

Meeting Summary: 14th Street and Mt. Airy Street Station Area Working Group

Meeting Number: 1
Date: 10/16/2023 6pm-8pm
Location: Mt. Airy Community Center, Saint Paul, MN.

Attendance

- 22 participants
 - 6 staff
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Agenda

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

Transportation Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Desire for easier access to stores within walking distance
- Suggestion to improve left turns (along Pennsylvania and headed north on Jackson Street)
- Calls for improved signs for bike paths
- Calls for better street sidewalks and roads
- Calls for maintaining clear sidewalks in winter
- Need for smoother paths, especially on hilly terrain (along Jackson Street)
- Request for better lighting at bus shelters and stops
- Concerns about the lack of benches and shelter at bus stops
- Need for improved sightlines to address road safety concerns

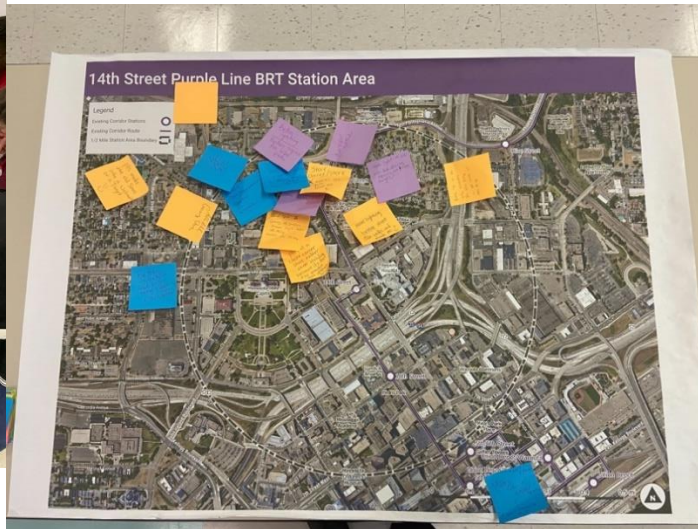
Amenities and Services

- Desire for more parks and recreational activities

- Need for convenience and corner stores
- Interest in converting old buildings into stores
- Calls for affordable grocery stores

