

Meeting Summary: Payne Avenue and Arcade Street Station Area Working Group

Meeting Number: 1
Date: 10/25/2023 6pm-8pm
Location: Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, MN.

Attendance

- 20 participants
 - 6 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 improved transportation options, including light rail
- Need for better pedestrian infrastructure, including biking lanes and walking paths
- Calls for more connections to local bus routes
- Calls for better signage and traffic management
- Need for speed bumps
- Desire for Arcade Street station to be closer to Arcade Street

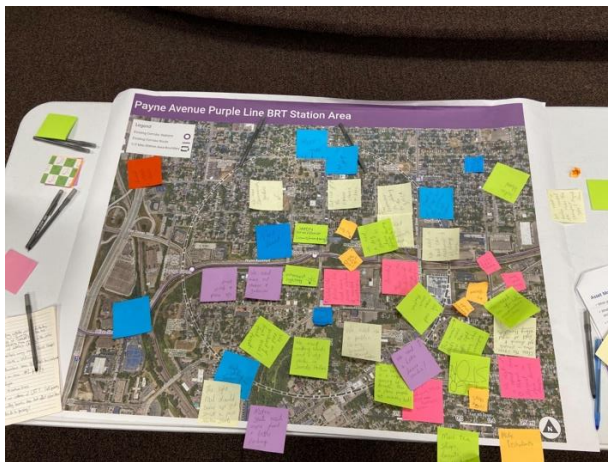
Amenities and Services

- Calls for enhanced lighting and safety surveillance
- Need for dog parks and community gardens
- Interest in more entertainment options in the area
- Calls for community gathering/event spaces and block parties

- Interest in daylighting Phalen creek and creating more green infrastructure
- Need for more affordable housing and community-centered development
- Interest in environmental sustainability and reducing waste
- Desire for after-school activities for youth and affordable childcare
- Desire for tax policies that benefit the community and support local residents instead of wealthy corporations

