

Open House #1 Summary

Logistics

March 25, 2014
6:30PM – 8:00PM
Walker Art Center

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of this open house was to introduce the project and solicit input from the public on current issues/challenges, as well as comments on very preliminary improvement concepts that are based on the federal funding solicitation. Input will be used to develop further options for improvements.

Materials and Participation

Display boards were available summarizing the project description, corridor users, need for the project, past studies and plans, consultation with local organizations, and schedule. Large exhibits on the walls also illustrated the corridor in the context of possible improvements and construction considerations. Attendees were invited to write comments on the exhibits to inform further development of options.



Over 150 people signed in to the open house. 55 comment sheets were completed, and numerous other comments were recorded on the exhibits.

Common Themes

Comments fell into several main themes, included below with examples of representative comments.

Aesthetics

- “Would like to see emphasis on increasing greenery, vegetation to medians, surrounding area.”
- “More green space.”
- “Do something to make the area more beautiful. Add trees, flowers, sculpture.”

Bikes and Pedestrians

- “Please keep pedestrians and bikes in mind, not just cars!!! “
- “Better bike separation would be helpful, either via dedicated lanes or other traffic control measures.”
- “This corridor is very stressful in its current state - many of my acquaintances do not feel comfortable biking and walking through this area.”
- “Drivers do not always yield to pedestrians and bikers in crosswalk.”
- “Leading pedestrian interval lights at crosswalks - give pedestrians ample lead time to cross before car traffic.”

Design Considerations

- “I really question maintaining the number of traffic lanes that exist out there today.”
- “Consider round-a-bouts.”
- “Better lane markings for cars - lanes seem to appear and disappear without warning, causing confusion and danger.”
- “Include bump outs at every intersection in the plan.”

Traffic

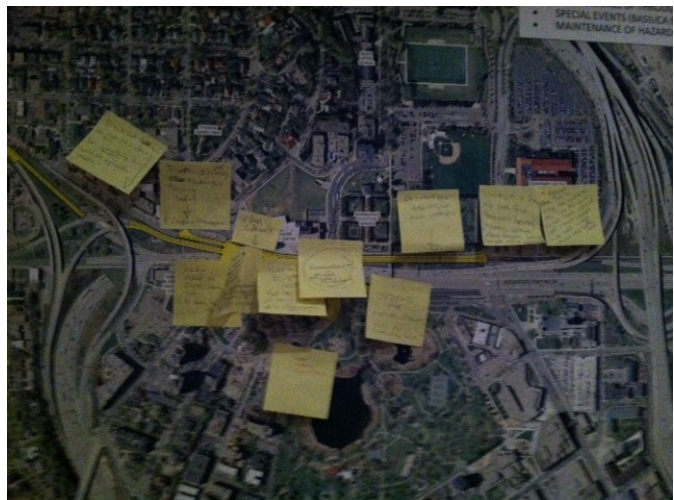
- “Improve timing of lights. Lots of times (even in rush hour) when cars and bikes have to wait a long time to go and/or there is nobody in the intersection at all.”
- “Clearer lane exit markings, potentially painted in each lane for example, would help reduce last minute merging and overall congestion in an inexpensive way.”
- “People seem confused which of the 5 lanes they need to be in for their exit frequently.”

Transit

- “Bus stop #4 southbound between Groveland Terrace and Douglas Ave - difficult to access - riders usually run across road, rather than cross at Groveland Terrace.”
- “Dedicate bus lanes. There is enough bus traffic to justify.”
- “Bus shelter improvements would be good as well.”

General

- “It appears to be a project based around minor improvements / maintenance. No huge improvements. Appears budget could be limiting.”
- “To truly allow for improved flow of traffic and increased safety, this project is too limited in scope and is a huge missed opportunity to really redesign the intersections at Hennepin/Lyndale and Groveland.”
- “This should be a destination, a gateway to downtown not just a mess of freeway ramps and traffic.”



Next Steps

- Meeting materials are posted on the project website at www.hennepinlyndaleproject.com
- A complete comment log and a selection of Frequently Asked Questions/Responses will also be posted
- Comments will be reviewed to educate designers and policy-makers about the types of improvements desired by the public, and will be taken into consideration when developing additional improvement concepts
- Additional design options will be available for public review and comment at the next open house