

STADIUM VILLAGE STATION AREA PLAN
Steering Committee Meeting #3

Thursday, January 13, 2011
Transportation and Safety Building, Room 314
511 Washington Avenue SE
4:30 – 6:00 PM

MEETING NOTES

Steering committee members present: Rebekah Lorence, Tamara Johnson, Dick Gilyard, Hilary Holmes, Michael McLaughlin, Jan Morlock, Calder Hibbard, Janet Smith

Staff present: Haila Maze, Andrew Gillett

Update on Consultant Selection

- **Parking/Transportation:** A staff review committee has reviewed the 10 proposals submitted and interviewed the 5 teams that were short listed. Tentatively, they have chosen the team led by Biko Associates. Scope and contract negotiations will be underway soon. The team will be meeting with the steering committee on several occasions as the project gets underway
- **Market Study:** Five proposals have been received and reviewed by a staff review committee. They will be interviewing short listed teams soon and reporting back at the next steering committee meeting.

Discussion: What Do You Value About the Area?

- **Tamara:** Rarely have to drive – can go a week without driving anywhere. This will be important in the future especially with the rising cost of oil. Cars are peaking – we need to focus on walking/bicycling/buses, as they move from preference to necessity.
- **Area is centrally located and convenient to both Minneapolis and St Paul;** have access to entertainment and lots to do
- **Rebecca:** Parking needs to be improved. Residents (owner occupied and rental) need to have a higher priority for parking in front of their homes. Lots of people driving into the neighborhood and parking on streets (hide and ride). Possibly institute Monday-Saturday parking restrictions, with Sunday open for church parking.
- **Janet:** There's so much you can access in this area – medical and social services, blend of ages, etc.
- **River gorge is “priceless”** – being able to walk along the river road is great
- **Tamara:** Ignacio's idea of making area by water attractive place to sit and stay is a good one – not just for passing through
- **Dick:** Like the richness of people, activities, walkability; in the middle of everything else, well connected to rest of the region (LRT, freeway): the hub

- Jan: Stadium Village and Dinkytown commercial areas have entertainment, but not essential services. Need this to be an attractive place to live – good choices in the area for range of demographics
- Dick: Can't buy a sport coat and shirt here, no longer available
- Walking not always the best situation especially for seniors – e.g. icy sidewalks; need innovative bike/pedicab style solutions to get around
- Michael: Geographic center is great for business; great access to intellectual capital (students and faculty)
- Hilary: Lots of locally owned businesses like Stub & Herbs
- Need hotels and other lodging places, services like dry cleaning and florists. Grocery store: people go to Seward Co-op/Hampton Co-op – could use more around here. Convenience stores (CVS, gas station marts) are currently filling the gap.
- Need better linkages to SE Como to access services already available there
- Need to connect disjointed centers to various areas in University District: make connections across locations
- Jan: Water quality draining into river is a concern, sustainability, permeable surfaces, environmental health
- Trees are important – for pedestrian realm, biodiversity, reforestation. Marcy Holmes did a recent study with the U regarding tree cover. Area in general lacks trees.

Review of Existing Conditions

Land Use and Zoning

- Reviewed draft content including zoning, existing and future land use (from comprehensive plan), and community facilities
- Will add captions to all photos/graphics clarifying what they are
- Police section should also mention coordination with Park Police. Note that U police sometimes go off campus to address incidents, working cooperatively with the City
- Clarify there is currently no public library in the study area. The general public is able to check books out from the University libraries if they purchase a membership, or through interlibrary loan.

Transportation Network

- Reviewed draft content including light rail, bus, road, bicycle, pedestrian, and freight network. Also discussed travel patterns and mode split.
- Again, will add captions to all photos/graphics
- Add reference to bus route 3 – serves western edge of study area
- In pedestrian section, see if we can find volumes of pedestrian traffic associated with stadium events
- 27th Avenue pedestrian realm needs to be improved
- Include volumes and projections of freight traffic and potential impact on area
- Reach out to rail companies to talk about their facilities and plans
- Need to get Metro Design Center analysis of impervious surface

Planning for First Public Meeting

- Will be holding a kickoff meeting in the not-too-distant future to introduce project and provide overview of existing conditions
- Make sure meeting doesn't take place during major sporting event (e.g. basketball game) so parking is not at challenging
- Possible meeting locations: Stadium Village Church, room at TCF Stadium (may be very pricey), Metro Petro meeting room, U Gardens, Profile Center, YMCA space

Next Steps

- Next meeting date not yet set – will be coordinating with parking consultant to see if they can attend and discuss scope with committee; will set date soon
- Will see about setting up regular meeting time
- Next meeting: specifics of public outreach/kickoff meeting