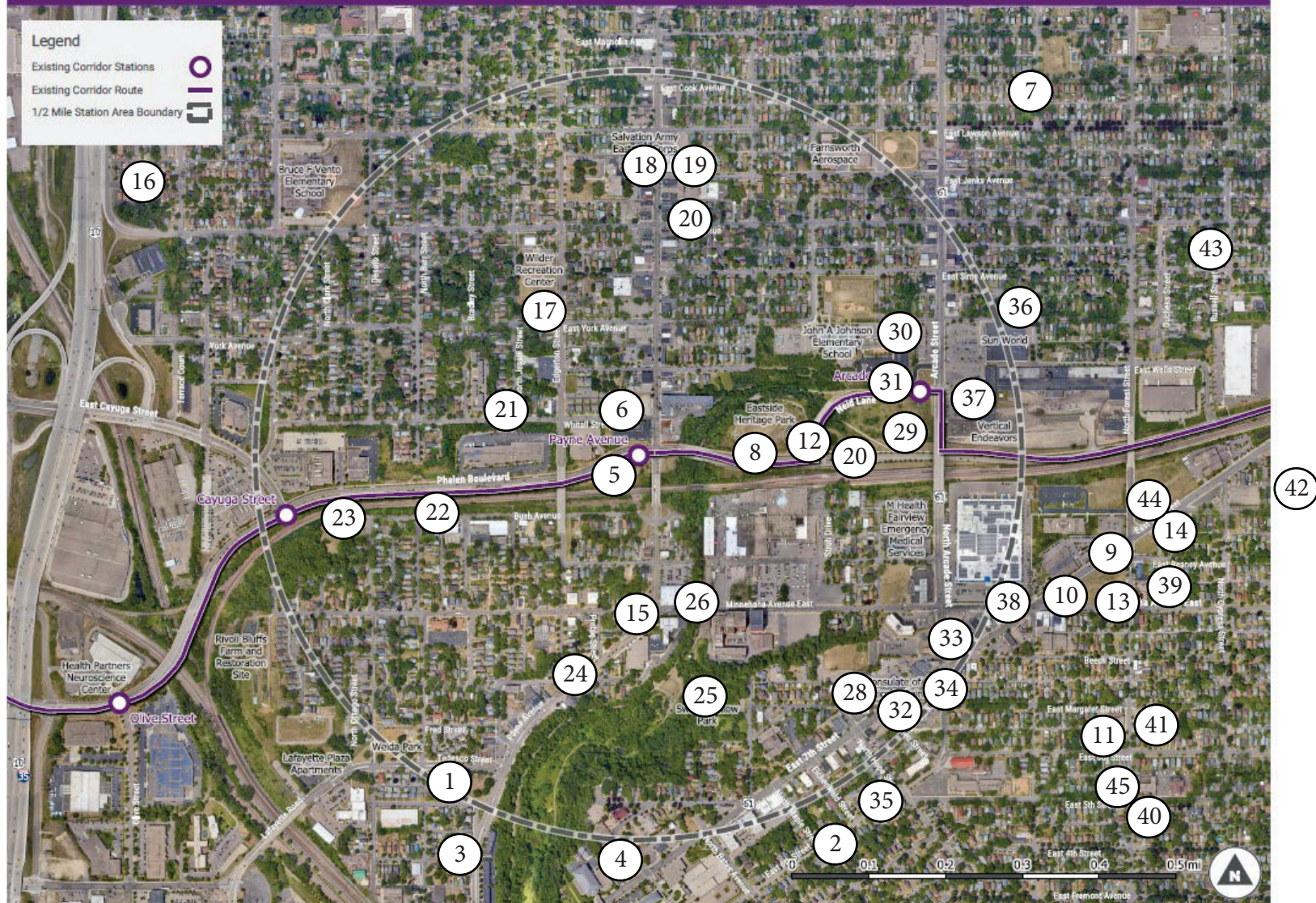
Public Safety

- Concerns about safety, especially at night
- Concerns about safety around liquor stores and bars
- Desire for cleaner and safer parks and outdoor areas
- Calls for safety protocols on buses and in the neighborhood
- Need for more lights and security measures
- Calls for a shift in the role of law enforcement and the creation of a committee of neighborhood elders to address community safety
- Calls for the abolition of police and more community-driven conflict resolution



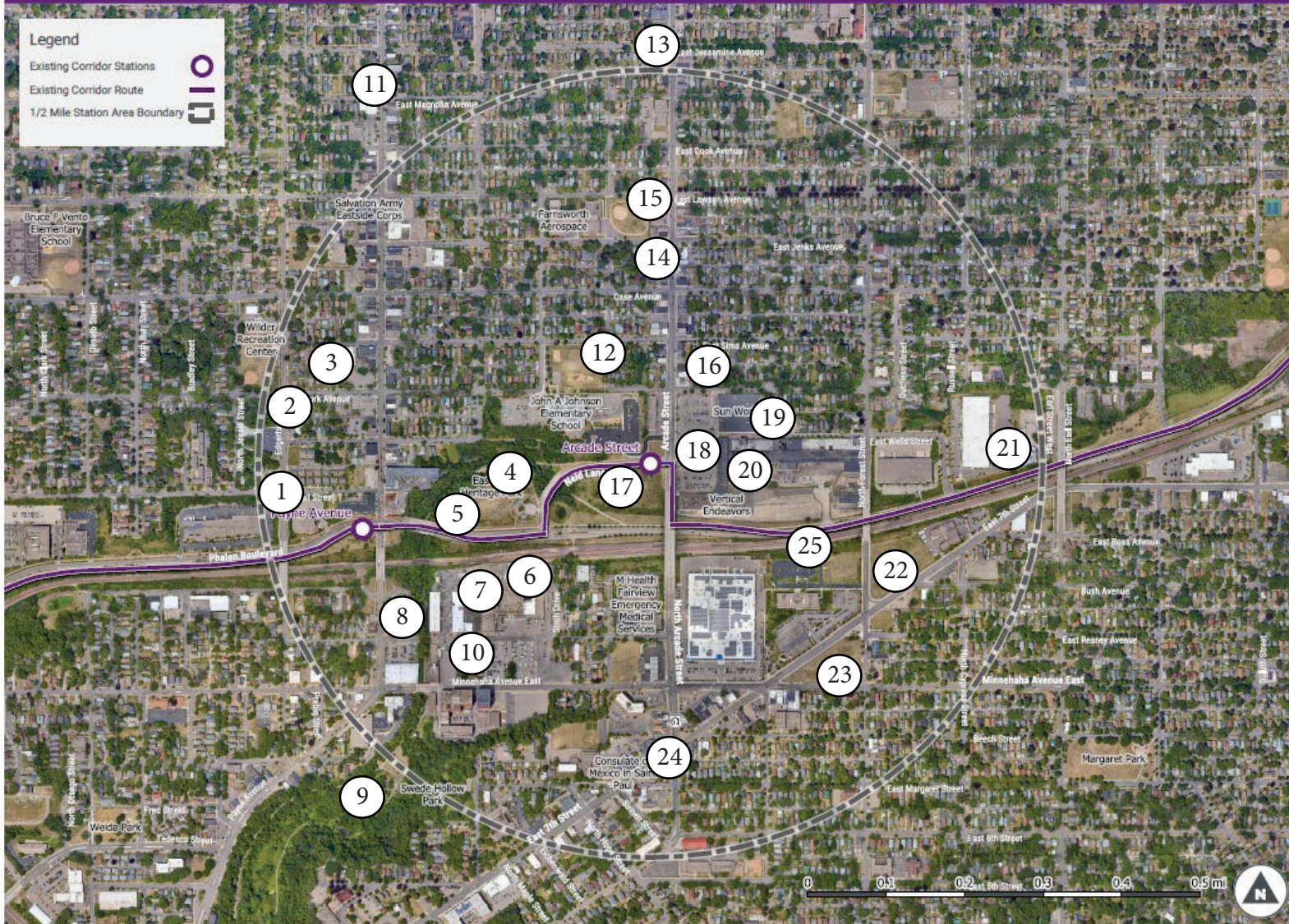
(from left to right) Photo of completed asset mapping activity with comments and photo of participants engaging in the asset mapping activity.