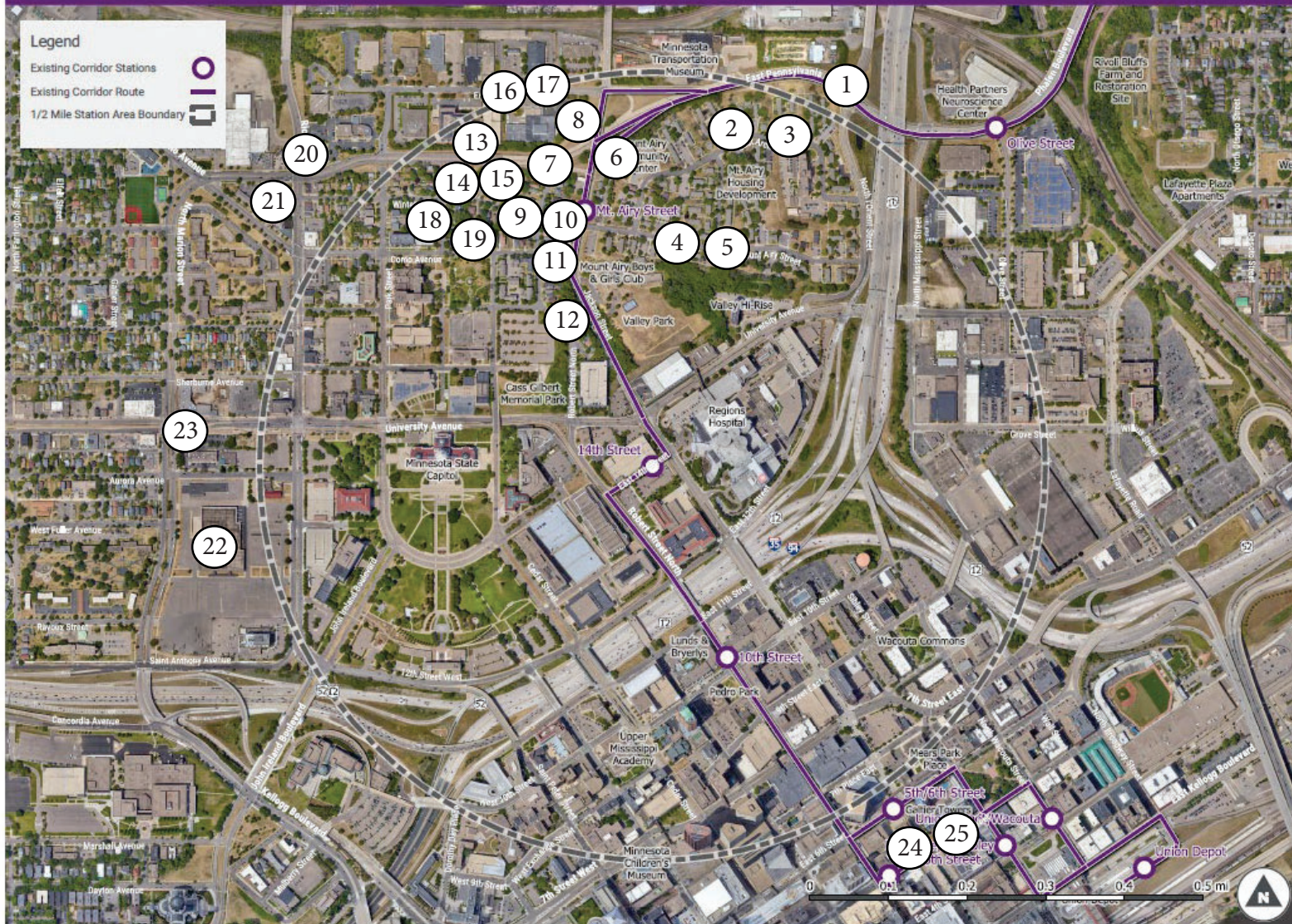
Public Safety

- Concerns about safety and security, including sex offenders in the neighborhood
- Desire for better lighting and security measures
- Calls for safe transportation options



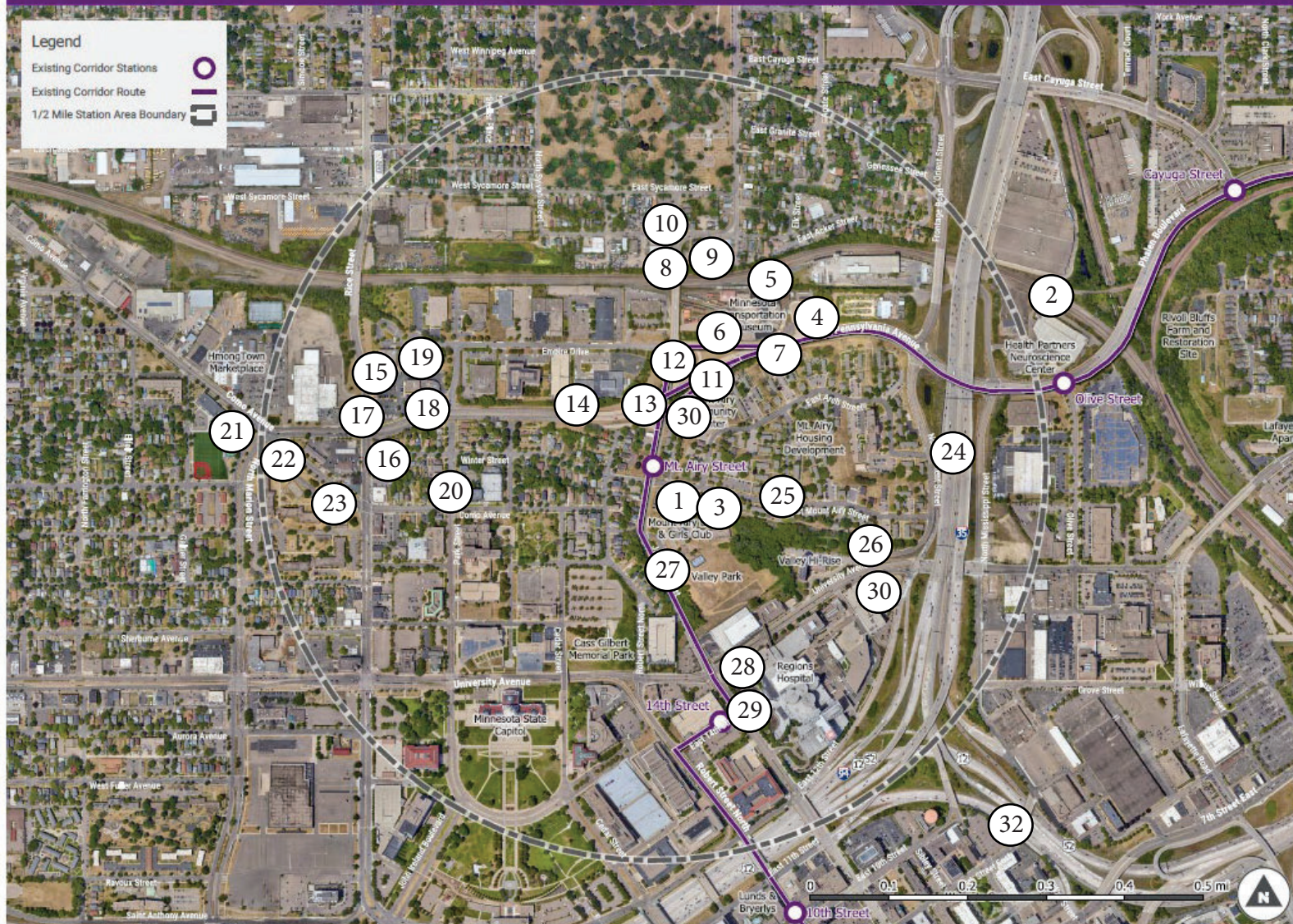
(from left to right) Photo of participants completing the asset mapping activity and a photo of the completed asset map with comments for 14th street.

