

38th Street & Chicago Avenue

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed in the custody of Minneapolis Police at the intersection of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue. Since then, the intersection has been a focal point for people mourning Floyd and calling for racial justice. Since May, the Mayor, Council Vice President Jenkins, and Council Member Cano, along with staff have been actively engaging with community members, attending regular meetings on the street, and holding several town halls. We have heard numerous perspectives about this intersection, that include both short- and long-term desires and needs.

Many in the community have worked for years to bring vitality to the neighborhood at the intersection of 38th and Chicago. The continued full closure of the street is harming local business, and some may not be able to survive much longer under the current conditions. Many residents, while supportive of creating space for the memorial, would also like to see the neighborhoods reconnected, transit more accessible, and violence decrease. We have the responsibility to provide city services to all of our residents and businesses; including clearing snow, removing solid waste and recycling, and ensuring emergency vehicle and personnel access.

We have been working privately and publicly on plans that would preserve space in the street for memorialization, grieving, visitation, and other community uses; and would also reconnect neighborhoods, re-establish transit service, and ensure the delivery of city services. We remain committed to racial justice and hope to work collaboratively towards these goals. Moving forward, we will further enhance existing partnerships to develop these plans with the 38th and Chicago community.

City staff, including staff from Public Works, the Coordinator's Office, Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR), Minneapolis Police Department (MPD), and the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) have provided recommendations to ensure the delivery of enhanced services and resources, as well as engage with community, while the intersection remains closed to traffic. The City has also engaged external partners to develop services tailored to the area that are responsive to organizers' requests.

It is the recommendation of staff, and the decision of the Mayor, Council Vice President Jenkins, and Council Member Cano to limit the temporary closure of the intersection at 38th and Chicago to vehicular traffic and to move forward with a phased reconnection when the trial of Derek Chauvin concludes. Public Works has proposed two options for the intersection and street design, which will include space for a George Floyd memorial and public art and preserves the area as a space of city, state, and nationwide importance. Through a survey that will be sent to residents and businesses in the area, community will have an opportunity to weigh in on which option they prefer. In the interim, the City will work towards its long-term commitments related to 38th and Chicago and will provide enhanced core services (described below) and clear communication with community, residents, and businesses in the area.

Proposed Interim Plan

Enhanced Delivery of Core City Services

Public Works will be providing enhanced services at 38th and Chicago and surrounding blocks. These services include:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Services - 5 days/week for memorial, weekly for regular residential service.
- Snow and Ice Control – Maintain minimum of 14' width for emergency services; clear curb to curb as conditions allow; salt and sand as needed; snow removal as needed.
- Traffic control – Barriers and traffic signs in place for the safety of pedestrians while preserving emergency vehicle access; reflectors placed to delineate obstructions (the fist, gardens, memorial, and greenhouse) for snow plowing.
- Traffic calming – Installation of temporary traffic calming measures.
- Street lighting – Evaluation and improvement of street lighting in the area.
- Water or sewer repairs – Provide as needed; none to date.

MPD is providing 911 response and enhanced patrols both in and around the intersection of 38th and Chicago.

MFD continues to respond to EMS and other relevant calls for service in the 38th and Chicago area.

Workforce Development and Tailored Outreach

The City's Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) is committed to doubling down on workforce development and career pathways that are culturally specific to help young people in the 38th and Chicago area. Workforce partners include but are not limited to Project for Pride and Living and Summit Academy OIC.

The goal is simple: offer training, job, and education opportunities to those that have traditionally been shut out economically.

This is accomplished through direct outreach and community partnerships, led by these local community organizations.

Housing Supports

The City Council approved grant funding in August 2020 under a new Housing Stabilization pilot program designed to provide housing stabilization, advocacy, and homeownership readiness services to renters in 1-4-unit properties. Four organizations that serve residents in the 38th and Chicago area received a total of \$870,000 in City funding:

- Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (\$300,000) - Providing direct renter assistance along with counseling services, the organization has a strong structure in place and builds upon the capacity building grant previously funded by the City of Minneapolis.
- Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (\$55,000) - With a focus on the Powderhorn and Phillips communities, the organization will expand on the advocacy work that they are already doing with tenants.

