

Meeting Summary: Olive Street and Cayuga Street Station Area Working Group

Meeting Number: 1
Date: 10/11/2023 6pm-8pm
Location: Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities–Men’s Campus, Saint Paul, MN.

Attendance

- 13 participants
 - 5 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

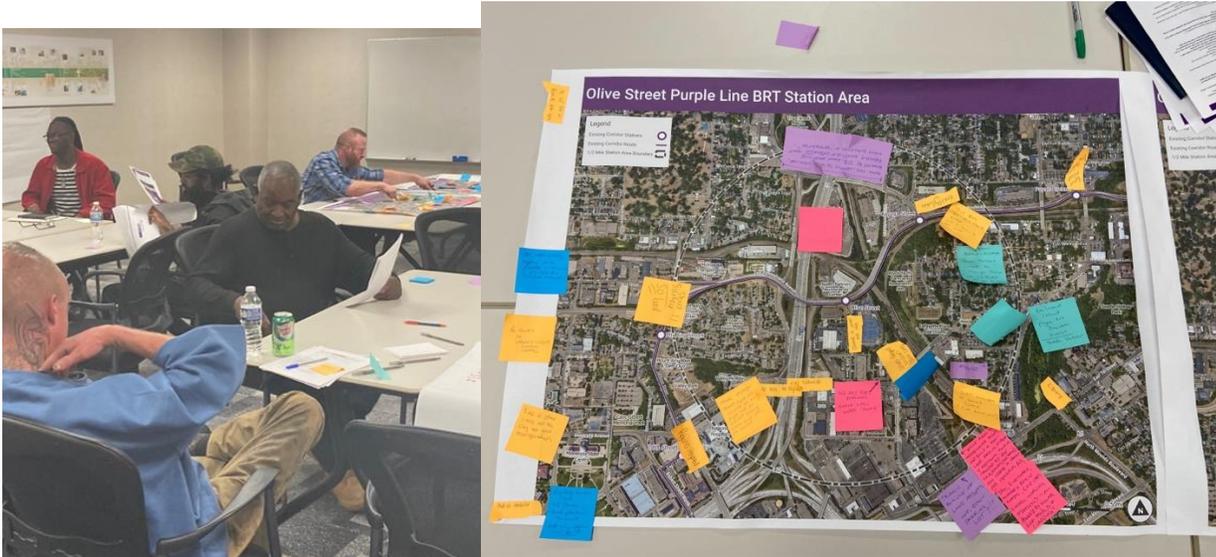
- Request for flashing lights at pedestrian crossings
- Request for accessibility improvements in parks, including picnic tables and shelters
- Desire for expanded public transportation options and improved accessibility for individuals with mobility issues
- Improvement of street surfaces and sidewalks
- Requests for better snow removal and maintenance

Amenities and Services

- Need for self-cleaning bathrooms
- Desire for more restaurants and retail options
- Interest in urban wildlife study and preservation of green space
- Desire for more green space

Public Safety

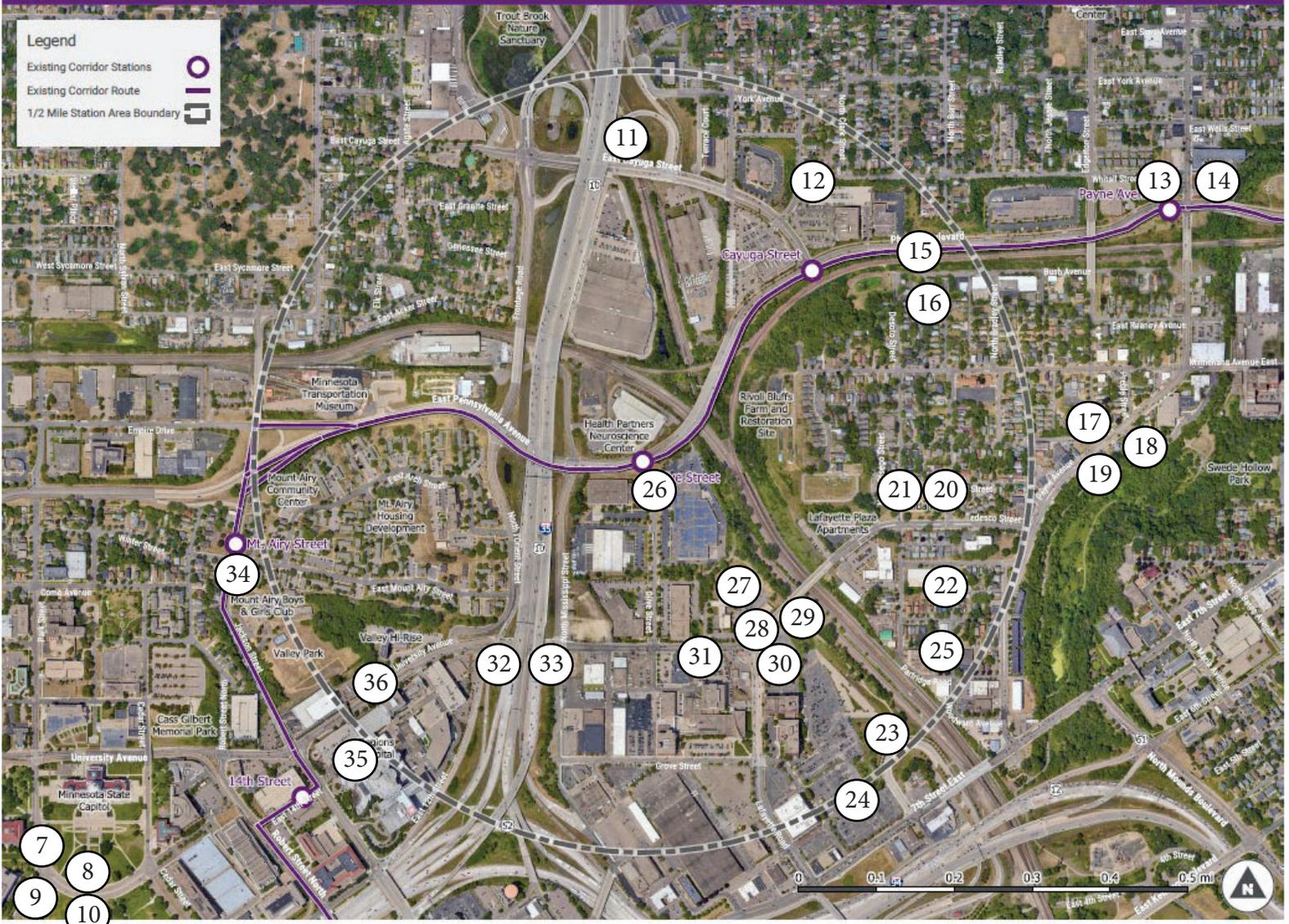
- Request for good lighting and safety around stations
- Concerns about copper wire theft on Phalen Blvd
- Request for more security and cleanliness at bus stops
- Need to address crime and drug use



