

Meeting Summary: 10th Street Station Area Working Group

Meeting Number: 1
Date: 11/01/2023 6pm-8pm
Location: NEOO Partners office, 370 Wabasha N #1200, Saint Paul, MN.

Attendance

- 12 participants
 - 5 staff
-

Agenda

- Welcome + Dinner
 - Grounding Activity
 - Station Area Storytelling Activity
 - Asset Mapping Activity
 - Vision Statement Activity
 - Closing + Next Steps
-

Key Themes

Transportation Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Desire for better bike lanes, wayfinding, and pedestrian infrastructure
- Need for seamless connections between transit routes
- Concerns about cleanliness and safety at transit stations
- Concerns about sidewalk safety and snow removal
- Calls for well-lit streets and security measures

Amenities and Services

- Desire for more programming, entertainment options, urban gardens, and green spaces
- Need for a variety of businesses, including affordable grocery stores, home essentials, and restaurants
- Desire for family-oriented attractions
- Need for more nighttime and weekend attractions

- Concerns about the decline of businesses and nightlife
- Calls for a diverse and vibrant downtown community
- Calls for better communication about construction and disruptions
- Need for resources and services for homeless individuals - harm reduction and healthcare services

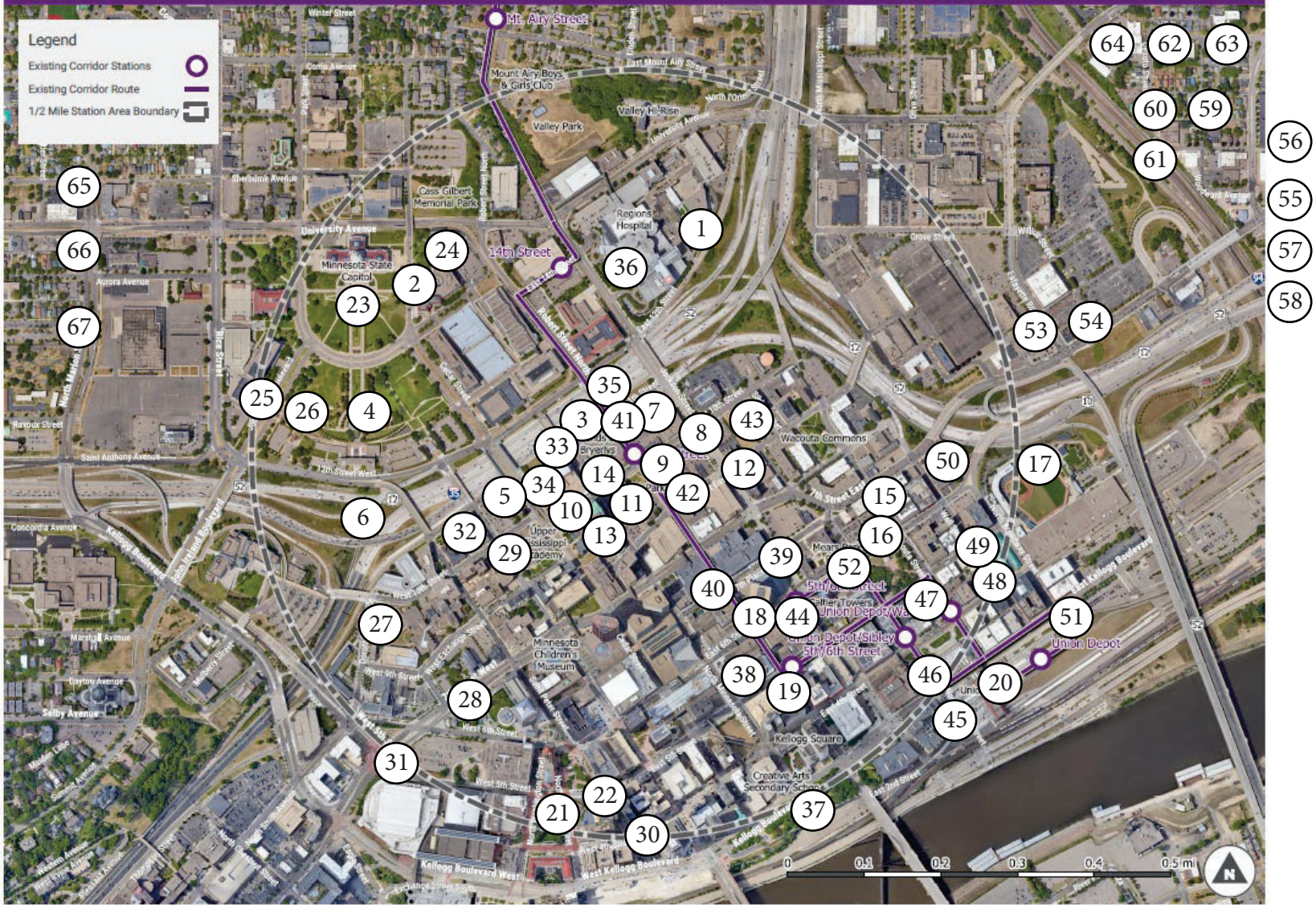
Public Safety

- Concerns about safety and perception of safety in downtown



(from left to right) Photo of a completed asset mapping activity and photo of participants completing the asset mapping activity.

