

# MIDWEST TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT: A Roadmap for Funders

Zoe Kircos, City Thread

Martha Roskowski, Further Strategies

Tenzin Dolkar, McKnight Foundation

September 18, 2023



# Transportation Affects *Everything*



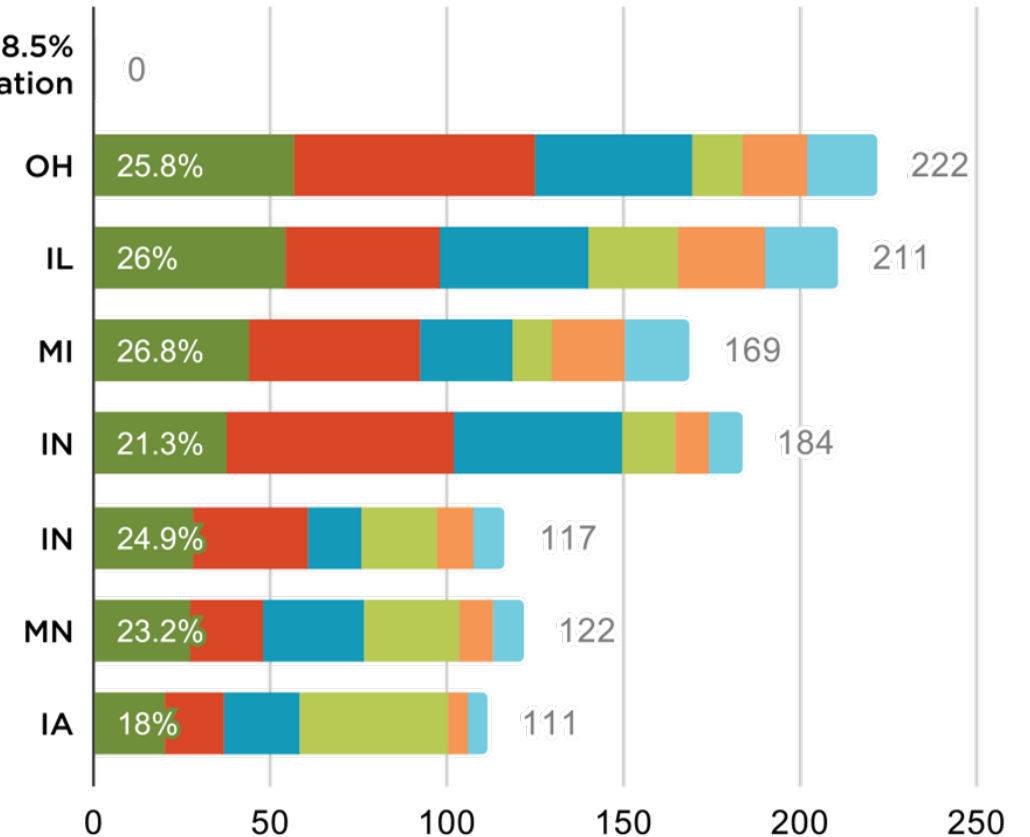
# Midwest Transportation Emissions



MILLION METRIC TONS OF GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR, 2021

US Average 28.5%  
from transportation

- transportation
- electric power industry
- industry
- agriculture
- residential
- commercial



# Tracking the Money

**\$36 Billion**

What the seven Midwest states in this report will spend on transportation in 2023

