

DALE STREET LEADERSHIP CIRCLE · MEETING 2 · SEPTEMBER 1, 2016
HALLIE Q. BROWN, KENT STREET
IDENTIFYING VALUES AND ISSUES

Funding for community engagement activities is provided by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.



Dale Street Bridge and Roadway Project

The Dale Street Project is a joint initiative to improve pedestrian safety, walkability, accessibility, and traffic safety on Dale Street by replacing the bridge over I-94 and making improvements from the bridge to University Avenue. Ramsey County is the lead organization and works in collaboration with a community-based coalition led by Summit-University Planning Council to implement an inclusive and meaningful community engagement process.

Session Focus

This meeting focused on discovering shared values and identifying issues that need to be addressed in order to make Dale Street a walking experience that is enjoyable for everyone. The purpose of this group work is to generate input that will be used to develop of design guidelines and principles for the project.

Session Snapshot

Participants engaged in two activities. The first activity was a writing exercise where people were asked to:

- describe what makes walking on a street pleasant and what makes them proud of their community
- share what historic or contemporary experiences should be continued or commemorated on Dale Street
- identify what needs to improve to make Dale Street a pleasant place to walk

PARTICIPANTS

(from Sign-up Sheets)

Community Members

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The second activity focused on mapping destinations, assets, and barriers. Participants worked in small groups, using different colored dots to locate these places on an aerial photo of the project area. They were encouraged to discuss why locations were identified as they were and to record their reasons on sticky notes.

Notes and Observations

- 25 people submitted written worksheets;
3 groups completed the mapping exercise.
- Analysis of input gathered in both activities was used to develop a set of preliminary design criteria that were organized around the following themes.
 - A. Improve vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle safety, in particular be more responsive to multimodal needs by reducing traffic speeds and vehicular volumes.
 - B. Reduce congestion and subsequently noise, unpleasant smells, and air pollution.
 - C. Improve personal safety and security, by creating more opportunities for people to use the street such as adding more businesses fronting the street and by adding more places of refuge to relax and interact with people.
 - D. Provide more opportunities to socialize and reduce neighborhood and social divisions by making it easier to walk along or cross Dale Street and by providing opportunities to socialize.
 - E. Express history, especially the history of the Rondo community.
 - F. Improve the functioning of the sidewalks in terms of grades, width, and cleanliness. Remove snow, ice, leaves and litter that also inhibit walking.
 - G. Create a corridor that is enjoyable with a distinctive character.



FINDINGS OF EXERCISE 1: IDENTIFYING VALUES AND ISSUES

Part A: Defining a Pleasant Pedestrian Experience Walking Along a Street



Imagine yourself as a pedestrian on a sidewalk on pleasant street, either walking or in your wheelchair. This could be a sidewalk on a street you already like, a combination of different streets, or even an imaginary street. Write a short narrative or list bullet points describing what makes walking on that particular sidewalk along that preferred street a pleasant experience for you?

Worksheet 1

- Steepness of sidewalk/level sidewalk
- Bench
- Poems, quotes, dedication
- Artistic/art work
- Not worry about safety (perception of safety)
- Pedestrian friendly
- Nature/trees/flowers

Worksheet 2

- Street lights
- Familiar homes
- Attention to lawns and gardens
- Proximity to points of historic or local interest
- Boulevards

Worksheet 3

- Smooth, not cracked concrete sidewalk
- Trees, shade
- Shoulder between travel lane and curb
- Space to pass others
- Well maintained, safe
- Street lights, old style
- Connect, familiar homes
 - Lawns
 - Gardens
 - Color
- Points of interest

Worksheet 4

- Green spaces
- Activity such as small local shops
- Interesting things to stop and see—art, plants
- Further away from traffic
- Space to move, room to have people stop and still walk around them
- Clean and even

Worksheet 5

- Wide sidewalks/paths
- Well lit
- Flowers and greenery (trees/grass) framing the path
- Opportunity to pause/reflect
- Water element

