



# Midtown Corridor Transitway Alternatives Analysis

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## **11/15/12 TAC Meeting Notes & Visioning Exercise Summary**

Prepared by the  
SRF Consulting Group Team



# Midtown Corridor AA

## TAC Meeting Notes

November 15, 2012, 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Metro Transit

### TAC and PMT Members in Attendance

Name	Organization	Present	Alternate	Absent
Dean Michalko	Hennepin County - HCWT			X
Adele Hall	Hennepin County - HCWT			X
Tom Johnson	Hennepin County - Transportation			X
Lisa Johnson	Metro Transit - Bus Ops			X
Maurice Roers	Metro Transit - Eng/Fac	X		
John Humphrey	Metro Transit - Rail Ops		X	
John Dillery	Metro Transit - Serv Dev	X		
Michael Mechtenberg	Metro Transit - Serv Dev	X		
Jim Alexander	Metro Transit - SWLRT		X	
Jonathan Ehrlich	Metropolitan Council	X		
Kha Vue	MnDOT		X	
Paul Mogush	Minneapolis CPED	X		
Anna Flintoft	Minneapolis Public Works	X		
Simon Blenski	Minneapolis Public Works			X
Charles Carlson	Metro Transit - BRT	X		

### TAC Alternates in attendance

Name	Substituting for:
Tom Domres	Jim Alexander - SWLRT
Mark Benedict	John Humphrey - Rail Ops
Gina Mitteco	Kha Vue - MnDOT

### OTHER ATTENDEES

Name	Organization
Chelsey Armstrong	Metro Transit Intern
Kim Zlimen	Hennepin County

### Consultants in attendance

Name	Organization
Joe Kern	SRF
Liz Heyman	SRF
Charleen Zimmer	ZAN



## Meeting Notes

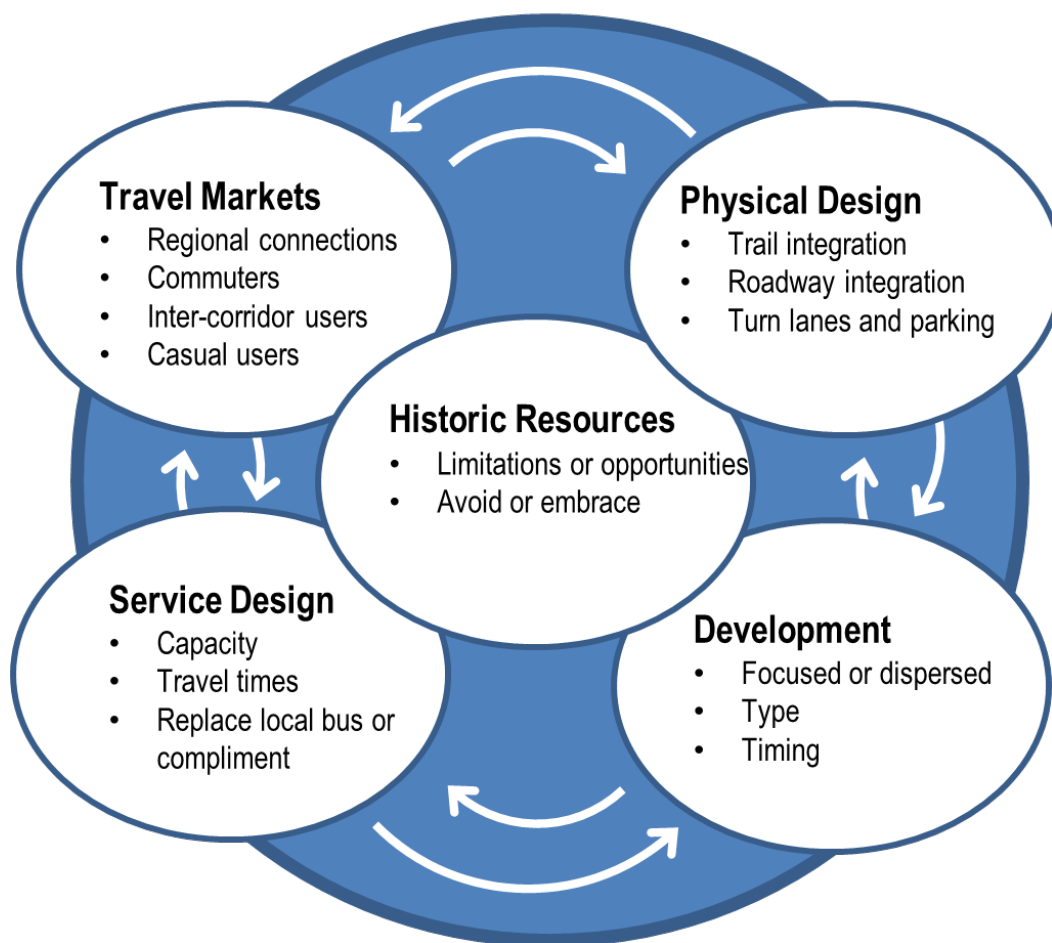
- Mike Mechtenberg introduced the group, reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the TAC
- Joe Kern presented an AA overview.
  - Joe clarified that although MAP-21 no longer requires an official AA process, the Midtown Corridor AA project will still follow the traditional AA steps. The project will also still analyze No-build and Transportation System Management (TSM) alternatives.
- Mike Mechtenberg gave an overview of the corridor.
  - A TAC member asked why the study area does not continue east beyond the Blue Line connection. Mike Mechtenberg noted that the trench portion of the study area ends at the Blue Line and land use becomes less dense in this area as well.
  - It was noted that the study should consider how an eastern extension would connect with the locally preferred alternative (LPA).
- Charleen Zimmer gave an overview of the project's outreach strategy.
- Charleen Zimmer led the group in a facilitated visualization exercise. Please see the visualization summary file for more detail.
- Next Meeting: The next TAC meeting is scheduled for 2/7/13.

