly and back it up with grassroots organizing—door knocking, phone banking and outreach. We keep up our pressure until our desired outcome is achieved.

We also were supported by the community in an unprecedented fashion. Propelled by individual donations, 2021 was our most successful fundraising year ever. This is proof of our supporters' deep commitment to and personal investment in our work.

We commit to raising the bar for transportation advocacy and working to reshape our transportation system so that it truly puts people first. Thank you for your support as we continue to create places for people on Minneapolis streets.

Ashwat Narayanan
Executive Director



ABOUT US

Our Streets Minneapolis is a local nonprofit that works for a city where biking, walking, and rolling are easy and comfortable for everyone.

STAFF

We welcomed new staff in many roles including advocacy, organizing, events, & more.

Alex Burns	Haley Foydel
Amelia Bowser *	José Antonio Zayas Cabán
Ashwat Narayanan	Luis Mendoza
Cecilia Alexander *	Nichelle Dillon *
Ember Rasmussen	Nick Ray Olson
Emily Wade	Raquel Sidie-Wagner

* Seasonal Support

BOARD MEMBERS

Abigail Johnson	Joe Mitchell
Dave Herrera	Julia Curran
Drew Halunen	Kenny Fennell
Elissa Schufman	Nina Clark
Jamie Schumacher	Saumya Jain

The background image shows an outdoor event for 'Our Streets Minneapolis'. A large white tent with the organization's name in colorful letters is the central focus. People are seen walking around, some wearing blue t-shirts. In the foreground, a chalkboard sign depicts a person on a bicycle. To the right, a purple t-shirt hangs on a rack. The scene is set on a paved area with a black metal fence and trees in the background.

ADVOCACY

creating places for people in our city

In 2021, the Our Streets Minneapolis advocacy program grew to touch many more parts of our transportation system. We continued organizing for County Streets for People, Winter Sidewalks, and the Whittier Lyndale Bikeway. We also added new projects that address larger scale transportation projects in an intersectional manner: Bring Back 6th and the Twin Cities Boulevard.



ON THE GROUND ORGANIZING

There is no better way to make change than to have real conversations with community members. In 2021 we launched our canvassing program to bring more people into taking action on transportation projects. We hosted a large canvass launch and had volunteers out knocking doors every week.

**3,000 +
DOORS KNOCKED**



STATEWIDE GOALS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

We led the creation of the state of Minnesota's first driving reduction goal—a critical step towards eliminating carbon emissions from the transportation sector

IMPROVEMENTS SECURED FOR COUNTY STREETS

Our Streets Minneapolis secured a 4-3 conversion on Lyndale Ave S **and** a commitment to biking and pedestrian improvements on Lowry Ave NE

RENEWED TRANSPARENCY IN CITY DECISION MAKING

We organized the community to urge transparency and clarity from city transportation decision makers after the delay of the Whittier Lyndale Bikeway.

CREATING WALKABLE WINTERS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Following our campaign to make winters walkable in recent years, our team expanded our efforts to ask the City of Minneapolis for a city-led snow clearing program

Bring Back 6th!

A community led grassroots campaign to address the harms of Olson Memorial Highway and revitalize nearby communities in North Minneapolis

People First on Rethinking I-94

Rather than rebuild the highway as it is, we are calling on MnDOT to prioritize public health, people and the climate for "Rethinking I-94"
Later named the Twin Cities Boulevard

EXPANDING TO ADDRESS THE LARGER SYSTEM

In 2021, we took launched two new campaigns that directly challenge the harms urban freeways have inflicted on our communities. Focused on racial and economic justice, our team has been canvassing and gathering community feedback to create a vision for these corridors that puts people first.



OPEN STREETS MINNEAPOLIS

celebrating streets and communities

After a break in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Open Streets Minneapolis events returned in 2021 for three exciting events. More than just a street festival, these events close streets to car traffic and open them up for people to bike, walk, roll, and explore their communities in a unique way. Community members were thrilled to see these events come back after a hiatus due to the pandemic.



2021 EVENTS

Planning for the 2021 event season kicked off in June. Pushing through the later start, we were able to host three exciting events:

Open Streets West Broadway

September 11th

Open Streets Lyndale

October 10th

Open Streets Minnehaha

October 24th

MORE THAN
580 PARTICIPANTS
46,000 ATTENDEES
IN 2021

A background photograph of a community event, likely a 'Walk, Bike, & Roll Audit' in Minneapolis. The image shows a diverse group of people participating on a city street. In the foreground, several individuals are on bicycles, including a man in a black shirt and blue jeans, and a woman in a green shirt. A person is also pushing a stroller. The background features city buildings, trees, and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

ENCOURAGEMENT

**helping people get involved in the
transportation decision making process**

We worked with the City of Minneapolis' Departments of Public Works and Public Health on a joint project that aims to transform the transportation planning process. We brought community members together to provide their thoughts and feedback on future transportation projects through the Walk, Bike, & Roll Audit pilot program. City of Minneapolis project managers will use this feedback to design streets so that they directly address community needs.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Volunteers at Open Streets Minneapolis events open the streets for people to explore and help make attendees feel welcome. Canvassing volunteers loop people into transportation project processes and invite them to be part of the movement. Advocacy volunteers help set priorities and grow the movement for people-first transportation projects across the City.