10th Street Purple Line BRT Station Area



NOTE: Numbers correspond with numbered comments from asset mapping activity, below.

10th St. Station Area Working Group: Raw Notes

Asset Mapping Activity

A geographic place-based activity using maps of the station areas to identify geographics specific comments (places, people, desires, challenges, concerns, etc.).

Prompt(s):

1. *What places in the station area are important to you?*
2. *What happens where? (youth activities, senior activities, family, business, etc.)*
3. *Where do you go for resources? What kind of resources?*
4. *Where do you feel the safest around the station area?*
5. *What places of business or organizations are important to you?*
6. *What intersections or streets do you use most often? How would you describe their condition?*

Notes:

The numbers below refer to the numbers on the attached maps. The number on the map indicates the general location the comment is referring to.

1. Partnership with regions
2. More programming on Capital lawn
3. Urban garden/farm
4. State workers love Lunds and Byerlys
5. Underutilized green space (Capitol Lawn)
6. Public Health Building
7. No comfortable connections across highway by bike
8. Alcoholics Anonymous
9. Bank
10. Key's Cafe
11. Cedar Street is pedestrian
12. New and improved Pedro Park
13. Development: affordable housing
14. Fitzberg Theater and music
15. Idea: Food trucks, coffee trucks
16. Want: Art classes/after work activities
17. I want the YMCA back
18. Regulations on how late Saints fireworks go - limits night activity
19. DVS
20. Post office
21. Love bike shop/coffee shop
22. I love Rice Park
23. New housing

24. State capital
25. No homeless people are allowed in the area (Capitol)
26. No parking
27. Want free parking
28. Retail outlets
29. Have police patrol around 24/7
30. More lighting
31. City Hall
32. How do Xcel attendees get into neighborhood
33. St Paul Public Health Building is important
34. Grocery is important
35. Grocery
36. Bus stop needs to preserve corner entrance to Lunds
37. Hospital accessible by bus for visitors
38. "Needles Park"
39. Bike trail
40. Annoying flashing lights at vape shop
41. Lighting on Robert Street can be better
42. Gas station is bad
43. Maintain sidewalk dining
44. Immigration office
45. 5th Street not very safe or walkable
46. Access to the river for recreation
47. Bike shop
48. Lots of restaurants in Lowertown
49. Farmers Market
50. My home
51. Speedway is very bad
52. Greyhound public transit accessible
53. 5th and 6th: slow down. Wacouta Pedestrian crash
54. Most people have to leave downtown to get resources
55. Beat cops with horses
56. Corporate investors bought building; no real investment
57. Tenants have issues
58. Lots of restaurants close in Lowertown
59. Downtown gas station - Speedway on 7th Street unsafe
60. Chuck and Bones pet store closed
61. Business owners are cheap/lack of investment
62. Dirty streets not welcoming, hard to enjoy
63. Issues by the station during use
64. Basic needs
65. Resources needed for homeless

66. Resources:
67. Harm reduction
68. Free healthcare
69. More lighting on main streets - solar?
70. Sidewalks and construction safety
71. We need more family-oriented attractions

Storytelling Activity

Following a grounding exercise participants were asked to share an experience they had related to their neighborhood or station area as a way to identify challenges, concerns, opportunities and desires in a narrative format.

Prompt(s):

1. *Who is the main character? Are there other significant characters?*
2. *Where did the experience take place? (describe the intersection, neighborhood, setting)*
3. *What happened? (give key details about the experience)*
4. *How did the experience impact the characters or make you feel?*

Notes:

- Summer - earbuds in
- On the street, aware of stop lights
- See Green Line/bus stop
- Walking to the bus stop
- Happy mood - Summer, music, no destination
- On a bike
- On my way to work
- I am vigilant because the intersection is weird
- On bike and I don't always know where the path is
- Where should I walk?
- Not by myself
- Avoid folks - feeling uncertain
- Bus shelters are compacted with snow. hard to access bus stops
- Train travels off lights/doesn't use 10th Street
- QR code for bus schedule
- Next Trip - app/website
- Screen - Frequent times listed
- Knows downtown like the back of her hand, some things are hard to find - wayfinding
- Used to the suburbs
- Hard to find
- Didn't have to cross street
- Likes downtown