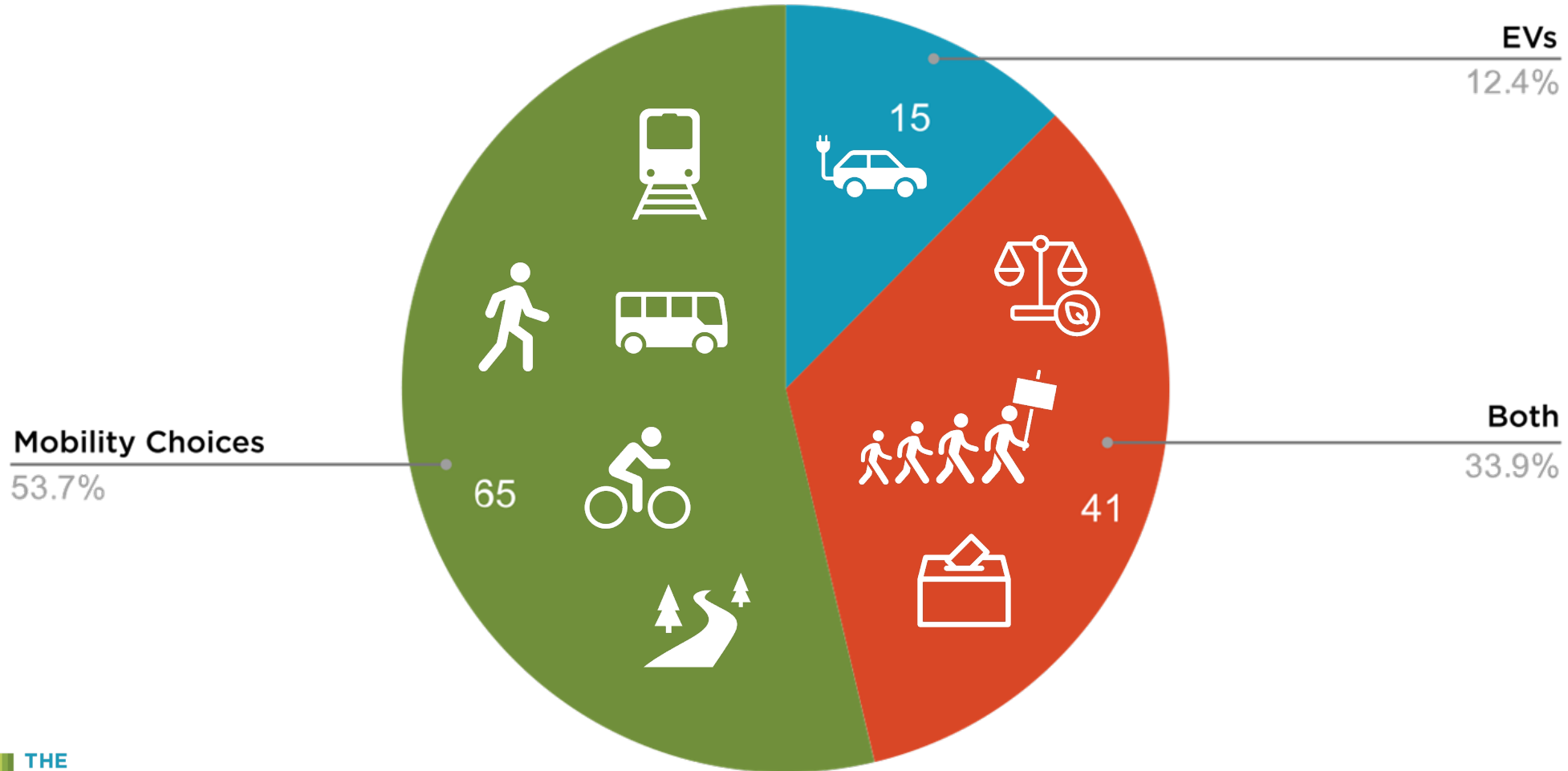


**\$156 Million**

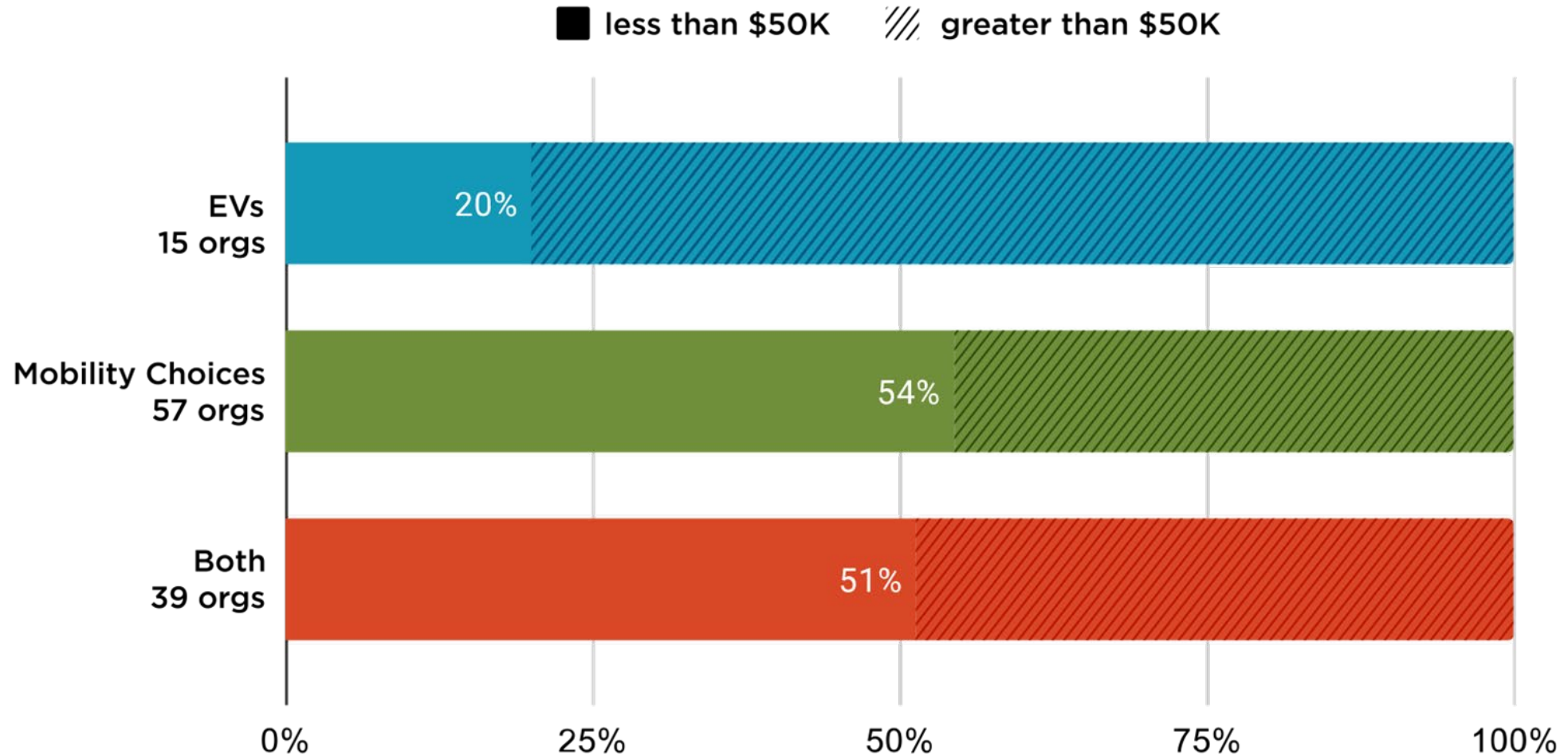
Combined annual budgets of all transportation advocacy groups in the same seven states