- Lutheran Social Services (\$265,000) – The organization has a strong rate of service to single Black mothers in South Minneapolis. They propose to provide direct payment to program participants.
- The Nia Project (\$250,000) – Based in South Minneapolis, the organization will provide direct assistance to renters with an incentive for participants to stay involved to be in a better position to transition to homeownership.

Community Engagement, Outreach, and Communications

The OVP will convene a small group of stakeholders from the area to support the interim plan. This group will be co-convened with Neighborhood Community Relations (NCR). Stakeholders in this group include small businesses at or near this location as well as other interested parties such as neighborhood organizations, faith-based leaders, and advocacy groups. This work will feed into the support outlined above in workforce development and housing supports.

In addition to these engagement opportunities, OVP will establish a tool kit on community safety patrols and other practices that will be on the city website and shared through social media.

OVP will work with NCR and other departments to establish best practices and provide resources for smaller neighborhood groups that formed during the 2020 civil unrest that may be reactivated.

OVP will also help with curfew waiver requests and organizing official patrols.

NCR is working with Communications to draft an engagement plan to ensure that community members are informed about the decisions the City is making. The goal of this engagement plan is to provide the public with balanced and objective information in response to a series of racially charged dates, including the trial of Derek Chauvin, the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd, and the August trial of the three former MPD officers involved in the killing of George Floyd.

The City's Communications team will be working with its multi-jurisdictional partners through a Joint Information System (JIS) to help keep the public informed through a coordinated communications and engagement strategy.

The overriding goal for JIS partners will be providing accurate information before, throughout, and after the trial, and recognizes the intersection will be an ongoing area of interest.

The City is pursuing several, integrated community engagement strategies, including local media partnerships to ensure non-English speaking communities and residents receive information from trusted community sources, a formally-integrated group of JIS community partners who meet on a regular basis, and development of a preparation toolkit for the public.

Racial Justice Resource Delivery

OVP will deploy engagement activities and staff. A detailed outreach strategy will be developed by the stakeholder group and will likely include the following:

- Regular safety patrols and engagement
- Mask distribution

- Healing sessions
- Information sessions on employment and education opportunities
- Public art opportunities

The Division of Race and Equity is developing a plan for the deployment of the \$150,000 to support community-informed racial justice and healing. The goal of the 38th and Chicago work is to provide trauma and crisis help to those who are experiencing crisis and whose ability to receive aid is either limited or not existent at this time.

The Division of Race and Equity has deep experience in providing healing work in similar contexts to 38th and Chicago through the ReCAST grant and through COVID-19 support.

In the past, The Division of Race and Equity has contracted with two dozen organizations who are providing care to those who live and work in Minneapolis. Services that are being provided include but are not limited to psychotherapy, group healing circles, counseling, mentoring services, resource sharing, and peer support. These services would be centered in the geographic area around the intersection of 38th and Chicago.

The City is working with its partners in the workforce industry to provide a job training program for BIPOC youth.

The City is working with its partners in education to provide students with training in green jobs and educational experiences in nature.

A Phased Reconnection

Design Options

The City is working collaboratively with community partners and public leaders to advance a shared, coordinated reconnection plan for the intersection after the trial of former MPD officer Derek Chauvin. This plan assumes a trial date in March.

The design for reconnection plan will, and must be, co-created with community partners with input from the neighborhood.

Public Works has been in close contact with those partners to determine two options that both preserve art, the memorial, and greenhouse while ensuring delivery of critical services for the area, including much needed public transit.

Both recommended options preserve memorial space and art while providing two-way traffic operations in all directions. This improves business and residential access and provides the opportunity to restore transit service on Chicago Avenue (#5) and 38th Street (#23).