(from left to right) Photo of participants, and photo of a completed asset mapping activity with comments.

Olive Street Purple Line BRT Station Area

- 1
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 2



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

Olive St. & Cayuga 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.

Olive Street Station Area

1. No 62 bus in Roseville after 6pm
2. Mall of America
3. More Metro Mobility
4. More Grocery stores (closest is Walmart or Cub Foods/Sun Foods @ Arcade)
5. No routes to Vadnais Heights shopping center
6. Lived in other cities and this city has great transportation
7. Rice Park downtown is good, so is Phalen
8. Hazel Park down Maryland
9. Parks along Edgerton
10. White Bear Lake Cub Foods
11. Along this nearly ½ mile corridor, name even one publicly accessible resource that would qualify as a “destination”
12. Health Partners
13. Bymore Market
14. Ace Hardware
15. Tore down the Burr Street Bridge, made it easier to get across
16. Need direct access from Railroad Island to Cayuga Station. Use old Burr Bridge foundation
17. Railroad Island
18. Payne Ave Business District
19. Swede Hollow
20. Library
21. Weida Park

22. My house
23. Why not annex this state owned asset and build a multi-level parking structure with additional funding provided by the Twins/Saints (for parking) and create a transit hub featuring bus, taxi, ride-share, scooter + bicycle rental, Evie cars, electric charging stations – All powered by solar roof panels + cladding?
24. Tragic misuse of land assets. One giant parking lot?!?
25. Lacks connection to transit service (South Railroad Island)
26. Cleared in winter and nice (sidewalks?)
27. Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities
28. Intersection @ Union Gospel
29. Flashing lights for people walking across
30. Fix heating @ shelter
31. We are here (referencing Union Gospel Mission), some call here “home”
32. No bus to hospital
33. Nice sidewalk
34. Street Surface!! SO bad
35. Regions Hospital
36. Maybe employ light rail security at every light rail to control smoking while kids are on board

Cayuga Street Station Area

1. YMCA
2. Need laundromat
3. Parks – What they need: accessibility, picnic tables + shelters, places to sit
4. No lights on Phalen Blvd → Copper getting stolen
5. Daylighting of creek
6. US Bank platform not safe – need to do something
7. Additional housing
8. Salvation Army work like
9. To Swede Hollow
10. Heritage Park
11. Broken windows
12. Unsheltered people
13. Self cleaning pay bathroom
14. Listening house (resources)
15. Wilder Rec Center is NOT safe
16. No lights along Phalen Blvd
17. Need more affordable housing! (in the area)
18. Bad snow removal
19. Lights gone
20. Needs lights
21. My house
22. Need Walk bridges over RoRo tracks

23. Need coffee shop
24. No light all along
25. Need coffee shop
26. Grocery store
27. Need grocery store
28. Increased social services
29. RRI Businesses
30. Rivoli Bluffs Urban Farm
31. Swede Hollow
32. Weida Park
33. Lafayette Plaza, Labor Plaza

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:

- ∉ Took bus from Eden Prairie to St. Louis Park as a young one
- Safety in trains and stations
- Cayuga and 35th lost the depot
- Railroad Island resident. Should've walked here but drove. He thinks about physical mobility and how will he get to points beyond
- How do you make taking the bus "less otherly"? Expand people's perceptions and make ridership broader, more desirable
- Reduce transit time that taking several local lines here
- Count the good experiences vs the bad ones in public transit, good experiences are going to be the most
- My route to tonight's host facility took me by Labor Plaza, a residential facility that provides housing for individuals with mobility issues. As I sat in a state of careful introspection and hopeful calm, I became aware of my body, its age, and how time has taken its toll. My back aches, my knee(s), held together with titanium and hope, struggle to function in a way that make me feel confident in my own prospects of mobility in the years to come. Those eventual limitations make my mind focus more acutely on transit, and how I may need it.
- Cleanliness of shelters

- Lunds had to run for an emergency and did not have filter service. Had to run down a hill
- 64 line (Burr + Todesco) → (Lafayette) Police Training facility
- All times of day, all ages, two apartment buildings with residents with mobility issues. Paths not shoveled. Can't get wheelchairs over crosswalk
- Block and a half to the 71 route from Clark St. Should put plastic on the shelters. Would be nice to see low-income housing. Would love to see shopping places, nice to see a coffee shop or something near Cayuga. Park on Case + Wilder (dangerous). Area to play Weida (Todesco). Event for staff + riders
- I was thinking about going to the YMCA and going along the train route in the spring
- Near Maryland Ave and Payne Ave. Outside the library in the community center. Sunny and warm
- Dale and University midday going to Target, hot summer by myself
- Was at a bus stop waiting for the bus while bikers were going by
- Impact on #64 bus, overlap with Purple Line
- Mobility challenges – Lafayette Plaza, Labor Plaza
 - Clearing bus stops and ramps of snow
- Safety and security → hanging out at light rail
- Cleanliness of shelters
- Worked at Lunds
 - Over 1 hour on #64
 - Cab home medical emergency middle of day
- Access to a car
- 64 line, Burnett Bear Mart, Bridge at Lafayette/police training, people always there – kids, family, elderly, immigrants and longtime residents
 - Apartment building for people with mobility issues
 - Shading in street
 - Not shoveled, ramps or sidewalk
- Block and a half to 71 route, not shoveled properly in the winter
 - Clark St by Bruce Vento school
- Glass that won't break
- Housing – Affordable housing
- Places to shop – All the way to Payne Ave, 9 blocks
 - At Cayuga, need something other than gas station
 - Coffee shops at Cayuga or along Phalen
- Park at Case and Wilder and Edgerton – dangerous park. Police there all the time
- Event for staff in summer – Metro Transit
- There are a lot of neighbors waiting to use the 64 bus, all times of day, all seasons of the year.
- Diverse neighbors: age, ethnicities, mobility, families (Burr/Tedesco, Lafayette)
- Change has happened in last 25 years of the whole area
- Old bus depot

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:

- Places for the unsheltered people to be
- There were clean parks
- Places in parks along trails where people could recreate (without feeling unsafe or like they were going to step in human feces)
- Lights!!!
- More security if possible
- Cleaners – Too much glass
- We had more grocery stores in the area
- "Feel safe/comfortable" at new bus stops (good lighting)
- If we had a mall
- If we had a clinic
- If the snow was plowed in the neighborhood area immediately
- If kids could see the Milky Way (Dark Sky lighting!) + get jobs in space/cellphone satellite engineering
- If I can take bus directly to the store
- If I can take the bus to my work
- It wasn't so dark on the road
- If the roads/sidewalks were better lit so people could feel safer
- The BRT would be available immediately
- If roads were plowed and salted, sealed potholes
- 2 lane roads to help traffic flow
- If bus stops were safer
- If bus stops were cleaner
- If high school students along the route would utilize the Purple Line to get to/from school and activities after school
 - How do we reach out to schools?
- Sidewalks on Rice St
- If we did an urban wildlife study + plan before more transit bulldozing + greenspace will help recycle old housing – better + cheaper!!!
- Affordable grocery store

- Sidewalk or path connecting transit station sidewalk to Duluth + Case rec center
- Good lighting around and near stations (safety issue)
- We had transportation to Vadnais Heights
- Had coffee shops
- Had affordable housing
- Had safer transportation/closer to home
- Had grocery stores near home
- Vadnais Heights shopping center route
- Heated shelters in area
- If there were more restaurants
- Transportation to Vadnais Heights area
- Grocery stores close by
- Cleaner
- Laundromat on University between Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Grocery store: Hyvee
- Bookstore: Barnes and Noble
- If a pedestrian bridge was built at old Burr St bridge to connect Railroad Island and neighborhood north of Phalen to the Cayuga stop
- A coffee shop or restaurant near Cayuga or Olive stops for folks to visit before/after bus trip
- The crime was a lot less in the area
- There were more services/reasons to come in the area (grocery stores, coffee shops, “Walmart” type stores, affordable housing, laundromat)
- A lot of lights that actually light the areas at night
- This area had better sidewalks/path to safely get to the bus stops (On the North there’s a cliff; South is on Phalen Blvd train tracks)

One Word To Describe Your Experience

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

- Awesome
- Well
- Heard
- Motivation
- Positive
- Encouraged