We couldn't have accomplished all that we did without the work of volunteers. Thank you for making Minneapolis a better place for everyone biking, walking, and rolling.

275 VOLUNTEERS IN 2021





EVERYONE HAS A VOICE IN TRANSPORTATION

Our canvassing and outreach program brought us to new communities that we otherwise would have been unable to reach. It underlines our efforts to include more people in transportation decision making and create streets that work for everyone.



**2021 was the
biggest fundraising
year in Our Streets
Minneapolis history!**

FINANCES

REVENUE

Business Sponsorships and Donations	\$48,186
Contract Income	\$244,285
Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$224,055
Individual Donations	\$72,654
Other Income	\$42,371
Total Revenues	\$631,551

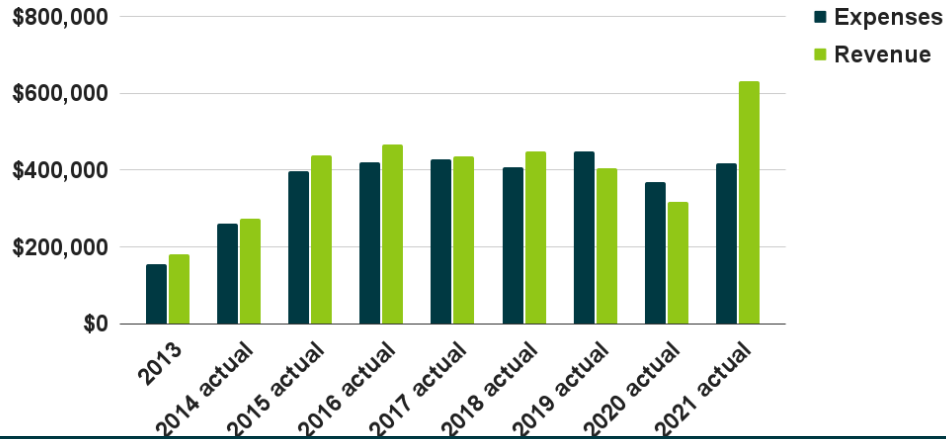
EXPENSES

Advocacy and Engagement	\$125,607
Open Streets Minneapolis	\$163,289
Encouragement	\$41,869
Administration	\$33,495
Fundraising	\$54,430
Total Expenses	\$418,690

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$212,861
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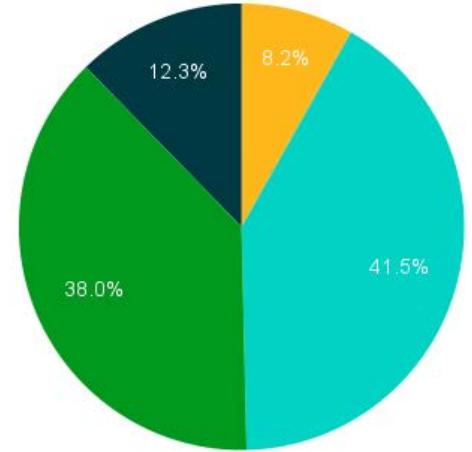
FINANCE SUMMARY

Revenue & Expenses 2013 - 2021



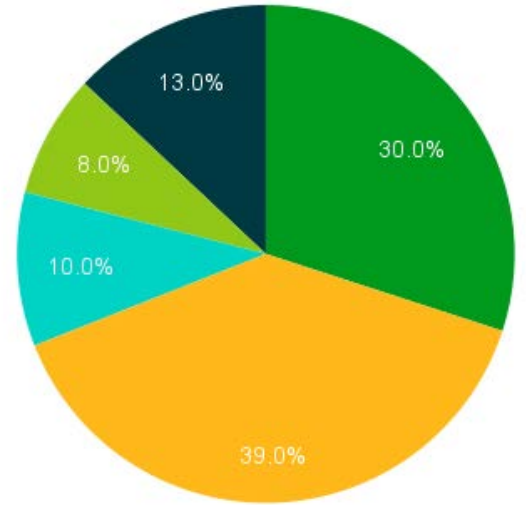
2021 Revenue

- Business Sponsorships and Donations
- Contract Income
- Foundation and Corporate Grants
- Individual Donations



2021 Expenses

- Advocacy and Engagement
- Open Streets Minneapolis
- Encouragement
- Administration
- Fundraising



THANK YOU

At Our Streets Minneapolis, our work depends on the support of hundreds of partners, donors, and volunteers. You guide our priorities, you keep our lights on, you show up to build a better city for people biking, walking, and rolling.

Thank you for keeping us moving forward.