# 11/15/12 TAC Visioning Exercise Summary

The goal of the Visioning Exercise was to introduce participants to factors that influence policy choices within the Midtown Corridor as well as the tradeoffs between potential policy choices.

The exercise gathered participants' thoughts and opinions on how tradeoffs should be balanced. Participants answered a series of questions addressing tradeoffs in the five subject areas shown on the graphic below. Participants recorded their answers on sticky notes and facilitators sorted their answers to reveal areas of consensus, disagreement and overall themes.

## Influencing Factors and Potential Tradeoffs



# HISTORIC RESOURCES

Darker color = more mentions  
from participants

## How should the project deal with historic resources?

**Embrace**

Protect

Incorporate

Balance historic resources within the project area where possible

## What are the important historic resources in the corridor?

**Buildings**

Bridges

Lake Street storefronts

### Take away thoughts

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- The overall trend in the group was to embrace and protect historic resources. The group seemed to agree that, if done well, transit can enhance historic resources.
- The greatest number of respondents called out buildings and bridges as the important historic resources along the corridor.
- Important idea:
  - Need to consider the effect historic bridge maintenance may have on on-going operations.

# PHYSICAL DESIGN

Darker color = more mentions  
from participants

## How do we utilize the corridor space?

### IN THE MIDTOWN GREENWAY

#### Encroach on...

Side slopes

Bikeway

#### Move but preserve...

Bikeway

### ON LAKE STREET

#### Encroach on...

Parking

Travel lanes

Turn lanes

#### Preserve...

Parking

Travel lanes

Turn lanes

### Take away thoughts

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- The group wanted to encroach on the side slopes of the trench. They wanted the bikeway preserved, but accepted it might need to be moved within the trench alignment.
- There was less consensus around how space should be allocated on Lake Street than how space should be allocated in the trench.
- A few specific ideas on Lake Street:
  - Take parking near stations, but potentially preserve parking along other parts of the corridor.
  - Preserve parking over travel lanes, because it buffers pedestrians from traffic.