Worksheet 6

- Shade
- Enough space to walk/roll alongside someone
- CLEAN streets (so, trash bins that get used)
- Fairly flat
- Places to sit

Worksheet 7

- Wide sidewalks
- Separation from traffic
- Reduced noise levels
-

Worksheet 8

- Mature trees
- Wide sidewalks, so people can walk in pairs and pass each other
- No bicycle riding on the sidewalk
- Smooth surface—no trip hazards, no steps

Worksheet 9

- Not very much noise
- Shops or interesting place to stop
- Trees for shade—grass, plants
- Newspapers—coffee—local news

Worksheet 10

- Large sidewalks
- Shade from trees
- Even pavement
- Interesting words/art on sidewalk or along the path
- Cleared sidewalk

- Consistent “low” hum, reminiscent of a park
- Slight/gradual slope/incline/decline
- Beautiful flow that varies along the journey
- Ever changing/may not see the same thing every time
- Some/modest shelter from sun

- Detour from traffic (like winding sidewalks into a lawn space)
- History (not new boxes)
- Bicycles off sidewalk
- No curbs/trip hazards

- Pleasant aesthetic designs
- Well maintained sidewalks
- ADA designed crossings/sidewalks

- Gardens in front of buildings
- Fairly level
- No ice, no puddles
- Slow traffic (or none, like cutting through a park)

- Safety and looks clean and cared for
- Easy to walk in all weather
- Benches

- Friendly people
- Green boulevard
- Streetlights—colored?
- Architecture of buildings
- Slowed traffic

Worksheet 11

- Want to have a reason to slow down and see nature, water... that would make it interesting
- A bench to sit on and rest
- Diminish the slope leading to and away from bridge
- Level sidewalks, not pitched to either side, in the interest of safety
- In the sidewalk, like the short poems or dedications to notable people

- Artwork...varying sights to engage the eye
- Width of sidewalks so two wheelchairs can pass
- Want a great space that's a safe place to walk...no potholes
- Slow down turning speeds of cars at corners
- Overall...more attention to pedestrians
- Trees!!

Worksheet 12

- Wide sidewalks with pavers or other interesting pavement
- Color and interesting designs or images

- Good distance or buffer away from vehicle traffic
- Interesting landmarks such as signs or unique images

Worksheet 13

- Weather
- Accessibility
- Scenery
- Well-lit

- Water
- Wide sidewalks
- Walk in pairs each way
- ADA designed crossings

Worksheet 14

- Shade
- Good sidewalk—condition
- Interesting things to look at, gardens

- Other people walking—activity
- Destination
- Shoveled sidewalks

Worksheet 15

- I'm not a driver so walking is my main mode of transport. St. Paul is a lovely place for walking because of the trees. People in their yards usually want to speak and pass the time. It's these things that are very enjoyable, it is relaxing and good for you, too.

Worksheet 16

- Level sidewalks - wide enough for two friends to walk by
- Well lit streets at night
- Quiet and peaceful

- Curves for disability persons to cross easier at intersections
- [City?] lights at night when crossing a bridge

Worksheet 17

- Trees and shade are nice
- Sidewalks wide enough not to feel crowded
- Shops, restaurants

- Smooth sidewalks – in good repair
- Lighting

Worksheet 18

- Lots of flowers, vegetation

Worksheet 19

- People walking past and smiling at me...acknowledging my existence
- Lots of colors...so that could mean colorful trees, colorful houses, not particularly flowers because they attract bugs
- I like when it's sunny (like mid-70s) and there's a breeze
- I like to hear birds chirping
- I like for shade to be accessible but not too much shade
- I like sidewalks to be wide enough for my friend and I to walk side by side on it (so fitting about four people maybe)

Worksheet 20

- Shade
- Good lighting (at night)
- Well paved street
- Other people (pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchairs)
- Safe crossings
- Great sight lines
- Pleasant landscaping, plantings, flowers
- Well-managed traffic (or limited auto traffic)
- Cleanliness
- Music and visual art

Worksheet 21

- A street that conveys an inviting experience for me to walk and experience its attention to and accentuating its surroundings and minimize its distractions.