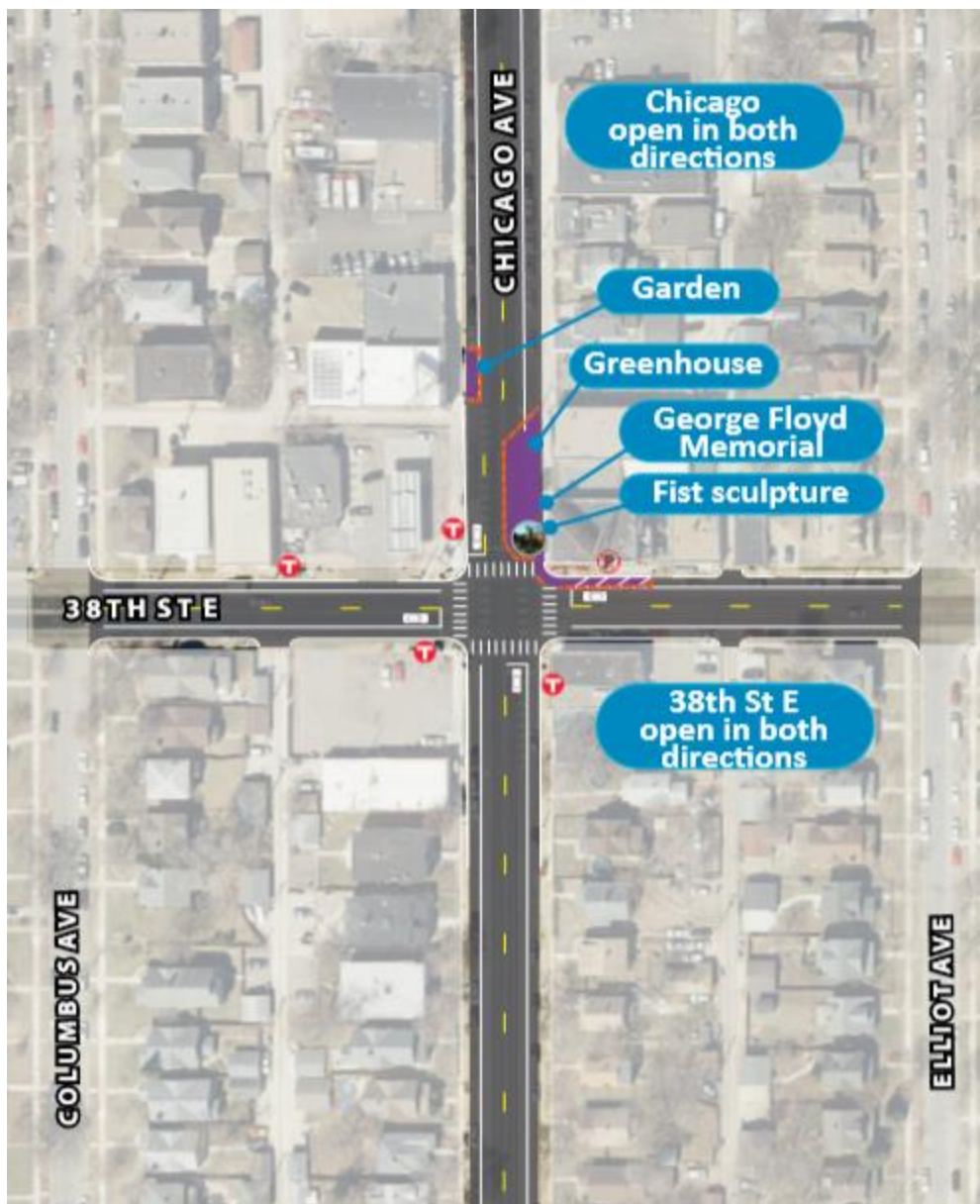
Option 1 – Two-way Traffic on 38th and Chicago – relocate fist sculpture to NE corner of the intersection

Pros

- Restores intersection service for Metro Transit routes 5 & 23
- Better intersection operations, easier to navigate
- Better protection for fist from vehicles
- Allows public to better interact with the art
- Larger footprint for protected area on NE corner of the intersection

Cons

- Requires relocating the fist sculpture
- Less flexible program space at the memorial