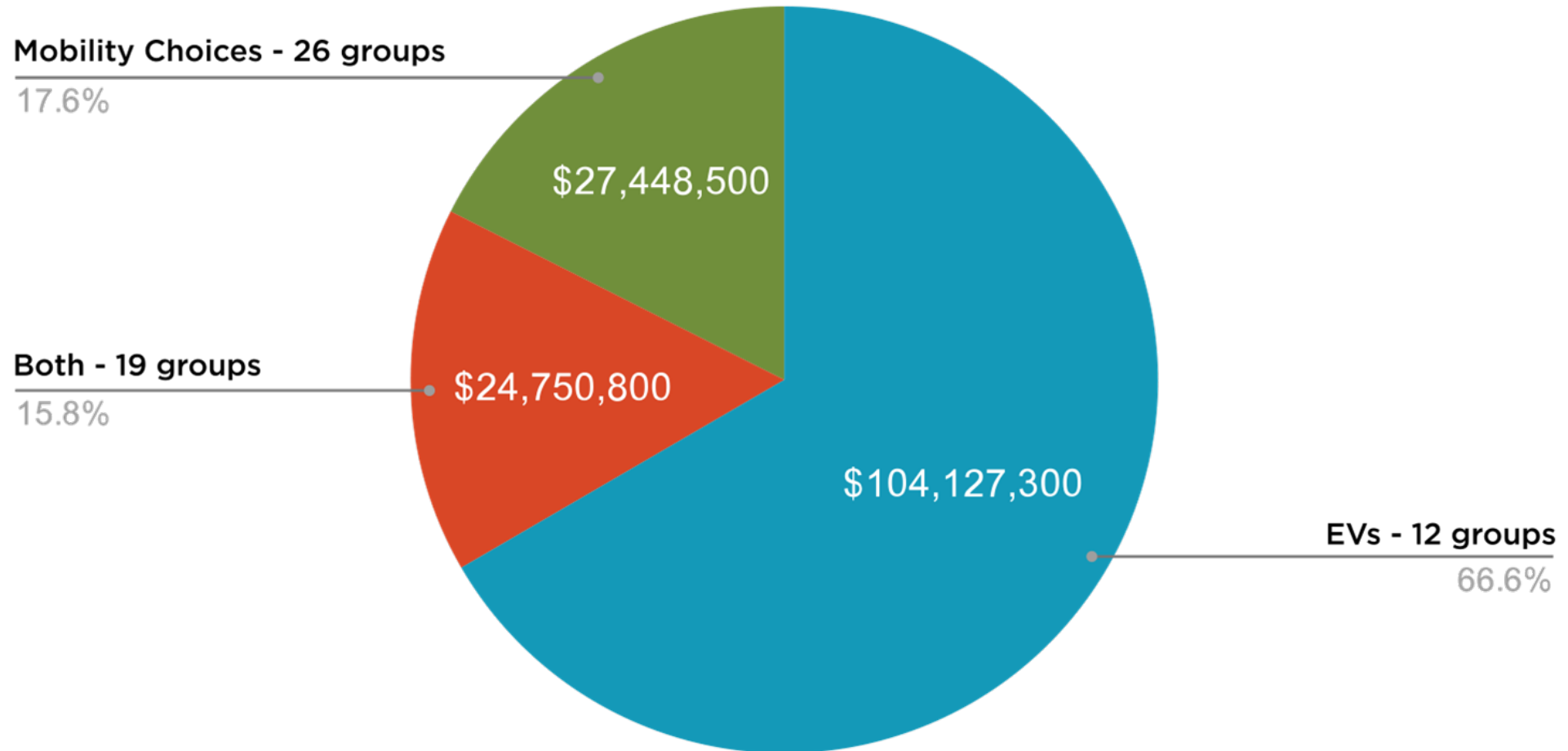
# Advocacy Focus of Midwest Groups



# Budget Size of Midwest Groups



# Budgets & Focus of Midwest Groups



# Minnesota's Climate & Transit Win

- Historic transit funding
- Policy mandate to track and cut greenhouse gas emissions





# Winning with Federal Funding?

Supersized federal climate transportation funding via IIJA & IRA



USDOT discretionary program grants:

- 20 programs, most oversubscribed
- Charging infrastructure
- Electric vehicle incentives



USDOT highway formula funding (90% of federal dollars) under state DOT control, business as usual

# Equity and Environmental Justice

## Focus for frontline community advocacy groups:

- Freight impacts
- Addressing transit access and funding cliff
- Road-related police safety and traffic violence



## **Interstate 94 design alternatives, released by MnDOT, get mixed reviews**

## **Are Prospects for Removing I-794 Dead on Arrival?**

After a briefing from the state DOT, Ald. Bauman is pushing to delay the Downtown plan, claiming freeway spur replacement and streetcar expansion aren't realistic.

## **Motor City may start to turn from freeways**

## **INDOT looks for public input on I-65, I-70 in Indianapolis**

# State Transportation Plans + Climate

Does the State Department of Transportation have a Climate Plan?