Worksheet 22

- Green/vegetation
- Trees, flowering plants
- Wide walks with adequate space on either side
- Set back from roadway—natural features—i.e.: trees between road and walk
- Well lit and feels safe/control where light is cast
- Limit drives crossing walk
- Separation from building fronts
- Minimize distractions of street
- No garbage cans
- Minimize signs

Worksheet 23

- Very little traffic – at least that disturbs your walk
- Nothing to trip over (bumps or holes in the sidewalk)

Worksheet 24

- The width of sidewalk; the surface of the sidewalk; maintenance of sidewalk
- Curbing, lighting, greenery (trees, grass)
- Structures (homes, apartment buildings, stores/businesses, churches, etc.)
- Noise/sounds (level)
- Places to sit—shelters, benches
- Traffic-vehicles/people, etc.
- Ease of crossing the street/or lack of safe crossing

Worksheet 25

- Riverscape
- We need bus service on Saturday, Sunday

Part B: Defining a Pleasant Pedestrian Experience Walking on a Bridge



Now imagine yourself walking or moving in a wheelchair across a bridge that provides you with an enjoyable experience. What is the nature of that bridge and your experience on it? Again, write a short narrative or list bullet points describing what made your experience of crossing this bridge so pleasant.

Worksheet 1

- Ideal experience/width
- Safety
- Design/architectural
- Statue
- Lighting

Worksheet 2

- Movement and their time and [paradigms?]
- Places to stop
- [Not?] just physical, but [paradigms, temporal, transitions?]

Worksheet 3

- Ornamental railings
- Lights
- Safety – since I’m up high
- View
- Well lit
- Width
- Free from interruption—feels continuous—seamless
- Smooth, cleared path
- Buffer between cars
- Space to sit
- Interesting architecture
- Remove from traffic
- Railings—safety
- Paradigm shift

Worksheet 4

- Spots to stop and enjoy views—removed from main sidewalk
- Interesting architecture
- Feel safe—railing allow view but are high for safety
- Remove from traffic
- Seating to look at view
- Well lit
- Smooth surface
- Feels connected
- Buffer between cars and pedestrians
- Bridge as transition

Worksheet 5

- Wide paths
- Opportunity to pause/reflect
- Water type element
- A look out of some sort—opportunity to take in the view/photos
- Place to rest/break/sit—with a view
- Shelter from noise/weather
- Historical documentation about the bridge
- Incorporate history of the city in the aesthetic

Worksheet 6

- My favorite bridge--The Irvine Avenue Bridge over the train tracks. Has a place to stop and look out over the train tracks, one of my favorite places to sit at night.
- Street lights
- Mississippi Bridge in between Lake Bemidji and Lake Irving. Pretty, nice view
- Soft/smooth railing to lean against
- Benches view
- Shelter

Worksheet 7

- [Blank]

Worksheet 8

- Takes advantage of long sight lines—good views (sun sets, skylines, rivers, rail yards in motion)
- Feel comfortable pausing to view
- If no view, very important to have good short views—railing

Worksheet 9

- Wide sidewalks
- Beauty for rails – look out areas with info to read
- Noise preventing parts to bridge
- Railing to hang flowers in summer

Worksheet 10

- Well-lit
- Wide sidewalk for bikes and peds
- Tree from interruption
- Smooth
- Busting with people
- Good buffer between peds and cars
- Railing
- Need security

Worksheet 11

- Wide path for pedestrians and a wide view of the surrounding vista
- Width of path also important for safety
- Edge walls of the bridge should not inhibit the view and have varying heights for the sake of visual interest
- Not being exposed to glare and excessive height
- Info on bridge about history of the structure or area
- Have enough room for walkers, bikes, joggers...appealing to a range of people
- The architectural design should be visually interesting
- Lighting at night is important for aesthetics and safety

Worksheet 12

- Feels safe! Good separation from vehicles and a side rail that doesn't make me feel like I'm going to fall
- Terminating vistas—something interesting in the distance as I am crossing
- A good rail for leaning over

Worksheet 13

- Bridges with information about them
- Activities
- Landings
- Benches to sit and enjoy the view
- Art

Worksheet 14

- Feeling breeze
- Prospect points, view points
- Protection from cars—wide sidewalks
- Architecture—pleasing design
- Wabasha—good

Worksheet 15

- Feeling the breeze from the water or traffic below is a favorite experience too.
- The Mendota Bridge is one of big favs
- Rarely am I walking on a bridge. However stopping to see the view is a wonderful experience.

