

# Community Leaders Meeting

Rethinking I-94 Phase 2

September 28, 2021

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Recent and Upcoming Outreach Activities
3. Community Leaders' Outreach Activities
4. Next Steps
5. Livability

# Today's Objectives

- Provide an update on outreach and community engagement efforts – Rethinking team and Community Leaders
- Provide the Rethinking team feedback on how we can further engage your communities – Community Leaders
- Provide clarity on next steps and roles moving forward – Rethinking team

# Recent and Upcoming Outreach Activities

- Rethinking I-94 team outreach activities
- Pop-up events
- Future events and outreach



# Pop-Up Events

9/28/2021



## September Events

- Lowertown Sounds, St Paul, 9/9
- MacGrove Fest, St Paul, 9/11
- Selby Avenue Jazz Festival, St Paul, 9/11

# Common Comment Themes

- Reduce traffic
- Increase safety at interchanges, entrances and exits of the highway
- Transit access and opportunities on both sides of I-94 with safe places to wait for the bus
- Increase native green space around highway
- Dedicated bus lanes/shoulders like prior to 35W bridge collapse

# Common Comment Themes

- Increase walkability and bikeability over and around the highway
- Caps/Land bridges over large sections of the highway to reconnect neighborhoods and increase greenspace area
- Concerns about the environment including noise and pollution from traffic and construction.

# Future Outreach Events

- Community Pop Up Event – Minneapolis Open Streets, Minnehaha, 10/24
- Community Conversation Open Houses, Live virtual webinar conversations with community members and project team. Tentative dates 10/26 and 10/27, 6:30pm-8pm and 10/28 11:30am-1pm
- Faith-based Community Feedback: Team making contacts with faith-based organizations to see how we can best gather feedback from their members.



# Future Outreach Events

- Additional Pop-Up Events: Team working to schedule and complete 3 additional outreach events focused on Minneapolis in October.
- Freight Industry Outreach: Team collaborating with MTA on how we can get freight perspective. Looking at a survey email blast to known freight haulers in the metro.

# Community Leaders' Outreach Activities

- How have you shared Rethinking I-94 information with your community in the past month?

# Community Leaders' Outreach Activities

- What are you hearing?
- What are your community members saying?

# Community Leaders' Outreach Activities

- When would you like a presentation or event with your group and the Rethinking I-94 team?

# Community Leaders' Outreach Activities

- How can the I-94 team help you get feedback from your community? What do you need from us?

# Community Leaders' Outreach Activities

- Who is missing from the table?

# Next Steps

- Continued outreach
- Framework for development of alternatives

# Next Steps

## Framework for Development of Alternatives

Step 1: Brainstorming and Public Outreach

Step 2: Category Assignments

Step 3: Feasibility Testing



# Next Steps

## Framework for Development of Alternatives

Step 4: Organization of Ideas into Alternatives

Step 5: Refine Alternatives to be Studied

Step 6: Evaluate Alternatives in Scoping Document

# Livability Activities

Gloria J Jeff, AICP  
Livability Director

# Current Status

- All Pillar Workshops are completed
- Connectivity input is being sought via survey
- Summaries of workshops are online

## Next steps

- Drafting reports on each livability pillar.
- Internal and public reviews are planned for late 2021 and early 2022.
- Each report will:
  - Outline recommendations to incorporate livability into the MnDOT processes
  - Suggestions for our fellow stakeholders
  - Summarize public feedback
  - Define the action steps for MnDOT
- Specifically work with the Rethinking I-94 project to incorporate livability as it proceeds

# Next Meeting

Next meeting: 10/26/2021

Time: 10:00 AM

# Brainstorming – Continued from July Meeting

- Step 1: Brainstorming
- Step 2: Category assignments
- Step 3: Test ideas
- Step 4: Organize ideas into alternatives
- Step 5: Refine alternatives to be studied
- Step 6: Evaluate alternatives

# Brainstorming

## Needs

- Bridge condition
- Pavement condition
- Retaining wall condition
- Drainage condition
- Noise wall condition
- Safety
- Safety on intersecting streets
- Walkability/bikeability
- Mobility
- Drainage capacity

# Brainstorming

## Purpose

Projects within the Rethinking I-94 program will accomplish the following:

- Improve asset conditions of I-94 bridges, pavement and supporting infrastructure
- Enhance safety for people and goods on, along, and across the I-94 corridor
- Improve mobility for people and goods on, along and across the I-94 corridor



# Brainstorming

## Brainstorming activity

- Group idea generation – intent is to focus on transportation-related ideas
  - **Mainline:** Improvement “within the trench” that would apply to the entire corridor
  - **Access/Interchange:** Improvement that would apply to an interchange/intersection area, including on/off ramps
  - **Project Elements:** Improvements that do not rise to the level of a full alternative; they would be done in combination with one or more mainline and/or access/interchange ideas.

# Brainstorming

## Discussion questions

1. What could be done to improve safety for people traveling on I-94?
2. What could be done to improve safety for people traveling across I-94?
3. What could be done to improve the condition of pavement, bridges, and supporting infrastructure on I-94?
4. What could be done to reduce delay in the corridor?
5. What could be done to improve travel time reliability in the corridor?
6. What could be done to improve safety on intersecting streets?
7. What could be done to improve freight movement in the corridor?
8. What could be done to improve drainage capacity?

