

## Meeting Summary: Cook Avenue Station Area Working Group

**Meeting Number:** 1  
**Date:** 10/12/2023 6pm-8pm  
**Location:** Hmong Village, Saint Paul, MN.

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### Attendance

- 9 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

- Lack of connection to transit
- Need for traffic lights and improvements to address traffic congestion (along Johnson Parkway and Phalen Boulevard)
- Need for a stop light and pedestrian crossings at dangerous intersections (examples are Phalen Boulevard at Atlantic Street and Johnson Parkway at Ames Ave)
- Concerns about streets not being plowed in winter
- Icy areas under the railroad bridge posing dangers
- Request for sidewalk connections (examples: no visible connection from Atlantic Street to Duluth and Case Recreation Center; no north/south connections crossing Phalen Boulevard east of Atlantic Street)

## Amenities and Services

- Parking expansion of Hmong Village and concerns related to DMV and clinic parking (parking congestion/need for more parking)
- Desire for more food and grocery options
- Need for clinics and libraries
- Desire for more grocery stores in the area
- Investment needed in the recreation center, including a new playground
- Concerns about the closure of small parks
- Request for more park programs
- Interest in youth activities and tennis
- Need for wood chips (landscaping) and a walk/bike trail away from cars
- Interest in urban wildlife preservation
- Area has a reported presence of wildlife, including ducks, birds, muskrats, Chimney Swift birds, and the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee
- Interest in creating an urban wildlife corridor above rail corridor
- Interest in preserving woods, prairies, and natural areas

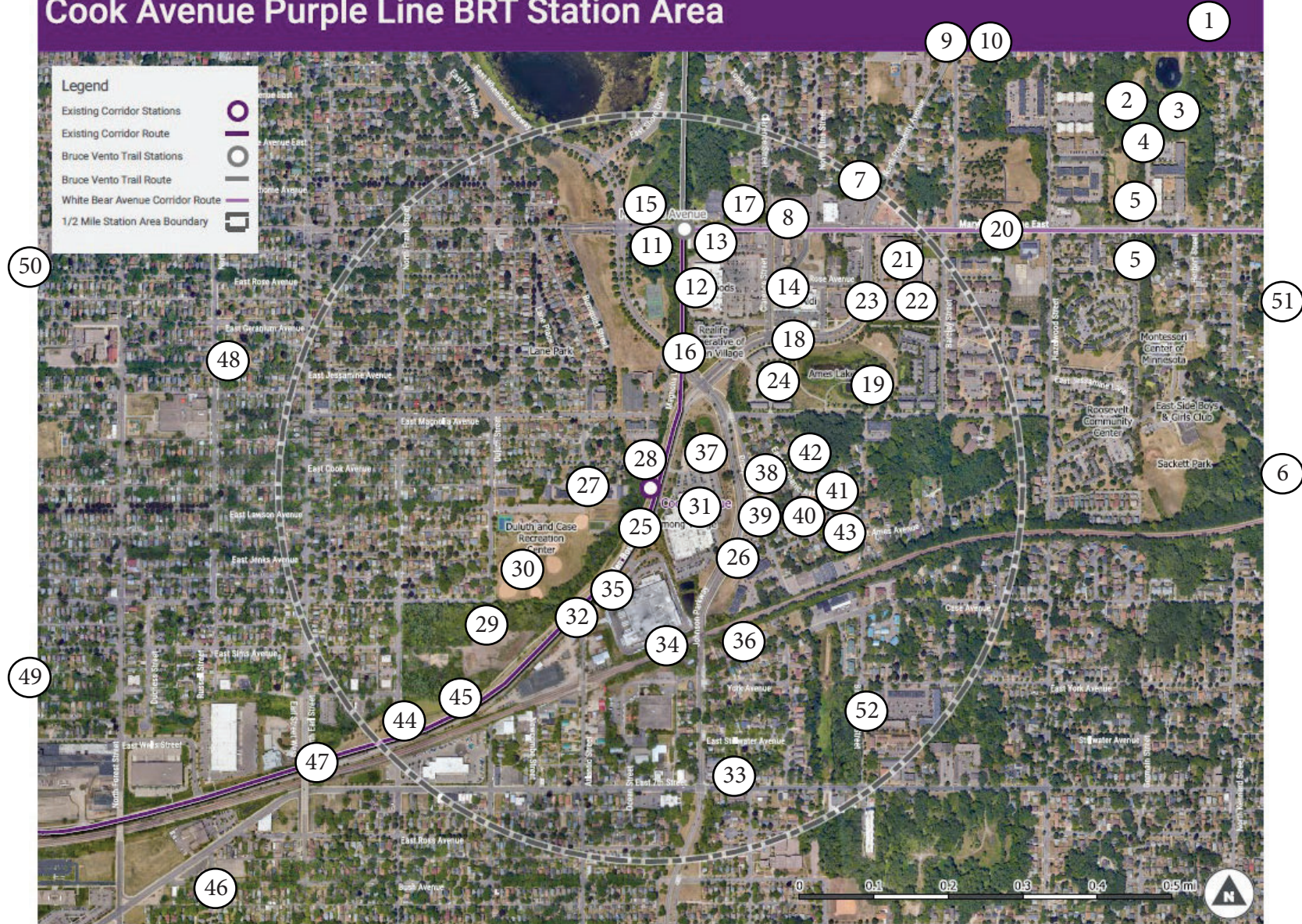
## Public Safety

- Desire for improved lighting and safety in the community



(from left to right) Photo of final asset mapping activity with comments and photo of participants engaging in the asset mapping activity.

# Cook Avenue Purple Line BRT Station Area



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

## Cook Ave. 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. More grocery stores in the area
2. Rec center will be the next that will get investment
3. New playground now
4. No connection to transit
5. Atlantic + Phalen Blvd people hit 40mph+ → Hard to cross
6. Streets in the city never get plowed in the winter
7. Pharmacy
8. Bank (Wells Fargo)
9. Not enough park programs
10. Small parks were closed
11. Ducks + birds + muskrats live here
12. Walk ins
13. Food
14. Grocery
15. Tennis!
16. Lighting
17. Dangerous intersection
18. Congested intersection
19. Walks
20. Road work
21. Cub for groceries/supplies
22. Food in businesses around Cub/Phalen/Clarence
23. Small community room on Rose behind Aldi for meeting

24. Endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee here
25. No crossing for pedestrians
26. Stop light
27. Chimney Swift birds live here and eat bugs + mosquitos
28. Traffic light needed
29. Wood chips!
30. Youth activities
31. Shopping
32. Dangerous intersection
33. Gas station
34. Need sidewalk connection to some of the nearby streets – Cook, and some type of connection to the Duluth & Case rec center grounds
35. Road work
36. Icy area in winter under railroad bridge – DANGER!
37. Parking lot expansion
38. DMV
39. Pharmacy
40. Food
41. Grocery
42. Clinic
43. Parking for DMV
44. Woods + prairie + walk and bike trail away from cars + look at birds + bumble bees
45. Next rec center to be redone
46. Mississippi Market co-op
47. No bus on Phalen Blvd!
48. Clinic
49. Library
50. More grocery
51. DMV coming may cause parking issues/clinic not enough parking → Hmong Village
52. Upgrade above Beltline [...] for urban wildlife corridor – Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, birds, coyotes + owls

### **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:**

- More parking spaces at Hmong Village, Cook Station
- Stop lights outside of Hmong Village
- More parks in the area
- Fix all the roads in the area
- A place to garden
- Better street lighting