

Rethinking I-94 Phase 2 Community Leaders Meeting (Meeting 7)

Date: 06/22/2021 (10:00 am – 11:00 am)

Location: Zoom Meeting

Participants: See end of document for list

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Project Updates

- a. Dan Pfeiffer (WSB) welcomed the group and provided an overview of the agenda.
- b. Requested invites to community events
- c. Provided overview of project schedule

2. Nationwide Scan of Reconstruction Project

- a. Gloria Jeff (MnDOT) gave a presentation of MnDOT's research on reconstruction efforts undertaken by other state DOTs
 - i. The nation-wide scan yielded results showing that harmful highway placement is not unique to the twin cities, and that MnDOT can learn from the work of other transportation and planning agencies. The highlights from the nation-wide scan included the importance of early, diverse, and ample public engagement. This public engagement needs to be accessible, because the planning stage is the best stage to undergo course changes. Results of this public engagement should be collaborative work that use creative solutions, not just traditional transportation paradigms.
- b. Question was asked on why MnDOT did not include any highway removal in any of the studies and referenced the Inner Loop project in Rochester NY.
 - i. MnDOT included projects from states that responded. MnDOT is aware of the Rochester Inner Loop project. There were two highway-to-boulevard examples in the results of the nationwide scan.
- c. Comment on how MnDOT should be mindful of how each of these other states worked with the community.
- d. Question was asked if any categories of projects were not studied due to lack of response.
 - i. Most states have reconstruction projects in planning. MnDOT only included projects from the states that responded.
- e. Question was asked if any of the examples included an increase in highway lanes?
 - i. MnDOT hasn't identified that metric but will provide links to the referenced projects.

4. Section 106

- a. Elizabeth Gales (MnDOT – Consultant – Hess, Roise and Company) and Faith Xiong (MnDOT consultant - Zan Associates) gave a presentation on MnDOT’s fulfillment of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
 - i. The Section 106 public engagement is led by the MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) and a separate consulting team and will take place from summer 2021 to spring 2023. The CRU team is in the very early stages. They will: 1. Identify consulting parties 2. Identify historic properties 3. Assess effects and 4. Facilitate agreement on a resolution. The CRU team will consult relevant parties and community members within ¼ mile of the study area to achieve the goals of inclusive engagement, gathering information and keeping the public informed. The CRU team plans to conduct discussions, listening sessions, focus groups and hold meetings with consulting parties, as well as participate in Rethinking I-94 NEPA/MEPA meetings.
- b. Question asked on the extent of the study (1/4 outside the 1/2 mile of I-94).
 - i. The study area is 1/4 around I-94. 1/4 to the north, 1/4 to the south. 1/4 off the end points.
- c. Question asked if study area is measured from centerline of 94 or from edge of R/W?
 - i. It is from the centerline. MnDOT reiterated that initial investigations in the preliminary stages and are happy to have community input like this. MnDOT will absolutely be mindful of important things that fall just outside the study area.
- d. Comment shared that there are some groups of Native Americans in and around the metro area who are not federally recognized. Commenter elaborated that native representation should go beyond federally recognized tribes.
 - i. MnDOT noted that the public involvement plan includes federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes.
- e. Question asked on if public involvement would include the communities down the Cretin/Vandalia boulevard?
 - i. MnDOT stated that the current study area refers to areas that are within ¼ mile from the highway, but MnDOT is in the very early stages and may revise based on community input.
- f. Commenter stated that University Ave runs parallel with I-94 before heading west and Saint Anthony Park neighborhood is heavily affected by I-94 and 280 and is outside the ¼ mile study area.

5. Livability update

- a. Gloria Jeff gave a presentation on the ongoing livability workshops being hosted by MnDOT.
 - i. The livability workshops consult with residents and businesses along the corridor to talk about connections, equity, and economic vitality. The results of these workshops will serve as resources for MnDOT on this and future projects. The outcomes of the first three livability workshops indicate that participants are interested in things like public health and safety, senses of place, accessibility of planning and collaborative planning, multimodality, locality, environmentalism, and restorative justice.
- b. Question asked regarding the July Activities mentioned on whether the draft papers that will be discussed are different than the ones the community leaders have already received.
 - i. MnDOT stated that papers referenced are the livability papers.

6. Next steps

- a. The next meeting is 07/27/21 at 10:00am

7. Participant Questions/Responses

- a. Question asked why alternatives have not been brought up with community leaders since cities have been asking policy makers for alternatives.
 - i. MnDOT plans to come to both the community leaders and the public with those questions at a future time. MnDOT is not at this point seeking input on alternatives. MnDOT has begun the brainstorming process of asking about concepts and ideas.
- b. Question asked on clarifying the difference between a concept and alternative?
 - i. Concepts are ideas, alternatives are specific plans. Concepts are trying to get ideas, to see what people might like within alternatives. Concepts could be included in multiple alternatives or stand alone.
- c. MnDOT asked a question to policy makers/elected officials present if there be sessions when they will be meeting with constituencies to develop concepts for this project and would it be helpful to have MnDOT there to help develop concepts *not* alternatives.
- d. Question was asked on the plan regarding changes in the use of the highway due to the pandemic?
 - i. Right now, a lot of the traffic information is pre pandemic, there isn't a way to tell what the post-pandemic highway usage will be. MnDOT will keep an eye on available data and will be doing sensitivity testing to try and assess changes. In greater Minnesota, things are almost back to pre-pandemic, in the metro area it depends on the corridor.
- e. Commenter shared that they have noticed lower intra city traffic than before COVID and this might be more of a reason to reshape this corridor accordingly.

Meeting Chat Comments/Questions with Responses

Below are the virtual meeting chat comments and questions.

1. Dan Pfeiffer to Everyone:

Thank you for joining us today. Please introduce yourself and your organization here.

2. David Frank to Everyone:

David Frank, Prospect Park Association

3. Jack Corkle to Everyone:

Jack Corkle - WSB

4. Cindy Radtke (she/her) MacGrove Transportation Committee to Everyone:

Cindy Radtke, (she/her) Mac Grove Community Council Transportation Committee Representative

5. Debbie Meister to Everyone:

Debbie Meister, Neighborhoods First!

6. Margret McCue-Enser to Everyone:

Margret McCue-Enser, Land Relations Consulting - subconsultant to Hess, Roise and Co.

7. Scott Berger to Everyone:

Scott Berger - Union Park District Council

8. John Levin, Minneapolis/St. Paul to Everyone:

John Levin, Hamline Midway Coalition

9. Mark Simonson to Everyone:

Pat Thompson, St. Anthony Park Community Council

10. Theresa Nelson to Everyone:

Theresa Nelson, Move Minnesota

11. Glen Johnson to Everyone:

Glen Johnson, Elliot Park Neighborhood

12. Spencer Ludtke to Everyone:

Spencer Ludtke, Mac Grove Council

13. Faith Xiong to Everyone:

Faith Xiong, Zan Associates

14. Joy Miciano to Everyone:

Joy Miciano, Zan Associates, Engagement consultant on the Rethinking I-94 106 Process- Architecture/History

15. Gloria Jeff to Everyone:

Gloria Jeff, MnDOT

16. Stephanie Atwood to Everyone:

Stephanie Atwood, MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit

17. Anna Varney to Everyone:

Anna Varney, FHWA

18. Randy Newton to Everyone:

Randy Newton, Saint Paul Public Works

19. Alex Burns (he/him) to Everyone:

Alex Burns, Sierra Club North Star Chapter

20. Ebtehal Bahnasy to Everyone:

Ebtehal Bahnasy, 4RM+ULA, Intern

21. Maura Brown to Everyone:

Maura Brown, she/her, The Alliance

22. Cindy Radtke (she/her) MacGrove Transportation Committee to Everyone:

Remind us what email we should send our community events to.

23. Dan Pfeiffer to Everyone:

dpfeiffer@wsbeng.com, josh.colas@state.mn.us, <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/I-94minneapolis-stpaul/>

24. Cindy Radtke (she/her) MacGrove Transportation Committee to Everyone:

Thanks, Dan!

25. Stephanie Atwood to Everyone:

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26. Alex Burns (he/him) to Everyone:

<https://www.planning.org/planning/2020/dec/intersections-infrastructure/>

27. Pat Thompson, SAPCC to Everyone:

So that means 1/4 outside the 1/2 mile of I-94?

28. Jack Corkle to Everyone:

Pat - it is the 1/4 around I-94. 1/4 to the north, 1/4 to the south. 1/4 off the end points.

29. Pat Thompson, SAPCC to Everyone:

So less than the impact area considered in Rethinking I-94 itself

30. David Juliff to Everyone:

Is that measured from centerline of 94 or from edge of R/W?

31. Keith Baker to Everyone:

Hi all. Glad to be joining, though late.

32. Pat Thompson, SAPCC to Everyone:

Start time was adjusted to 10:30 a.m., I think?

33. Hannah Rank to Everyone:

Yes, 10:30 a.m. start this Thursday

34. Hannah Rank to Everyone:

Thanks for clarifying, Pat

35. David Juliff to Everyone:

Can you clarify the difference between concept and alternative?

36. David Juliff to Everyone:

Yes.

37. Scott Berger to Everyone:

I've noticed lower intra city traffic than before COVID. Just anecdotal, but this might be more reason to actually reshape this corridor accordingly.

38. Cindy Radtke (she/her) MacGrove Transportation Committee to Everyone:

Thank you!

Meeting Participants

Community Leaders

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Alper	Becky	Move Minneapolis
X	Armon	Alec	Hamline Midway Coalition
X	Baker	Keith	ReConnect Rondo
	Barobs	John	Move Minneapolis
X	Berger	Scott	Union Park District Council
X	Brown	Maura	The Alliance
X	Burns	Alex	Sierra Club North Star Chapter
	Cashman	Kerry	Seward Neighborhood
	Check	Nick	Saint Mark Parish
X	Frank	David	Prospect Park Association
	Golemo	Alexa	MacGroveland Community Council
	Gunderman	Amy	Lexington Hamline Neighborhood
	Haight	Vanessa	Elliot Park Neighborhood
X	Houdek	Joshua	Sierra Club North Star Chapter
X	Johnson	Glen	Elliot Park Neighborhood
X	Juliff	David	Be Civil – ReConnect Rondo
	Kershaw	Sean	Wilder
	Khalif	Farhio	St. Paul NAACP
	Klebsch	Angelica	Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
X	Levin	John	Hamline Midway Coalition Transportation Committee
	Levins Holden	Olivia	Hope Community
	Liban	Mohamed	Somali American Partnership
X	Ludtke	Spencer	Mac Grove Council
	Mains	Sheldon	Seward Redesign, Inc
	Morse Marti	Mary	Move Minneapolis
	McLaughlin	Chris	Seward Neighborhood Group
X	Meister	Debbie	Neighborhoods First!
	Mudge	Kate	Hamline Midway Coalition
	Murray	Kathryn	St. Anthony Park
	Narayanan	Ashwat	Our Streets Minneapolis
X	Nelson	Theresa	Move Minnesota
	Pleskovitch De Canedo	Amanda	Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

x	Radtke	Cindy	MacGroveland Community Council Transportation Committee
	Royce	Caty	Frogtown Neighborhood Association
	Selle	Dawn	Hallie Q Brown
	Singer	Andy	Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
	Schwantes	Lindsay	Hamline Midway Coalition
	Scott Knox	Tiffany	Wilder
	Smaller	Martine	Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
X	Spreeman	Taylor	Hallie Q Brown
	Tabbut	Julie	Prospect Park Association
	Taitel	Sam	Seward Neighborhood Group
	Thoman	Barb	Union Park District Council
	Thomas	James	Pastor – Mount Olivet Baptist Church
X	Thompson	Pat	St. Anthony Park Community Council, District 12
	Wako	Abdulrahman	Union Park District Council
	Watson	Shannon	St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
	Weinhagen	Jonathan	Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
	Werner	Jens	Summit-University Planning Council
	Wilson	David	Green Minneapolis

Guests/Unknown Affiliation

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Gallatin	Kevin	Sustain Saint Paul
	Lopez	Toya	Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
X	Wagenius	Peter	Prospect Park (also Sierra Club)

Technical Advisory Committee or Policy and Planning Committee Members

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Agosto	Kelly	Hennepin County
	Cox	Colin	Hennepin County
X	Gottfried	Jason	Hennepin County
	Hager	Jenifer	City of Minneapolis
	Harper	Cyndi	Metro Transit
	Harrington	Adam	Metro Transit
	Hiniker	Cole	Metropolitan Council
	Isaacson	Brian	Ramsey County
	Kershaw	Sean	City of St. Paul
	Mandell	Paul	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
X	Mazzitello	John	Ramsey County
	Musty	Peter	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
X	Newton	Randy	City of St. Paul
	Nix	Noel	City of St. Paul
	Schoenecker	Ted	Ramsey County
	Stark	Russ	City of St. Paul Mayor's Office
	Vanhala	Joan	Hennepin County
	Vennewitz	Amy	Metropolitan Council
	Xiong	Mai Chong	City of St. Paul, Legislative Aide to Councilmember Dai Thao

FHWA/MnDOT/Consultant Staff

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
X	Atwood	Stephanie	MnDOT
X	Austin	Lisa	MnDOT
x	Bahnasy	Ebtehal	4rm+ula - consultant
	Barnes	Melissa	MnDOT
X	Chavez	Mike	WSB - consultant
X	Chiglo	Jon	WSB - consultant
	Cho	Joanne	WSB - consultant
X	Colas	Josh	MnDOT
x	Corkle	Jack	WSB - consultant
X	Crockett	April	MnDOT
x	Gales	Elizabeth	Hess, Roise and Co – consultant 106 process
	Goff	William	MnDOT
	Gray	Kirsten	WSB - consultant
	Hampton	Tori	MnDOT
	Hauf	Austin	WSB - consultant
x	Jeff	Gloria	MnDOT
X	Kauppi	Sheila	MnDOT
	Knutson	Cyrus	MnDOT
x	McCue-Enser	Margret	Land Relations – consultant 106 process
X	Miciano	Joy	Zan – consultant 106 process
x	Pfeiffer	Dan	WSB – consultant
X	Rank	Hannah	MnDOT
X	Varney	Anna	FHWA
X	Washington	Lyssa	4rm+ula - consultant
X	Xiong	Faith	Zan – consultant 106 process
X	Ziegler	Mikaela	WSB – consultant