Worksheet 16

- Screens high enough to keep anyone from wanting to jump or toss rocks from it

Worksheet 17

- Feeling like I won't fall off
- Not feeling like cars will hit me
- Nice view
- Wide sidewalks
- Lighting that is bright enough without glare

Worksheet 18

- Historic/artistic elements
- Walkouts/pathways
- Nice riverfront view
- Feel like I won't fall off bridge

Worksheet 19

- The bridge not being too steep!
- I like to feel safe and secure...meaning I feel most comfortable when the bridge is a little wider with something (high) on the sides
- I like seeing/looking [drew face using oo for the eyes] at/observing graffiti
- It'd be cool if the bridge was more like a sidewalk—w/grass on both sides (possibly some plants/flowers too...however I just don't like too many because I dislike bugs.)
– It'd also be cool if there were a few sculptures or something in the grass...maybe a few places to sit (but not too many because you don't want everyone to get on and linger and break the bridge)

Worksheet 20

- Artistic design
- Separated sidewalks (peds)
- Bike paths
- Walkouts
- Pathways

Worksheet 21

- It's not the Dale Street Bridge
- It provides a place to pause
- It offers an alternative to watch traffic flow
- It has unique architectural features

Worksheet 22

- Wide safe walks
- Clear sense of safe separation from road
- Overlooks that don't conflict with walkway itself

Worksheet 23

- It's a pleasant experience, quiet
- A river below or valley
- A view to the left or right—city skyline, mountains, or view of nature
- Draws your attention to left or right to something interesting
- People walking on it—to encounter

Worksheet 24

- Ease of crossing bridge,
- Safety, traffic
- Navigating when emergency vehicles come through

Worksheet 25

- Wabasha Bridge → Riverscape
↓
Bus service on Sunday and Saturday

- It's wide enough to contain a fun surprise—a mirror, a scale to weigh, a ladder to measure your height, or a photo op.

- Have something that says "Wow"
- Railings don't obscure views
- Things of interest and fun

- You aren't so focused on crossing it, you enjoy the experience being on it—enough to see on or alongside the bridge
- Sense of safety from traffic
- This bridge was made for you, the pedestrian walking
- I walk the bridge for the experience

- Lighting, maintenance, safety for all consumers to use (cars, trucks, 16 wheelers making turns, bikers, walkers, etc.

Part C: Defining Rondo's Valuable Historic and Contemporary Experiences



Saint Paul, its neighborhoods, and Dale Street have a history and a contemporary vibrancy. What was your experience of Dale Street before I-94 was constructed? (Or if you born after that happened, what have you heard about Dale Street before I-94 was constructed that intrigues you?) What was it about this community and Dale Street that makes you proud and why? What makes you proud of your community today? What historic and contemporary experiences would you like to see continued or at least commemorated on Dale Street?

Worksheet 1

- Sense of community, place of refuge
- Community raise kids
- Feature
- Presence of safety/comfort
- Spirt of Tiger Jack

Worksheet 2

- Connection

Worksheet 3

- I did not know the history of Dale or the importance of the bridge prior to this project
- Rondo Avenue—Rondo Days, homes destroyed, connections destroyed
- Family History—Rondo and Arundel, 516 Union to find a job—Marvin; Grocery store at corner—Gloria
- Maxwell Elementary (Poster child for segregation)
- Chance to tell story to new people who aren't ware of story

Worksheet 4

- Sense of community—history wiped out
- Energy and vitality
- Business-local
- St Paul was a waiter town—work on trains—union local 516—waiters' union
- Rondo and Arundel

Worksheet 5

- St. Paul is the Capitol City
- Rondo was a vibrant, thriving African-American community that was home to business owners, waiters and railroad workers, union, workers, seamstresses, beauty salons, and more.
- It was a place of refuge for the nameless, faceless, and those who have gone to be change-makers for this city and the world

like my beloved family—Bobby Hickman, Dorothea Burns, and Gordon Parks.

