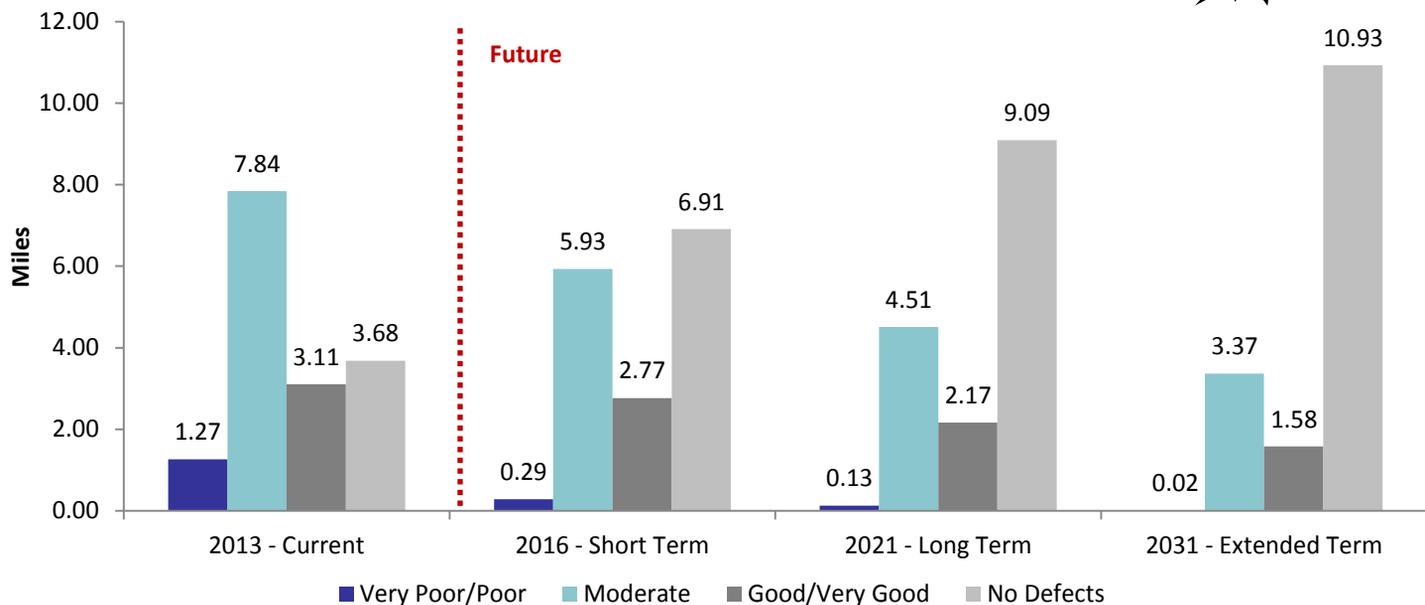




Storm Tunnel Current Condition and Future Strategy



Definition: PACP means “Pipe Assessment Certification Program” from National Assoc. of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO)
 Note: Minneapolis has 15.9 miles of storm tunnels that are comprised of tunnels in very poor/poor, moderate, good/very good condition or has no defects.

Why is this plan important?

The City of Minneapolis has 15.9 miles of storm tunnels that drain roughly 15 percent of Minneapolis. These tunnels were built between 1882 and 1999 and designed to handle stormwater. Since Minneapolis has developed, the volume of stormwater runoff has increased and now often exceeds the capacity of our system. As a result, the condition of our storm tunnels has been affected. In 2011, PW staff completed a comprehensive condition assessment of the entire tunnel system. We have found segments of the Central City Tunnels (downtown), St Mary’s Tunnel and the 10th Ave SE Tunnel systems needed repairs within the next five years. It is important to make timely repairs and keep our systems in moderate or better condition to avoid failures. The capital improvement program funds cover the design and construction costs associated with improving the condition of the infrastructure. Funding has significantly increased in the past two years and is projected to continue at an elevated level for the next eight to ten years while work continues to improve the condition of the tunnel systems.

What will it take to achieve the plan?

Staff will need to continue to perform regular inspections, assessments and risk analysis of the tunnel segments. The frequency will generally be based on the tunnel condition and rainfall events. We will look for opportunities to reduce the stormwater runoff or manage the rate as well as opportunities to modify the system to add capacity or even parallel systems. These options will reduce the pressure that is occurring in the tunnel systems and maintain their condition. Identifying appropriate funding and obtaining City Council and Mayor approval will be key in addressing identified concerns and shifting towards a proactive program.

Tidbit: The surface area in our tunnels is equivalent to 15 miles of a 2-lane road (24’ wide), or the equivalent of a 2-lane road that follows 35W from the East Hennepin Ave to the Minnesota River.