14th Street Purple Line BRT Station Area



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

Mt. Airy Street Purple Line BRT Station Area



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

14th St. & Mt. Airy St. Station Area Working Group: Raw Notes

Asset Mapping Activity

A geographic place-based activity using maps of the station areas to identify geographic 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.

14th Street Station Area

1. Route 71 is the only connection for folks living in northeast corner of Mount Airy
2. more light on Arch
3. more Park activities (spinning tire and more swings)
4. more lighting
5. better Street sidewalks and Roads please
6. corner store
7. corner store
8. convenience store
9. some type of supervision (security)
10. lime scooters
11. blind spot coming up Jackson Street right before Mount Airy, watch for children
12. please put a closer Corner Store rather than holiday because it's too far Maybe gas station as well
13. security (especially at night)
14. Safe Transportation
15. sex offenders around neighborhood need extra supervision
16. better lighting
17. better signs for bike path
18. level 3 sex offenders
19. Capitol
20. coffee shops
21. affordable grocery store

22. please make the old Sears into a Walmart or a Target
23. better sidewalks and keep them clear in the winter
24. lost and found
25. Metro Transit store / window and transit security hub

Mt. Airy Street Station Area

1. Light the Boys and Girls Club
2. I get on the bus and get on the 69 to go to stores so it would be nice if we could get places we can walk to
3. the Boys and Girls Club is a fun place and people can use a bus there
4. Left turns are difficult
5. Transit Museum
6. pedestrian access to the museum
7. lighting sidewalks from Mount Airy to Minnesota Transportation Museum
8. county has bridge on watch list
9. PR wants it 4 ft higher
10. North End puts Bridge into Cemetery
11. Car speeding on Pennsylvania
12. can't make left hand turn during rush hour from Pennsylvania into Museum
13. unsafe for bicyclists
14. Pennsylvania needs to look less like a highway
15. safety concerns on Rice Street
16. purple line will help kids going to school
17. Holiday gas station
18. bus from Rice Street doesn't come from holiday to Mount Airy
19. Washington High School
20. apartment building with no parking
21. took bus shelter due to drug use - lots around Holiday
22. Topic at block Club → coffee shops, food
23. empty buildings other side of dialysis
24. Shelter
25. Lights by Boys and Girls Club
26. not only a well-lit area but an open area where people can see each other. and no vacant properties, they deter from wanting to stop at the station
27. can we get a smooth path to and from the stop due to the hills is too steep
28. a place that's very important is the Regions Hospital
29. walk to Regions hospital, crowded sidewalks, slippery in winter
30. bus shelter, no bench
31. Blind sightlines
32. Will be great to have bus more often than 68