Payne Avenue Purple Line BRT Station Area



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

Arcade Street Purple Line BRT Station Area



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

Payne Ave. & Arcade 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.

Payne Avenue Station Area

1. Bad lighting from 7th and Payne past Lawson and Payne
2. More tea shops, donuts, hang out spots
3. The light rail should come up 3rd Street & past Metro State
4. Metro State needs more food and better parking
5. Enhanced lighting
6. Safety surveillance (cams/monitoring)
7. Random Park here
8. Dog park
9. Needs life
10. Too vacant
11. Coffee shops
12. I need a dog park
13. Needs stuff
14. Something goes here
15. Biking lanes needed
16. Animal rescue clinic
17. We need community gardens
18. Lighting
19. Bad lighting
20. Get rid of the liquor stores and bars
21. Food desert!
22. We need a quilt shop

23. We need more art studios and galleries
24. We need an orchard of fruit trees/fruit forests
25. We need walking clubs and a dog park in Swede Hollow
26. Abolish the police! we need more social workers and mental health care
27. We need some community gardens
28. We need a public library branch with Spanish books
29. We need a dog park in here - East Side Heritage Park!
30. Too expensive to belong to the YMCA
31. Arcade - this is too industrial - unsafe for walking
32. This corner is a nightmare coming up Arcade, this is a place people get totally lost!
33. We need more movie theaters
34. We need a Latin dance studio
35. Super confusing street. a lot of pointless
36. Food is cheap but the produce is all rotten
37. We need a good car mechanic and oil change place
38. This corner needs more signs. The traffic light is very slow and annoying
39. Close the liquor store - people get drunk and fight at night along Forest Avenue
40. More restaurants
41. We need a speed bump at Forest and Margaret to slow drivers down
42. We need a trailer rental site near the compost site! Frank and Sims
43. Looks Bland
44. We need an affordable acupuncture practice
45. Lego store

Arcade Street Station Area

1. Bike facilities on lower traffic roads. Forest vs. Arcade, Edgerton vs. Payne and then connections to stations
2. More safety for the elderly and handicapped
3. Restaurants
4. Reimagine?
5. Convenience store
6. Build on Brewery destination.
7. More entertainment/things to do
8. Kind of dangerous at night
9. Nature!
10. Brewery re-use?
11. Speed bump
12. Enjoy doing Zumba
13. Resources: HAP – Arcade and Magnolia
14. Enjoy learning boxing
15. Ice rink in winter
16. Walking along arcade is not pleasant - make more pedestrian friendly and green

17. Connections to existing local bus routes? Same station? Wayfinding
18. Put the station here at Seeger Square
19. Miss Cub Foods and Rainbow on Arcade
20. Cub or other standard grocery store
21. Daylighting Phalen creek? More park/stormwater blue/green infrastructure amenities along Phalen Boulevard
22. More jobs on vacant Lots
23. Medical clinic
24. Too dark, need more light posts when driving
25. Great bike/walk trail

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:

- Standing outside waiting for the bus - running after the bus
- Memories of Taste of Minnesota
- Wasting time waiting for the bus in the winter
- Shelters with heaters (need)
- Took shelters away around Union Gospel
- 7 or 8 route, is it still running?
- Worked downtown since 18 years old, takes bus everywhere
- Safety is an issue, this is my #1 priority
- Mural on Payne is very beautiful
- Would love more greenspace and mature trees
- Why don't we combine with LRT? Cost, probably
- Schools are cutting buses, does that affect school choice?
- What does this do to parking?
- Parking lot - DNR + Pollution Control = heat island → Bad allocation of land
- 7th + Lafayette → ½ unused. convert to multi-level parking (heating?)
- open air transit - taxis + Rideshare services, scooters, rental bikes
 - solar powered
 - partnership with Saint Paul Saints → Financial contribution
- walkability from downtown to East Side (only Subway, closes at 5)
- downtown Farmers Market connection