- Current times, Rondo has become and is still a place of resilience and refuge for a wide diaspora of cultures, their businesses, their families.
- Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Nod to the Future

Worksheet 6

- What did that mural on Oxford say? Everyday folks making a better life.

- Pictures of the community: They have done the hard work; they have persevered; they are our elders and deserve recognition

Worksheet 7

- Gathering points—shops, walking to church

- Connected neighborhood

Worksheet 8

- Small, locally owned business
- Connected community
- Refuge for the unwelcome

- Contemporary—Free is noisy, smelly, trash-collecting—degrades neighborhood north of I-94 as far as Como by creating a physical barrier from richer southern neighbors.

Worksheet 9

- That's it's a connected community—felling and seeing all are welcome
- It's more of a destination and brief history

- Not always about loss before, but about ways to keep community open and alive
- I would like to see a local store that could be walked to

Worksheet 10

- Historic
- Faces of community leaders, members

- Tiger Jack's
- Immigrants

Worksheet 11

- The sense of community
- Need to use research of history to identify significant features to commemorate

- A sense of gaiety and comfort within the community
- "Spirit of Tiger Jack"

Worksheet 12

- There are interesting stories of people, both humorous and not so humorous, who did incredible things.

- There's beautiful old homes with interesting history that have been lovingly restored.

Worksheet 13

- Hope
- Security
- Peace
- Binoculars
- Communication

Worksheet 14

- Community—you have a sense of the neighborhood
- Communications about opportunity—chalkboard of jobs to bid on
- Interactions with others
- Friendly
- People of different ages
- Being able to walk different

Worksheet 15

- The people provide the vibrancy
- Growing up here meant that there were people and surrounding homes made you feel safe, secure and welcome

Worksheet 16

- [Blank]

Worksheet 17

- May early experience on Rondo, not Dale, were of a quiet street with large trees—many Chestnut Trees.
- I remember a bakery with an automated donut machine

Worksheet 18

- History/culture
- Multicultural
- Welcoming community/working class

Worksheet 19

- Well if the bridge is over the freeway, there could be some piece of art (not just literature) on the historical “significance” of that freeway as well as maybe how that particular area looked before the freeway
- was there [for] people who don’t already have some bit of historical background
- It might also be cool to have a space/place for people walking over the bridge to make some sort of contribution (artistically)

Worksheet 20

- A feeling of Community, drugstore, Tiger Jacks, Hallie Q. Brown
- Families and children crossing to go skating at the Hollow or to Hallie Q. Brown for social activities
- An important intersection with Rondo Avenue
- Automated donut machine in the window

Worksheet 21

- It was the crossroads of a unique community at a unique time in St. Paul's history
- It was the center of Rondo's African American Community
- It has a historical and [?] ties that can help heal and restore the [?] of Rondo

Worksheet 22

- Tight knit vibrant neighborhood/small city in itself that worked together, raised their families together, and supported each other
- African-American families created a safe place/welcoming place
- Their story needs to be saved and retold to future generations/celebrated

Worksheet 23

- Was a walking community/closely connected people
- Proud to work in a community where people who are very diverse have lived and worked close together
- People who wouldn't be neighbors now, were next door neighbors then
- Even the city lots for homes are small
- Today we respect that history and fight to make this community better

Worksheet 24

- In 1958, I moved to Iglehart Avenue (West) and Dale Street. Lived in the same area until about 1978 or so.
- Ease of crossing the streets
- A great neighborhood existing with caring neighbors and families who were concerned about the children—All Children!
- Busing (transportation)

Worksheet 25

- Permanence of community
- Stakeholders

Part D: The Experience of Walking Dale Street



Now compare your ideal experiences and the memories of Dale Street before there was a freeway to the experience pedestrians find today on Dale Street. How similar is today's experience along Dale Street with your preferred experiences? How different is it? Write a short narrative or list bullet points describing how walking on a sidewalk or across the I-94 bridge on Dale Street is similar to or different from your preferred experiences.