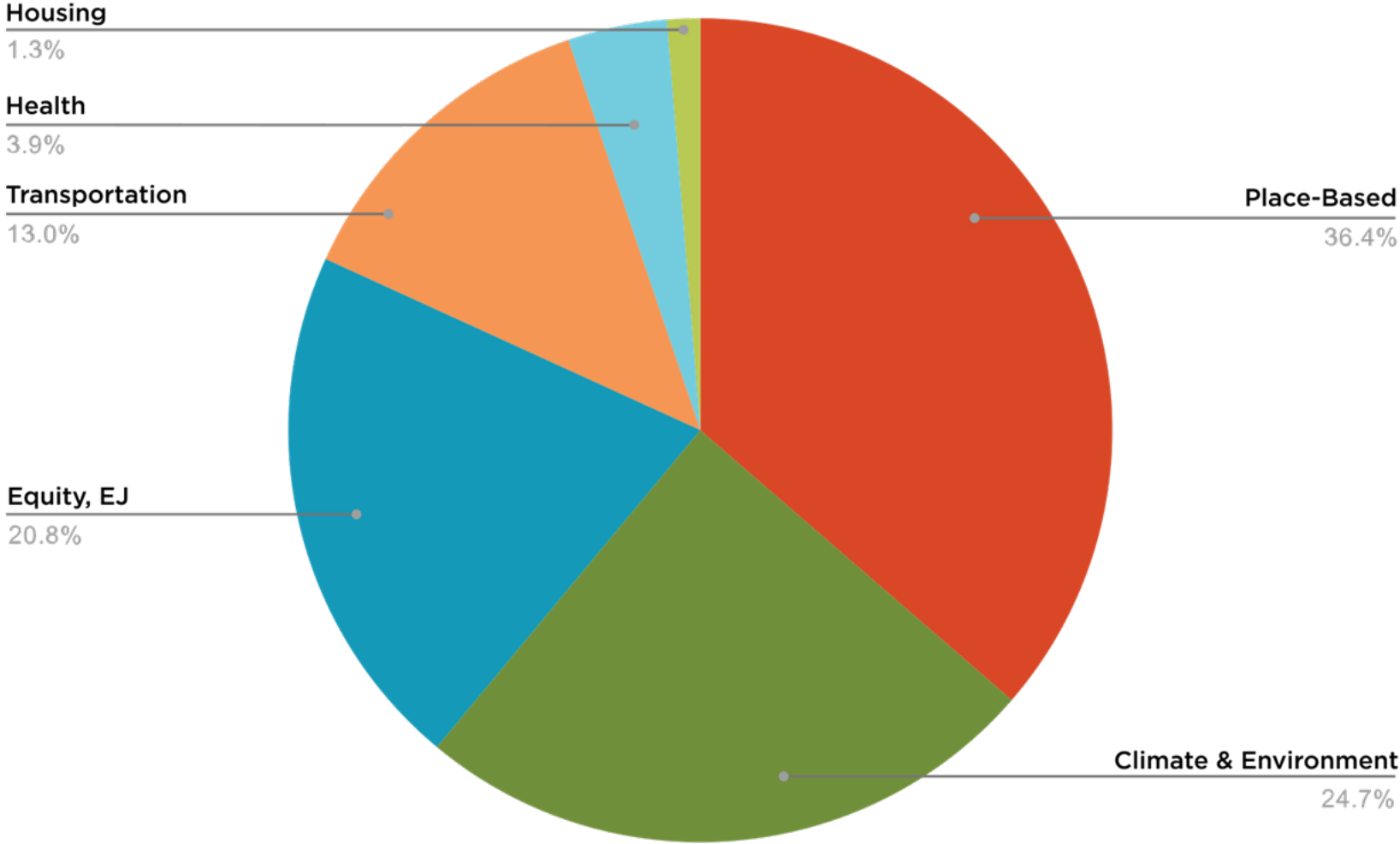
IL has goals in CEJA, WI has a climate report

Is Climate Embedded in the State Long-Range Transportation Plan?