- sidewalks in front of Auto Body
 - no walkway on other side (South) – sidewalk on North side has no connection
- listening house where red Savoy used to be – Community Asset
- Mississippi Street as bus lane, through Warehouse District
- street lights – LED not working
- Seeger Square → largely unoccupied – auto parts store
 - compensation to relocate those businesses
- sign where Dollar Tree was – what will it be?
 - grocery store
- Crossing at York
 - Pedestrian rights – car stopped for them and car behind crashed
 - 62' to 70' wide, speeding past Golf Course
- lot of little grocery stores, shouldn't have to leave neighborhood to grocery shop
 - kids walk to Supermercado
 - Don't know what things are at Sun Foods
 - entry point to shop elsewhere – expand palates
- store fronts along Payne
 - Small businesses
- Stillwater downtown – but couldn't we do that?
 - Used to have:
 - knick knacks, thrift store, Embers – best pancakes
 - Holiday Lights strung across the streets
 - Olive oil, ice cream
 - like how Payne looks – just needs to be brightened up, lots of stores not being used, old gas station
- art studios up and down Payne Ave – displaced and moved here
 - convert to art galleries, then covid – One space opened two months before
- need to protect businesses from construction
- Lights: to lamination of phosphor layer
 - 3200K warm lights
- Senior Living place on corner of Payne and Phalen across from Ace. wheelchairs – need accessible sidewalks and easy ways for them to cross streets
- Bridge at Bush Avenue – dead ends
 - used to connect north and south portion
 - Communities carved up by streets – should connect people
 - Conversation seats on bus, going to be there for a while
- opportunities instead of challenges
- best chance for Transit is that nothing happens
- Want to keep multicultural part of community
- Love street art along Payne – Caydence just put one up
- Supermercado/Seeger Square could use art
- Consultant with Payne/Phalen to engage community through arts
- Convert political signs with art
- Super America ripped up – need to do something with it
 - Another gas station is better than a vacant lot
- Type of lights to buy for corridor: Philips Metronomis 1 LED 3000K CCT!
- Woods by John A Johnson Elementary
 - People experiencing homelessness

- Provide opportunity – give them free housing
- Safety – Need to address issues up and down roads
 - Could have secured access to the stations
 - Need passive means of access for those who pay fare or have free access cards (for people experiencing homelessness)
- Arcade stop needs to be at Arcade, not 2 blocks away
- Pet accommodations at stations
- Does P/Line intend for long term usage?
- Is lightrail better than P/Line in the long term? More cost effective?

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:

- There was a beautiful linear park all along Phalen Boulevard with more amenities and not just green space next to a busy road with a trail, trees, and a few benches. It's nice now but could be really amazing!
- Our playgrounds would be clean and safe
- The roads be safer, brighter, and easy to walk to
- If the old Sears building would be a Target or Walmart
- There were more safety protocols on buses, and in the neighborhood
- There were more fun activity spots like movies, Topgolf, etc. nearby
- There were more nice coffee, donut, tea, book shops, etc.
- There were nice and cleaner parks/outdoor areas
- There were less potholes everywhere
- Everyone was well off
- No racism
- Everyone would get along with each other
- I could find my dream job
- I could go back to college and get my degree
- There are community gathering/event spaces to get to know neighbors, celebrate, make connections
- The station areas have more retail and housing and experiences - 18-hour activity - feel safe and fun at all times!

- You could get everything you need without having a car - groceries, household supplies, school, job, clinic, entertainment
- We add an employee to each bus to monitor safety and well-being, NOT a cop. NOT an armed guard, a grandma on each bus, so drivers can just drive
- We create a no waste community, with compost sites on each block, all thrift stores, repair studios, and community gardens where food is free
- More lights on Lawson in between Payne and Edgerton
- Better plates on street light covers or locks to prevent wire thieves
- We had after school art studios for children and families walking distance from every residence
- We had affordable child care in our community
- We made the police and Sheriffs live and work in the same neighborhoods they patrol!
- We taxed the wealthy companies that pollute and take resources from our community. Make them pay their fair share!
- We abolish the police and create a committee of neighborhood elders to resolve the issues in our own community
- The light rail come up the hill
- Housing stock owned by non-corporations
- More block parties
- Enhanced lighting
- Authorities pay more attention to people that are walking in the streets aggressively and inappropriately approaching those waiting for the bus or shopping at stores, restaurants
- Police make it safer for everyone
- More trash cans/recycling bins
- Have CSO's, police patrolling the area throughout the day
- We had trains/light rail
- We had more parks/basketball courts
- We have light rail or the P line!!! St. Paul Minnesota needs to be prepared for the 21st century!!!
- I could use transit and not my car ever again

One Word To Describe Your Experience

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

- Delightful
- Fun
- Stimulating
- Engaging
- Enlightening
- Community-Centered