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:

- Grocery shopping
- Getting chased by a dog
- Grew up here, running around with neighborhood friends
- Spending time helping and befriending neighbors here
- Walking to and from the green line, a long distance from here
- Frequency of proposed bus would be great
- Station location is good
- Standard bus infrequency - long waits, especially bad in winter
- Just moved
- Specialty clinics at Cayuga and Olive
- Bottom of the hill - Route 71 - have to walk up
- Route 71 is the only way to Purple Line (L'Orient)
- People in the high rise need that route
- Convenience stores in walking distance - Need stores at stations
- Prosperity Street - close to Cub Foods and Walgreens
- Extra block to grocery stores matters in winter
- Building used to be a store near Mount Airy - used to buy milk there - would love to open a business
- If right at Recreation Center - ambassadors constantly check after school or busy hours in summer
- Close to a store - can't carry gallons of milk many blocks - closest now is a gas station
- Need a One-Stop shop - have 2-1-1, limit you to what you can ask on one call, need to call again
- it would help if they had a bulletin board with list of resources while you wait
- close to clinics - might determine where you go (longer trip but on bus line)
- places under the radar
- walk most on Mount Airy and Jackson
- grocery stores and Clinics
- going to mall will help a lot of people
- mail bus schedules to Mount Airy Community Center - used to, need to again - people ask for it

- closing for sale - (see map)
- Safety - well lit, understand signs - symbols Universal, Pictures help (bus)
- Mexico had signs and pictures (even if you can't read Spanish)
- sidewalks need repair
- flashing lights at Boys & Girls Club when someone is driving up
- alert to be aware when people crossing blind spot of Jackson from University
- Crossing to and from bus stop - kids need to be visible
- connection to Green Line
- Union Depot = Meetup space - safety substation with people all day - ambassadors Manning the steps
- window for bus Metro Transit pass store (Skyway is long walk)
- lost and found too (only one in Minneapolis)
- bus card on bus
- organized Meetup

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:

- Peace in the community amongst each other!
- Safety in the community
- If more trees planted and flowers
- We had public art and murals
- Light at shelters
- Free health care no matter who they are
- The bus went through Mt. Airy hills
- Transportation knew where to pick you up from
- If the bus came in front of your house
- If the bus had wifi
- If we had closer stores
- There was more people using public transportation to work
- They would bring back some of the more experienced drivers. A lot of great drivers were let go from the heads abusing their power
- We had a few grocery stores or department (value) stores like Walmart or Cooper's Market

- Metro Transit really, truly takes our suggestions into consideration and some actually comes to fruition
- There was enough widespread public transportation to get you within 2 blocks of any destination
- Public transportation was free. Maybe just some routes.
- There are peace and order in the community
- All the events and activities offered by our community be welcome and appreciated
- If all our needs be met just to be able to live a normal and happy life
- More shopping stores
- More lights
- More safety and security
- Lights at dark bus shelters/stops
- If sidewalks are clean in the winter at stops
- Security at train/bus station – Hire people
- What if Metro transit hired folks to talk to the people
- What if all stops had security
- What if all stops had lights and shelters
- What if there was a shelter with a bench at every bus stop, (If not every bus stop, then evenly spaced out). For example: Arch and L'Orient
- What if there was at each bus shelter a machine for free paying fares and in the shelters, lights, at least fare paying machines at the transit stations
- Everybody could get along without drama
- If everyone could get free healthcare forever
- I didn't have to worry about money and bills
- I had a car!
- I had a lot of money
- I didn't have to work
- Mr. Airy had stores closer!
- Public art murals and sculptures
- Plant more trees
- Flowers