# TRAVEL MARKETS

Darker color = more mentions  
from participants



## What travel markets should the Midtown Corridor serve?

**Intra-corridor users**

**People who rely on transit**

Shoppers/Casual users

Commuters

### Take away thoughts

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- Intra-corridor users and people who rely on transit were the dominant choices for targeted travel markets.

# SERVICE DESIGN

Darker color = more mentions  
from participants

## What should Midtown Corridor transit improvements aim to accomplish?

### Improve Speed

Increase the quality of the transit experience

Increase Frequency

Decrease demand for parking

Induce a mode shift from cars to transit

Increase rider capacity

### Take away thoughts

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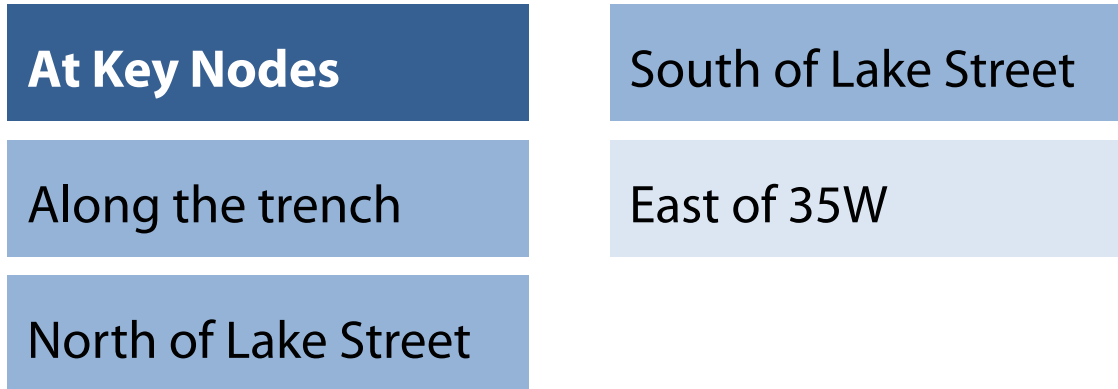
- The dominant theme was to improve the speed of service, but there were also a variety of other desired goals mentioned.



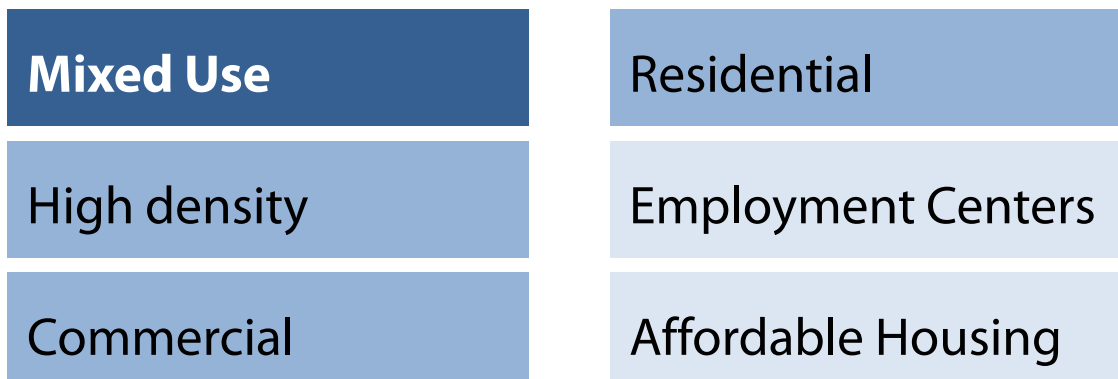
# DEVELOPMENT

Darker color = more mentions  
from participants

## Where should development occur along the corridor?



## What type of development should occur along the corridor?



### Take away thoughts

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- The overall theme was to develop mixed-use projects along key corridor nodes.
- Development should be encouraged along the entire corridor, but *public investment* should be prioritized at major nodes.