



October 5, 2007

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Have a say on Minneapolis' transportation future

The City will hold eight public meetings in October to discuss a new transportation plan that covers everything from streets to streetcars. *Access Minneapolis* was created to identify steps that the City and its partner agencies need to take within the next ten years to improve the current transportation system and guide the city's growth patterns.



The public meetings will discuss the citywide action plan as well as a streetcar feasibility study, which recommends a long-range streetcar system and identifies initial operating lines. "Congressman Oberstar has made it clear to cities that the federal government is getting ready to make matching funds available for streetcars, because they are cheaper to build than LRT systems and encourage more investment than buses," Council Member Gary Schiff said. "We need to plan now for federal funding applications."

The public can see the plans October 10th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the 3rd Precinct Community Room located at 3000 Minnehaha Ave.; October 15th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall; October 17th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lake Nokomis Recreation Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway; and October 23rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center located at 4055 Nicollet Ave S.

For more information on Access Minneapolis and the Streetcar Feasibility Study, [click here](#).

National Night Out breaks more records

The numbers are in, and once again Minneapolis' National Night Out broke participation records. Residents gathered at more than 1,000 separate events to get to know neighbors, improve block safety and to unite to fight crime. The twenty-fourth annual event boasted 1,117 participating blocks, eclipsing last year's total of 935 by nearly 20%. More than 62,000 residents participated. "National Night Out is truly a vibrant summer tradition in Minneapolis," said Third Precinct Inspector Lucy Gerold.

To start planning for next year, the city is requesting feedback from all National Night Out event organizers. Contact mark.chelgren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us with questions on the survey. If you know your event ID, [click here](#) to begin the survey.

October Breakfast with Gary: Al Franken



Al Franken grew up in St. Louis Park, MN

On Friday October 26th, join Council Member Schiff for Breakfast with Gary featuring United States Senate Candidate Al Franken. Franken is challenging Senator Norm Coleman in one of the most watched races in the nation. Franken recently surpassed Senator Norm Coleman in quarterly [fundraising](#) reports.

Al Franken is an Emmy Award-winning comedian, actor and author. He is noted for his work on Saturday Night Live and on Air America Radio. Franken will talk about his solutions to America's healthcare crises, tools for renewable energy and his approach to immigration. He will also take questions from the audience.

Breakfast with Gary is a monthly event held 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. the final Friday of the month at Mercado Central, 3016 Bloomington Avenue South on the southwest corner of Lake Street and Bloomington Avenue. Five dollars buys breakfast, from [La Loma](#). Please contact [Heidi Quezada](#) with questions.

Take the energy challenge and save money this Fall

Reducing energy consumption is not only good for the environment; it also saves money on gas and electric bills. This fall there's a program that encourages residents to start conserving. With help from the City's Climate Change Innovation Grants, residents are being asked to organize and take part in [Energy Challenge](#) block parties this fall.

Many ways of saving energy are done with minimal cost and effort. For instance, the average Minnesotan can save \$25 a year by installing and using a programmable thermostat, \$50 a year by replacing five standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones, and \$110 a year by washing clothes in cold water instead of hot. Block leaders who sign up to host Energy Challenge block parties will receive free block event kits, can book expert speakers for their event, and invite an energy auditor who can troubleshoot homes for energy efficiency. The top ten block club events this fall will win free pizzas from Galactic Pizza.



compact fluorescent bulbs can save 2000 times their own weight in greenhouse gases

The block parties are sponsored by the City of Minneapolis, the Alliance for Sustainability and Center for Energy and Environment. To get involved, visit the alliance's [web site](#) or call 612-331-1099. Visit the [Minnesota Energy Challenge website](#) to take the challenge or calculate a carbon footprint.

Workshop helps homeowners learn to avoid foreclosures



Many foreclosed homes end up vacant and boarded, like this home located in the Phillips neighborhood.

One of the most important things a distressed homeowner can do is begin working with a lender or foreclosure specialist as early as possible. To learn about the foreclosure process and get questions answered residents can attend a free informational workshop. Getting help early is the best thing for residents to do who are worried about being unable to make future mortgage payments. The workshops will be held on October 9 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. at the Urban League lower level Community Room located at 2100 Plymouth Ave N. and October 10 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. at the Wilder Recreation Center Gymnasium located at 958 Jessie St.

Staff from a number of mortgage companies and community-based organizations will be available to offer free advice and answer questions confidentially. Learn what foreclosure

may mean to homeowners, what legal rights they may have, and solutions to long-term housing needs. Homeowners will also be able to set up additional time with their lenders or foreclosure specialists for more detailed discussions. Some mortgage companies may provide financial incentives to homeowners attending the workshop.

Call (612)337-9330 to register for the workshops. Renters with foreclosure questions can call 311. Additional information is also available at the [Minneapolis foreclosure webpage](#).

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