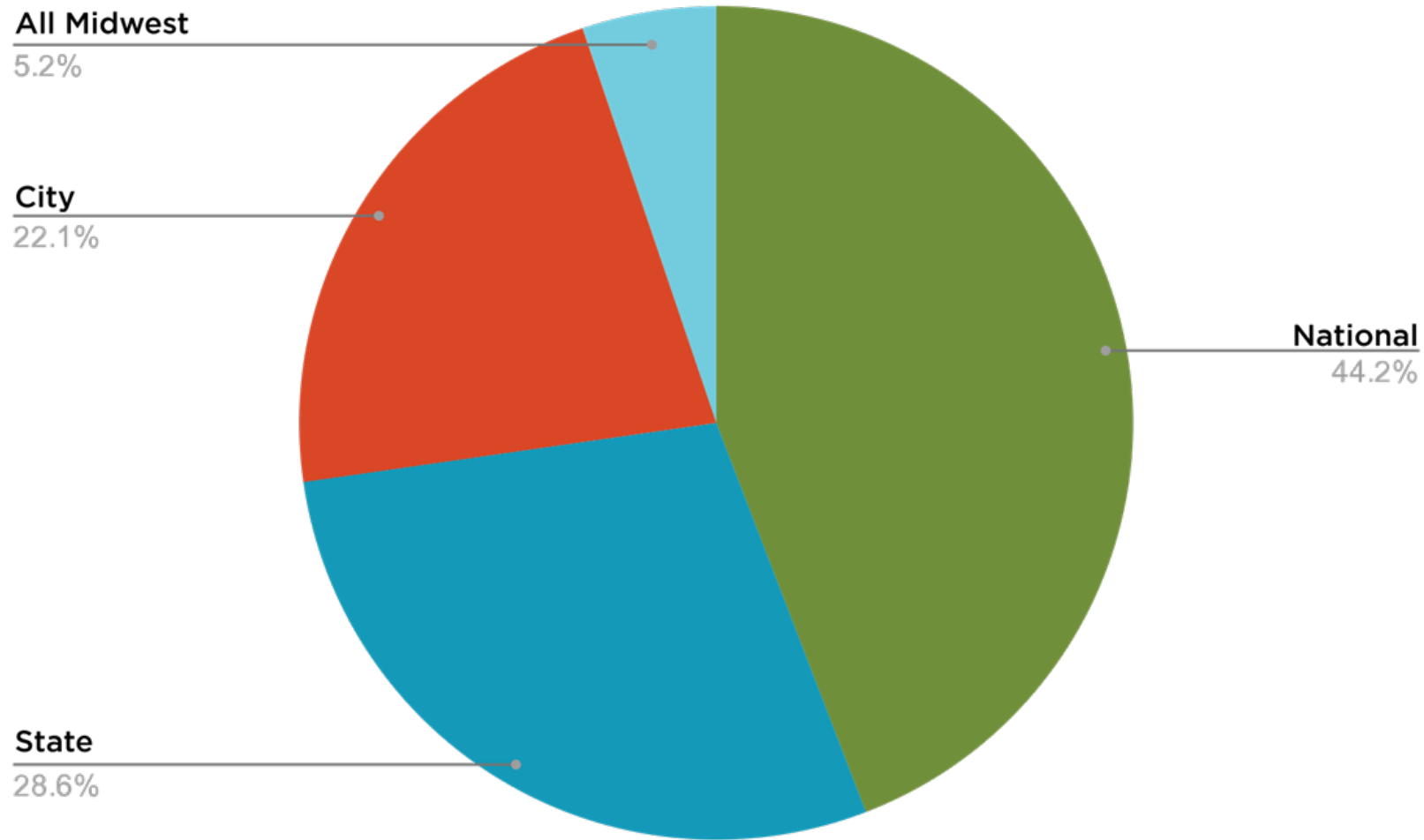


IL and WI mention climate

# Who Are The Funders?



# Foundation Geographic Scope



# Imperative: Build Power Among Those Fighting for Change

- Strengthen existing statewide coalitions
- Center grassroots, BIPOC-led, and frontline groups
- Fund coalitions to develop strategies
- Provide multi-year grants
- Cultivate leaders and seed change from within the seats of power



# Recommendations for Philanthropy

## **BUILD POWER**

Invest in power-building and organizing at the nexus of climate, transportation, and democracy.

## **LEAD AT THE STATE LEVEL**

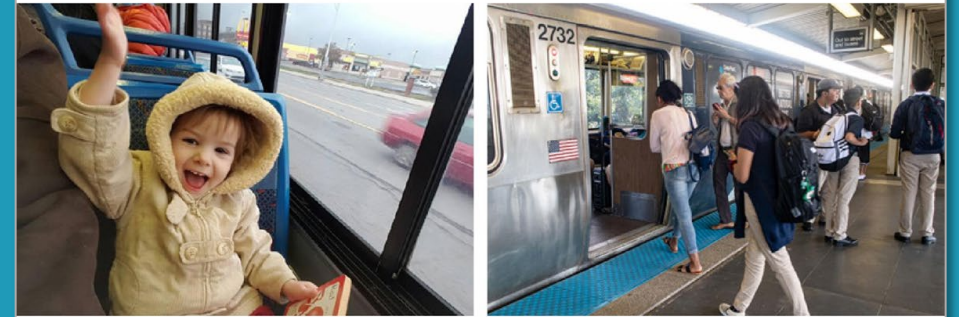
Invest in state-level policy and implementation, prioritizing place-based, BIPOC-led, and environmental justice groups.

## **GROW COALITIONS**

Support the growth of networks and coalitions for collaboration among diverse stakeholders across multiple strategies.



# Questions?



## MIDWEST TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT: A Roadmap for Funders



# Thank You!

**Zoe Kircos, City Thread**  
[zoe@citythread.org](mailto:zoe@citythread.org) | 303.579.3270

**Martha Roskowski, Further Strategies**  
[martha@fundersnetwork.org](mailto:martha@fundersnetwork.org) | 303.895.0951

**Tenzin Dolkar, McKnight Foundation**  
[tdolkar@mcknight.org](mailto:tdolkar@mcknight.org)



**MIDWEST TRANSPORTATION  
LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT:**  
A Roadmap for Funders



**T F N THE  
FUNDERS  
NETWORK**

**@Funders\_Network**