- 10th and Robert Street
- Bike to grocery store
- Snow is covering/plowed in bike lane
- Hard to get to Lunds and Byerly's
- Has to bike in general traffic
- Lowertown - bike in the middle of Robert Street - traffic
- Frustrating
- Leave downtown/go to downtown
- Wayfinding by the stop and connecting the skyway
- Mindful of people not familiar with the area
- Not pedestrian friendly
- Surface parking lots = problem
- Sidewalks not smooth
- Will bus stop blend or interrupt environment
 - How will it blend with the park?
- Sidewalk space and length for bus
- Spanish Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, will they be displaced?
 - Building is in disrepair - will it come down?
- Disrupt current businesses → street parking availability?
 - Needed for existing businesses
 - Maybe too much
- Lighting could be better
 - On Robert Street around Keys Cafe and Lunds seems poorly lit
 - Improve for safety and security
- Intersection is at a bit of a hill, so visible
- Snow removal from sidewalks, in the Heights
 - Almost fell
 - At bus stops, people can't get on bus because of snow → City or Metro Transit - problem of responsibility
- Limited pharmacy hours
 - Limited hours in skyway for residents
- Target? Lunds for groceries but nothing for home goods
- Don't displace the businesses
 - Keep sidewalk seating for Keys Cafe, others
 - 10th Street businesses already impacted by bike lane
 - Less customers because walk from home
- Communication about construction that's happening - for businesses, residents, travelers
- Subscribe to routes for disruption info → get updates
- Convenient when a transit rider, when not, shouldn't be an obstacle to enjoying the area
 - Not delineated. should blend in
 - Open roof
- More affordable groceries (Target)

- Like in Highland Park (vertical)
- Unoccupied space at Black Sheep
- Everything declined since covid
- More life at 7th
- Restaurant near Xcel with patio outside
- Make downtown more affordable to draw in customers
- Safety issue/perception keeps people from suburbs out
 - No one downtown after Wild game → need night attractions
- Not much for kids
- Used to have DJ at Barrio but now don't
 - Used to open until 2:00 a.m.
- Bulldog is only bar that stays open late
- Ox Cart longer hours because of rooftop
- How does the hotel stay in business?
 - Where do their guests go?
- Sander = Extended Stay/half B&B (different market)
- People go to Minneapolis at night
- Restaurant with basement level
 - Eagle Street
 - Station 4
 - Allery's
- Some nightlife for blocks west of Xcel but not East
- Nothing around Saints
- Need bars to promote activities after sports games
- Older crowd, mixed income and many races
 - Not using bars
- Families go to Minneapolis to do stuff with their kids
- Younger adults live in downtown St. Paul because it's cheaper, but take Green Line to downtown Minneapolis

Wouldn't It Be Fantastic If...?

Wouldn't it be fantastic if, or "WIFI" was a visioning activity used at the end of the meetings to collect additional statements that will be used to inform the Saint Paul station area's vision and goals.

Prompt(s):

1. *Encouraged participants to use their notes from the grounding activity to start from if they need inspiration.*
2. *Encouraged participants to think about what would fill their greatest need or bring them the most joy.*

Notes:

- A plan went into place to repurpose empty/abandoned buildings
- Transit station/hubs were always clean
- Visions for the transit project became a true reality
- Downtown sidewalks were level and clear
- Speedway was condemned
- Transit stops were used exclusively by transit Riders
- Metro Transit Police were responsive
- Free parking
- Kid-friendly
- Nightlife
- More affordable
- More events or entertainment
- Families were drawn downtown
- Safer and cleaner
- Businesses retained
- Playground in park
- Live music on different nights in parks
- Roller skating rink
- Park for kids, playground
- Mini golf
- Something similar to a Dave & Buster's
- More shopping/stores/Target
- More diverse population
- More showcasing of artists, musicians, and other assets
- The YMCA open back up
- Every street has a bike lane
- 10th Street became a pedestrian walkway
- If there will be an immigration office
- If there will be a passport center in St Paul
- If there's a nice park with a water fountain and flower garden in the center of the city
- I felt safe again walking around my city
- Public health was a top priority in my country/state/city
- If downtown had more bikeable lanes/protected lanes
- If the bike lanes were connected to each other
- If there were harm reduction places for people to go to instead of congregating at stops or LRT stations
- There was in indoor conservatory area
- The buildings were held responsible for what happens in and around them
- Down with corporate greed
- Dedicated bus lanes and fewer lanes for cars

- Residents could find what they need within walking distance
- Street parking is eliminated and street space is reimagined to be more pedestrian and bike friendly
- Sidewalks and bike trails are priority during the winter (to clear snow)
- Most people visiting downtown would use public transit to get there
- Wait time for buses and LRT are reduced
- More small to-go food
- More affordable supermarkets/grocery
- More housing
- Target Express
- More art/public art

One Word To Describe Your Experience

Participants were asked to provide one word at the end of the meeting that described their experience.

- Heard
- Hopeful
- Generative
- Positive
- This isn't going to go anywhere
- Excited
- Introspective