

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

May 2007

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35W/Crosstown Public Meeting

The long anticipated 35W/Crosstown project is set to begin in June 2007. A general outline of the construction schedule is available on the [MnDOT project website](#) (address listed below). MnDOT will conduct a public information session on **Thursday, May 24** from 4:30 to 8 p.m., at **Richfield Lutheran Church**, 8 West 60th St. MnDOT staff will be available to provide information and answer questions.

The MnDOT website also offers a weekly e-mail update about the status of the project, but so far there are no details regarding how to subscribe.

MnDOT project website- <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/projects/crosstown/>

Cedar Edgewater

Due to safety concerns, the city Public Works Department worked with residents to develop safety improvements for Cedar Avenue, Edgewater Blvd and Nokomis Parkway. It was soon realized that in order to effectively deal with the problems around these two intersections, changes were needed as far north as 46th St. on Cedar Ave. Thus a comprehensive program was implemented in June of 2006.

Public Works has been monitoring the modifications for the past 9 months and listening to resident feedback. The accident statistics shows a reduction in overall accidents and accidents that involve injuries at all of the intersections that are part of this study area. But improvements can still be made. It was discovered that the vehicle detection loops at the southern intersection of Nokomis Pkwy and Cedar Ave were not functioning properly. This is causing major backups on Nokomis Pkwy waiting to make left turns onto Cedar Ave. Public Works will replace the vehicle detectors at Nokomis Pkwy and install new detectors at 46th St. Over the next 12 months Public Works plans to evaluate travel time, average speed, queue length and accidents and report back to the neighborhood next year once the data has been evaluated.

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Important Phone Numbers Ward 11 office

673-2211



How green is Minneapolis? **GreenPrint** report tells the story

The City of Minneapolis has produced [Minneapolis GreenPrint](#) a roadmap used to track our efforts to sustain and enhance our environment. *Minneapolis GreenPrint* is based on a vision and goals developed by City leaders to create a more ecologically sustainable city.

The city's first progress report for *Minneapolis GreenPrint* was presented to the City Council's Committee on Health, Energy and the Environment (HE&E) on April 16. Council Member Benson is Chair of the HE&E Committee.

There are many accomplishments in the *Minneapolis GreenPrint* to celebrate. The City:

- Achieved its first targets, exceeding two of the City's goals for Permeable Surfaces, implementing practices that protect the quality of our lakes, streams and the river.
- Had the lowest amount of combined sewer overflow on record.
- Greened its fleet by expanding the use of biofuels, car sharing and hybrid vehicles.
- Completed its third solar installation on City-owned buildings.
- Passed a new ordinance requiring all new City-owned buildings be built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) national green building standards.
- Planted more than 6,000 trees and seedlings with community partners.
- Launched the Minnesota Energy Challenge, with Minnesota Center for Energy and the Environment and other partners, encouraging community members to save energy.
- Expanded the city's network of bike routes to 96 miles.

Minneapolis was recently ranked by Forbes Magazine as the fifth cleanest city in the world. We're known for our sparkling lakes and waterways and beautiful, vibrant parks and neighborhoods. We want to keep it that way. That's why protecting and enhancing our environment is one of the City's top priorities.

Minneapolis Green Print- www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/GreenPrint07_home.asp

Forbes article- www.forbes.com/logistics/2007/04/16/worlds-cleanest-cities-biz-logistics-cx_rm_0416cleanest_slide.html

Community Engagement Report

Due to changes in population and declining funding for current community engagement activities, such as NRP, the City Council asked staff to conduct a thorough ongoing review of the City's community engagement system and related organizational capacity and resources. This review provides the framework to improve the current system and impact the future of community participation in the City of Minneapolis.

The City defines the primary purpose of community engagement as the empowerment of people to influence City government decisions that shape their city and their lives. The City acknowledges

Community Engagement (continued from page 2)

that the community is a valuable source of expertise to influence government decisions that improve the quality and delivery of public services.

Before discussing the Report or making any decisions the City Council requested additional input from the community. In January and early February 2007, the City Council and the NRP Policy Board solicited input using a paper and online survey and at eight community meetings throughout Minneapolis. Staff recently summarized the information gathered and presented it to the Committee of the Whole of the City Council. Both the Community Engagement Report and the Public Comments are available online (see the links below).

The Committee of the Whole approved a work plan that outlines a three-track approach with target dates for community input opportunities, reporting, and updates throughout this ongoing discussion. In addition the Committee approved staff direction to begin implementing consensus recommendations from the Community Engagement Report related to improving the City's internal community engagement systems (see Track 1). On May 11, 2007 the Committee's recommendation will go before the full Council.

The work plan calls for a discussion related to Task Force charge and membership recommendations (see Track 2) and the scope of background information useful to a discussion about the focus, funding and governance of NRP (see Track 3). The target date for this discussion is Thursday, May 10, 2007 at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Community Engagement Report- http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/docs/CE_Report_final.pdf

Public Comments- <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp>

Receive email updates- http://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=MPLS_77

Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of Minneapolis has begun the process of [updating its Comprehensive Plan](#). Join City leaders at a Community Forum to learn about the process and to discuss three themes that will shape the Minneapolis of the future: sustainability, heritage preservation and urban design.

The same material will be discussed at all three forums. Following a general overview of the update process, we will divide into three groups, one to discuss each theme. Forum dates are:

- Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
- Tuesday, May 1, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Midtown YWCA, 2121 East Lake St. (near Hiawatha)
- Thursday, May 17, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Capri Theater, 2210 Oliver Ave. North (at Broadway)

All locations are wheelchair accessible; if you need other disability related accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter or materials in alternative format, please contact Krista Bergert at (612) 673-5015. Updated information, including other opportunities to participate, will be available online

For more information about the Comprehensive Plan and update process, you can review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) call (612) 673-2098, or email comments and questions to update@minneapolisplan.info

Comprehensive Plan Update- http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/comp_plan_update.asp

FAQ http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/docs/070330_CP_Update_FAQ.pdf

March Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	15					11	4		
Field	5					2	1	2	
Hale	7					5	1	1	
King Field	16		1	4	2	4	4	1	
Northrop	11					4	6	1	
Page	7					4	2	1	
Tangletown	12			2		4	5	1	
Wenonah	10					3	6	1	
Windom	22		1	2	3	3	8	4	1

Definitions of the types of crimes and statistics from other months can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/>

Monthly Community Meetings

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday- 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb. 46th St. & 17th Ave</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday- 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday- 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA Nokomiseast.org Meets Fourth Thursday- 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50th St</p>	<p>Tangletown Tangletown.org Meets Third Monday- 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday- 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S</p>

Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

May 3	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	July 12	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
June 7	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet Ave	Aug 2	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave