

# Rethinking I-94 Phase 2 Community Leaders Meeting Summary (Meeting 10)

Date: 09/28/2021 (10:00 am – 11:30 am)

Location: Zoom Meeting

Participants: **See list below**

## Meeting Summary

### 1. Welcome

- Brad Hamilton (WSB) introduced himself as WSB's new Director of Public Engagement and gave an overview of the agenda.

### 2. Recent and Upcoming Rethinking I-94 Outreach Activities

- Highlights / feedback from recent events
  - Brad Hamilton (WSB) gave an overview of recent pop-up engagement events and common comment themes.
    - September events:
      - Lowertown Sounds, St. Paul, 9/9
      - MacGrove Fest, St. Paul, 9/11
      - Selby Avenue Jazz Festival, St Paul, 9/11
    - 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
      - 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.
  - Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) asked for feedback from the Community Leaders on the pop-up events.
    - Theresa Nelson (Move Minnesota): Attended the ChromaZone event, thought that the language used was somewhat complicated. Discussion didn't go far enough beyond what people like or didn't like. Didn't see the work of the Community leaders represented. Didn't see Minneapolis and St. Paul council resolutions represented.



### 3. Community Leaders Outreach Activities

- How have you shared Rethinking I-94 information with your community in the past month? What are you hearing?
  - Brad Hamilton (WSB) asked the group to share what they have been hearing from their constituents and respond to several question prompts.
    - Pat Thompson (St. Anthony Park Community Council): Territorial Road is used for freight access to TH 280. Also an area of increased residential development. Was painting a crosswalk for a neighborhood project and heard from people about freight traffic in the area.
    - Sheldon Mains (Seward Redesign, Inc): Have not heard much about rebuilding I-94. Have heard primarily about 26th Ave bridge, which was hit and currently has restricted lanes. Not currently good for bicycle travel. Hearing about the increasing problem of trucks parking along Franklin Ave, and near parks and schools. Wants to know when the bridge will be fixed and wants better communication with the neighborhood in general.
      - Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT): clarified the need for current ongoing projects on the corridor.
    - Joshua Houdek (Sierra Club): Hearing overall concern about climate. Noted Sustainability Transportation Advisory Council (STAC) op-ed in Star Tribune and that we are not doing enough for climate right now.
- What are your community members saying? [comments below shared in chat]
  - James Garrett Jr (4rm+ula): folks are concerned about pollution and air quality.
  - Glen Johnson (Elliot Park Neighborhood): Confusion. Even tied-in people really don't understand what stage we're at and the scale of what this project will be.
  - Scott Berger (Union Park District Council): Lots of complaints about noise pollution on I-94, Snelling, and most other MnDOT corridors. Others at daycare also concerned about motorists being disrespectful of pedestrians even with strollers in tow.
  - Barb Thoman (Union Park District Council): People in our community have been talking about the ADA improvements that happened in Union Park this summer (Cretin and I-94) and the Aldine Bridge over I-94.
  - Toya Lopez (Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate): Concern about air quality and its correlation with pulmonary and cardiovascular disease.
  - Debbie Meister (Neighborhoods First!): Most people have not heard about this. Those that have, heard of land bridge. When we chat people talk about noise and air pollution, lack of green space. They are excited to hear that a boulevard could be considered.
  - Alex Burns (Our Streets Minneapolis): People have a dire to think big for this project and to think beyond the status quo of having an interstate slice through their community. People don't like the freeway and the noise and pollution it creates. They want other ways of getting around other than driving
  - Theresa Nelson (Move Minnesota): Dedicated transit lanes, less truck traffic, less pollution and VMT reduction as a primary goal.
  - Debbie Meister (Neighborhoods First!): Also safety for pedestrians and bikers crossing streets. Traffic

- David Juliff (ReConnect Rondo): The teams that have traditionally shown up at neighborhood events don't look like the neighborhood (ie lack of diversity)....
- David Juliff (ReConnect Rondo): Interchange at I-94/280 is dangerous with the left entrances/exits.
- When would you like a presentation or event with your group and the Rethinking I-94 team?
  - Barb Thoman (Union Park District Council) [in chat]: MnDOT would be welcome to present/answer questions at an upcoming meeting of the Union Park District Council or its transportation committee.
- Who is missing from the table? [comments below shared in chat]
  - Debbie Meister (Neighborhoods First!): As I noted earlier, households without cars.
  - Theresa Nelson (Move Minnesota): Households without cars, transit users
  - Pat Thompson (St. Anthony Park Community Council): All of the people who listen to the many heavy trucks accessing the highway. Not just on the highway, but on the city streets.
  - David Juliff (ReConnect Rondo): Missing - those who may be "mobility impaired".
  - Alex Burns (Our Streets Minneapolis): Families with children who attend schools near the freeway
  - Scott Berger (Union Park District Council): By reverse, we generally hear only from those with time and energy to comment and participate. Those aren't representative of the population. MOST aren't participating or involved. That's why neighborhood leaders are essential here and should be listened to very closely.
  - Theresa Nelson (Move Minnesota): Parents with children who have asthma along the corridor
  - Sheldon Mains (Seward Redesign, Inc): The East African Community in Seward is missing from this discussion. You need to go to them— not have them come to you. Go to East African businesses. Go to the community rooms in the large buildings along the corridor that many live in.
  - Pat Thompson (St. Anthony Park Community Council): Little Mekong, Little Africa, Eritrean Community Center along University Ave

#### 4. Next steps

- Continued outreach
- Framework for development of alternatives
  - Jack Corkle (WSB) outlined the steps in the framework for developing alternatives.
    - Step 1: Brainstorming and Public outreach
    - Step 2: Category Assignments
    - Step 3: Feasibility Testing
    - Step 4: Organization of Ideas into Alternatives
    - Step 5: Refine Alternatives to be Studied
    - Step 6: Evaluate Alternatives in Scoping document
  - Alex (Our Streets Minneapolis) asked for clarification on the timing of the steps and whether purpose and need needs to be finalized before the alternatives can be released.
    - Jack (WSB) clarified that while purpose and need and evaluation criteria are developed first, everything will be released together as part of the scoping document for the

official comment period. The typical process is to release everything together, however this project is conducting extra engagement on purpose and need, evaluation criteria, etc. before releasing the scoping document.

- Theresa Nelson (Move Minnesota) [in chat]: Could you please share with the whole group a document with the questions you are currently asking the community, that would be great, thanks.
- Barb Thoman (Union Park District Council) [in chat]: So are there consultants working on alternatives right now? What direction has been given to consultants? We would like to see these documents that provide this direction.
- The group noted that in general they were under the impression that the purpose and need would be finalized before the development of alternatives. A question was asked about whether information on alternatives would be available by the end of the year.
  - Jack (WSB) clarified that the intent is to release preliminary information on alternatives by the end of the year, but it will depend on timing. The scoping document is anticipated Spring 2022, but could be later based on timing of other activities.
- The participants expressed concern that the process appears to be going too fast. It was noted that the process is confusing and difficult for the general public to understand.
  - Jack (WSB) noted that we are actually behind schedule.
  - Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) noted that the team has heard both that we are going too fast and too slow.
- Pat Thompson (St. Anthony Park Community Council): Noted that the Community Leaders should know the most about the process and what is going on, but appear to be surprised by the framework presented.
- The group asked for updated schedule materials to show a range of dates for each item, understanding that things could change.

**Action Item: Provide updated schedule.**

**5. Livability**

- Connectivity Workshop Survey
  - Gloria Jeff (MnDOT) provided an update on the Livability initiative.
  - All pillar workshops are completed.
  - Connectivity input is being sought via survey - will be accompanied by a video.
  - Question asked about where/when the survey will be available.
    - Gloria (MnDOT) noted that it will be posted online, hopefully before the end of the week.
  - Workshop summaries are available online (except for connectivity)
- Draft Livability Papers
  - 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

Date: 10/26/2021 (10:00 am – 11:30 am)

Location: Zoom

## Meeting Participants

### Community Leaders

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Alper	Becky	Move Minneapolis
	Armon	Alec	Hamline Midway Coalition
	Baker	Keith	ReConnect Rondo
	Barobs	John	Move Minneapolis
x	Berger	Scott	Union Park District Council
x	Burns	Alex	Our Streets Minneapolis
	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	Mains	Sheldon	Seward Redesign, Inc
	Morse Marti	Mary	Twin Cities Shared Mobility Collaborative
	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
	Royce	Caty	Frogtown Neighborhood Association
	Selle	Dawn	Hallie Q Brown
	Singer	Andy	Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
	Schwantes	Lindsay	Hamline Midway Coalition

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Scott Knox	Tiffany	Wilder
	Smaller	Martine	Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
	Spreeman	Taylor	Hallie Q Brown
	Tabbut	Julie	Prospect Park Association
	Taitel	Sam	Seward Neighborhood Group
x	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
	Brown	Maura	The Alliance
	Clapp-Smith	Merritt	Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board
	Gallatin	Kevin	Sustain Saint Paul
	Jereb	Adrianna	MN 350
x	Lopez	Toya	Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
x	(Name Unknown)		Union Park District Council
x	Vann	Tola	Cedar-Riverside Community Council
x	Wagenius	Peter	Prospect Park (also Sierra Club)
x	Weiss	Eric	The Trust for Public Land

#### Technical Advisory Committee or Policy and Planning Committee Members

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Agosto	Kelly	Hennepin County
x	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	Barnes	Melissa	MnDOT
x	Bahnasy	Ebtehal	4rm+ula - consultant
	Chavez	Mike	WSB - consultant
x	Chiglo	Jon	WSB - consultant
	Cho	Joanne	WSB - consultant
x	Corkle	Jack	WSB - consultant
x	Crockett	April	MnDOT
x	Garrett Jr.	James	4rm+ula - consultant
	Goff	William	MnDOT
	Gray	Kirsten	WSB - consultant
x	Hamilton	Brad	WSB - consultant
x	Hampton	Torri	MnDOT
x	Hauf	Austin	WSB - consultant
x	Jeff	Gloria	MnDOT
	Jones	Maggie	MnDOT
x	Kauppi	Sheila	MnDOT
x	Knutson	Cyrus	MnDOT
x	Lindeberg	Mark	MnDOT
	Omar	Adam	MnDOT
x	Rank	Hannah	MnDOT
x	Varney	Anna	FHWA
	Washington	Lyssa	4rm+ula - consultant
x	Ziegler	Mikaela	WSB – consultant