

Hennepin County  
Department of Transit and Community Works  
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### Hiawatha/46th Street Station Area Plan

#### Workshop #2

**November 14, 2000**

Tuesday

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Ericsson Public School,  
Gymnasium, 4315 31st Ave So.

This is the first newsletter for the 46th Street /  
Hiawatha Station Area Planning Project.  
Your participation in the workshops scheduled in the  
upcoming months will shape the final plan.

#### **Workshop #2**

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**November 14, 2000, Tuesday**

Location: Ericsson Public School, Gymnasium, 4315 31st Ave So.

*Topics:* Interactive session with the neighborhoods to formulate concept plans for future new development, improvements to the pedestrian environment and amenities within a ½ mile radius of the light rail station.

#### **Workshop #3**

Topics: Formulation of a "consensus plan" with alternatives and implementation guidelines.

#### **Workshop #4**

Topics: Presentation of Final Concept Plan; Implementation Guidelines and Listing of Funding Resources.

### Project Team

The planning process is jointly sponsored by Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis. The consultant team consists of Farr and Associates, Parsons Transportation Group, and ZHA, Inc. Please direct your questions or comments regarding this process to Hennepin Community Works 612-348-2997 or the City of Minneapolis 612-673-2423.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting the Hennepin County Website at [www.co.hennepin.mn.us/wpw-tran.html](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us/wpw-tran.html)

### Image Preference Survey (IPS) *(Cont'd from front)*

Workshop participants were shown a slide show of paired images from the study area and elsewhere. On a survey form, participants rated images on a 20-point scale on how well these images fit with the Hiawatha/46th Street station area. Adjectives participants used to describe the images include: "quaint", "well-kept", "ugly", "tacky", "We love it!" "Not for our neighborhood". A summary of the image categories and comments are:

**First Impressions** - These images showed places as one approaches or passes through a neighborhood. Participants gave low ratings to a first impression of their neighborhood - auto congestion on Hiawatha. Images they liked included the well-landscaped approach along 46th St. west, as well as pedestrian-friendly retail streets with sidewalk cafes, and distinguishing landmarks.

**Housing** - These images showed a wide range of housing types which differ in size, materials, character and cost...participants favored single-family and low-rise housing (three and a half stories max). Very low ratings were given to any images of high-rise housing.

**Crosswalks** - They are a vital link to the station area, but can be intimidating to pedestrians along wide, busy streets like 46th/Hiawatha. Crosswalk designs will need to be optimized for pedestrians the design options may include landscaped medians, lane narrowing, textured crosswalks, traffic tables and pedestrian bridges and tunnels. Participants liked images of crosswalks with clear pathways, special paving, and those crossing narrower streets.

# Hiawatha/ 46th Street Station Area Plan



Newsletter #1, November 2000

## About The Project

**We've just begun!** The 46th Street Station Area Plan is part of a series of long range studies being completed for transit-oriented development (TOD) around station sites along the 11.5-mile Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (LRT) corridor - scheduled to open in year 2003. The area of study (shown in the shaded map area) includes three neighborhoods - Longfellow, Standish Ericsson, and Nokomis East. It focuses on the land uses, public infrastructure, and amenities located within a ten-minute walking distance (1/2 mile radius) of the light rail station at 46th Street and Hiawatha Avenue (Hwy 55). The purpose of the 46th Street Plan is to formulate a neighborhood-based plan that addresses local strengths and capitalizes on opportunities consisting of:

- Future mix of new business, housing, and neighborhood amenities;
- Improving the pedestrian environment;
- Enhancing parks and green space; and
- Improving station accessibility and fit.



## Community Involvement

Robust community discussion and input is essential to formulating a station area plan. Through a series of four public workshops, citizens will be asked what they think of the existing conditions in their neighborhood and what they would like to see happen in this area. The consultant team will use this input to shape a station area plan that will enjoy much community support. The following is a summary of the first workshop.

### Summary of Workshop 1, September 25 & 26, 2000

Over 120 citizens attended the first set of public workshops held in September. Two meetings were held on consecutive evenings, the first in Standish Ericsson; the second in the Longfellow. All residents and business owners within a half-mile radius of the proposed light rail station were invited to the public meetings. The attendees represented a diversity of views, both for and against light rail, and the key constituencies: residents,

business owners, non-governmental organizations and public officials. Hennepin County Commission Peter McLaughlin and City Council Member (Ward 12) Sandra Colvin Roy participated.

Each meeting consisted of four elements: a Land Use Survey, a Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis, an Image Preference Survey (IPS), and a best practices slide show. Due to time constraints, the best practices slide show was not shown at the meeting held at Ericsson Elementary.

### Land Use Survey

An informal survey was conducted at the workshops by attendees placing dot stickers beside possible future land uses they would like to see within the vicinity of 46th and Hiawatha. The land use preferences were family restaurant, bookstore, amphitheater garden, water fountain, wetlands and parks, senior center, and a library.

### S.W.O.T. Dialogue

In a group process, workshop attendees identified "SWOT items" they see in their neighborhoods. This dialogue helps the Project Team clarify community perceptions of the study area. See the box to the right for a summary.

### Image Preference Survey (IPS)

Also at the workshops, the consultant team conducted an Image Preference Survey (IPS). This is a tool to guide the designs for architecture, land use, streets, and landscaping. (cont'd on back)

<b>Existing Strengths</b> Homeownership Parks and Creek Senior Housing Local Businesses	<b>Existing Weaknesses</b> Not Pedestrian Friendly Traffic and Congestion Strip Mall Looks Bad Ugly Aesthetics on Hwy 55
<b>Future Opportunities</b> Pedestrian/Bicycle Connections Senior Housing Senior Center Landscaping	<b>Future Threats</b> Development Density Increasing Property Values Noise Traffic Congestion