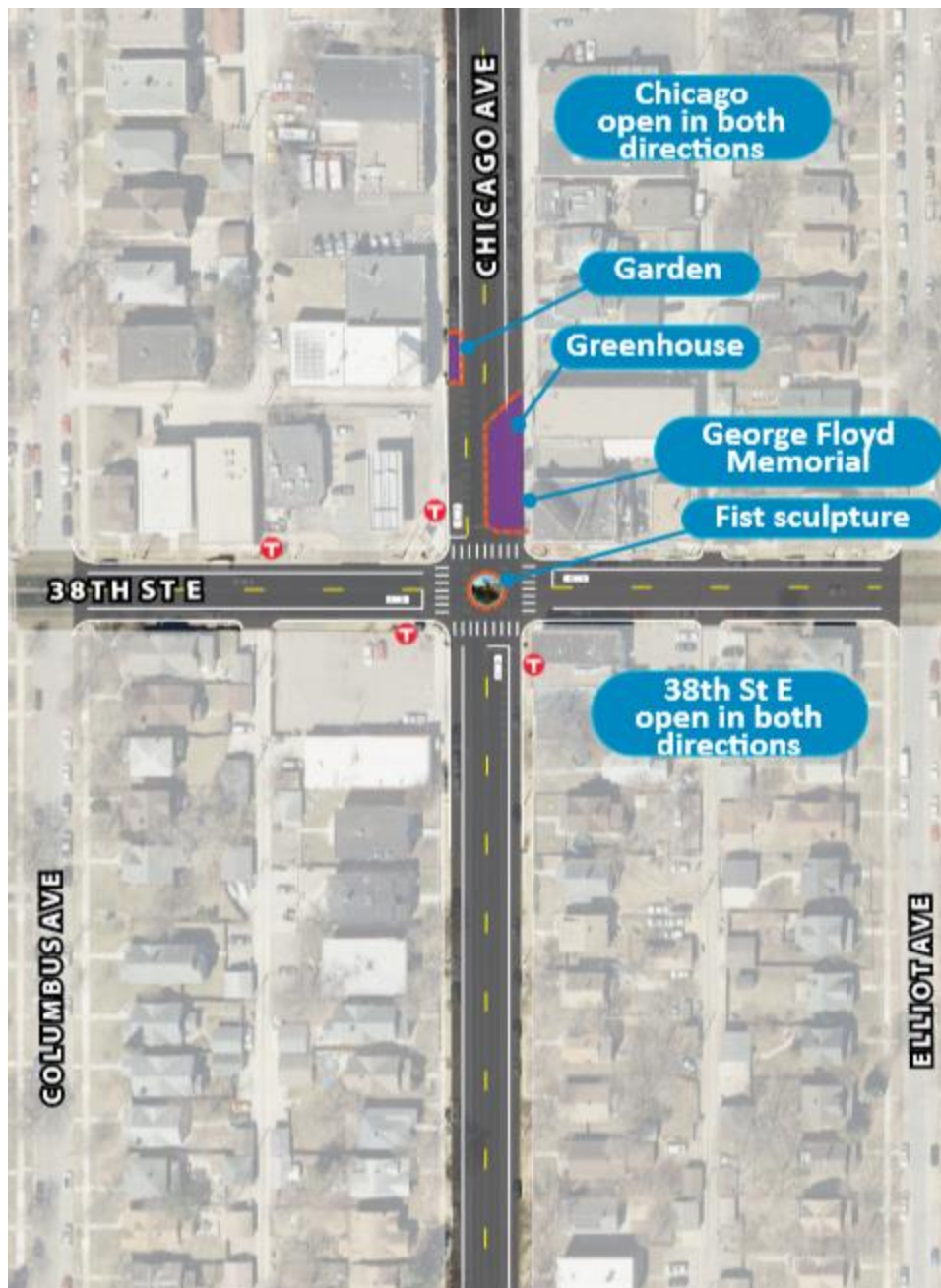
Option 2 – Two-way Traffic on 38th and Chicago – fist sculpture remains in intersection