Worksheet 1

- [Blank]

Worksheet 2

- [Blank]

Worksheet 3

- No history; no [Carroll?]
- Socialization

Worksheet 4

- Now:
Not place to be or go → safety in car or as pedestrian
No history/sense of history of Rondo

Worksheet 5

Before	Current	After
Community	Disconnect	Community
Connection	Disjoint	Connection
Opportunity	Desolate	Opportunity

Worksheet 6

- I hate being on Dale
- Opportunity
- Socialization

Worksheet 7

- Divided a neighborhood
- Dangerous

Worksheet 8

- [Blank]

Worksheet 9

- As a result of the freeway more traffic had developed on Dale since it is an exit.
- Really crated barriers to leisure walking.
- My hope is from Dale Bridge to University would have more business that walkers could use.

Worksheet 10

- [Blank]

Worksheet 11

- Current Dale Street bridge has made experience dangerous

Worksheet 12

- Crossing the highway is loud, the noise from i-94 makes it unpleasant to cross
- Doesn't feel like the neighborhood people talk about with nostalgia

Worksheet 13

- Has been dangerous, very narrow

Worksheet 14

- Noisier
- Made it painful
- Not no place for refuge
- Too many cars going too fast
- Too much snow

Worksheet 15

- Crossing the bridge now is a much different thing than it was. You don't have the homes, people or businesses to make what had been an "experience" not at all fun or interesting

Worksheet 16

- I have not walked on Dale Street because I drive on it now. I have vivid memories of how it used to be. I lived on the corner of Dale and St. Anthony and as I drive that pathway, I only have memories of how it used to be. I can't describe them on this piece of paper.

Worksheet 17

- Very busy, congested with cars and busses, sidewalks on bridge are so narrow they're scary.

Worksheet 18

- Segregates communities
- Congested roads
- Small walkways

Worksheet 19

- Well one thing I'd say that isn't exactly preferable is that it's noisy (from all the traffic)
- We also know that there is a whole lot of pollution in the air in that area due to all of the exhaust from the automobile.
- The freeway also separates the "community" and kinda forces you to

(subconsciously) choose which community you're part of.

- Also the feel/vibe/experience is completely different on each side of the bridge so some people end up feeling uncomfortable or unwelcomed on the "other" side of the bridge.

Worksheet 20

- Separate the community.
- Don't choose to travel over the bridge unless it is absolutely necessary

- Quadrants, because of distance between east/west crossings
- Community much smaller

Worksheet 21

- It is devoid of history;
- It is not inviting
- It is not inviting and offers no chance to stop and interact with your neighbors and/or strangers

- It has no surprise—where are the memories?

Worksheet 22

- Totally different
- Freeway Environment is noisy, harsh, a little unnerving and uncomfortable
- Not a pleasant landscape

- Minimizes human experience
- Makes you want to cross quickly
- Industrial/abrasive feel

Worksheet 23

- There's nothing calming or impressive to see or look at while crossing
- You, as a pedestrian, are an "intruder" on a bridge meant for auto traffic
- It's noisy, smelly, chaotic

- A narrow path of a sidewalk—hard to pass going in different directions
- It's a barrier—I'd rather drive over the bridge to go 3-4 blocks away than drive over it

Worksheet 24

- Today the factor of speed of cars, bikes, etc., impact those who are using the streets
- The areas is still a unique community of housing, families, etc.

- A bit slower paced than say, Selby/Dale Street.

Worksheet 25

- Much traffic
- Much inattention to traffic laws
- Hardly any sidewalk

- No bike lanes
- Steep hill
- Ice, Snow