Pros

- Restores intersection service for Metro Transit routes 5 & 23
- Avoids moving a piece of art
- Calms traffic
- More room for flexible program space at the memorial

Cons

- Exposes the fist sculpture to greater risk of a vehicle hitting it
- Challenging for buses and large vehicles to navigate the intersection
- May invite people to be in the street to interact with the art
- Smaller footprint for protected area on the NE corner of the intersection



Community Survey

The City will send a survey to area residents and businesses to determine the preferred design option for phased reconnection. The survey will be mailed to properties in the area within the next few weeks. The mailing will include a return postcard with paid postage.

Public Works has already started preparing for the changes. Once the design option is determined, Public Works will begin the work on the intersection and street as weather allows with a goal to reopen the street to traffic once the Derek Chauvin trial concludes.

Vision for the Future

Vision and support from the community and our neighboring jurisdictions will prove critical to seeing this plan through.

The City recognizes that 38th and Chicago is a sacred space for racial healing and will be an important place for community and the media to gather during the Derek Chauvin trial. With that in mind, City leaders believe that waiting to reconnect the intersection until after the conclusion of the trial is the best way to move forward with the community on this important next step.

The reality is that this intersection has drawn national and international attention. For the past several months, City leaders have invested significant time in listening to and working with community on the best path forward, recognizing the intersection's significance. Throughout the community engagement process, City staff and partners have come to understand the importance of reconnecting the intersection and reopening the flow of traffic. However, determining how and when to reconnect has taken considerable planning and discussion and will continue throughout the trial.

Long-Term Commitments

Below is a list of actions and investments the City has undertaken and is continuing to undertake related to 38th and Chicago.

- The City has adopted a Truth and Reconciliation Process, which creates the necessary space for conversations so the City and community can work collectively to name and examine the harm of structural racism as a result of City policy and practice, while also taking the necessary reparative steps to address that harm. The 2021 budget allocates \$300,000 of funding designated for the Division of Race and Equity to guide the work, of which half is centered around 38th and Chicago. This funding is in addition to ReCAST grant dollars also dedicated to this work.
- The revised 2020 City budget included \$150,000 for the Creative City Making program to hire a diverse team of artists and healers to create, implement, and lead community engagement processes to guide the City's community healing and rebuild with racial equity efforts for areas most impacted by civil unrest.
- In addition to the \$1 million of job training funds, the City has made more direct progress in redirecting sustainability office dollars for green jobs training at Sabathani Community Center (similar to an established program in North Minneapolis).

- The 2021 budget also approved an increase in funding for a new Rebuild Resilient program that provides over \$1 million for energy improvements to properties impacted by the civil unrest.
- The Minneapolis Forward/Community Now Coalition is helping to direct funding to Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) owned businesses, supported by the City's infusion of over \$5 million to the Commercial Property Development Fund to support acquisition and development/redevelopment activities, with prioritization for areas impacted by the civil unrest.
- The City continues to explore resources including \$182,000 of funding available now from the One Minneapolis Fund through the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations for "Undoing Racism" training.
- The City Council adopted an ordinance establishing 38th Street as one of seven Cultural Districts. As outlined in Minneapolis 2040, the City's Comprehensive Plan, the goal of Cultural Districts is to advance racial equity, prevent displacement, preserve cultural identity, and fuel economic growth in areas with a rich sense of cultural and/or linguistic identity rooted in communities significantly populated by people of color, indigenous people, and/or immigrants (POCII). The ordinance allows the City to prioritize these areas by establishing tools and deploying of resources.
- The City is preparing to formally acknowledge and support the 38th Street Thrive Plan, prepared together with community that sets a vision for 38th Street.
- The City Council has approved adding the commemorative street name of *George Perry Floyd Jr. Place* to Chicago Avenue between 37th Street East and 39th Street East to honor Mr. George Floyd.
- The City will accelerate funding to reconstruct the street and intersection to build the community vision in conjunction with the Metro D-Line bus-rapid transit project.