

DALE STREET LEADERSHIP CIRCLE · MEETING 6 · December 8, 2016 · Kings Crossing
DALE from BRIDGE/ST. ANTHONY to UNIVERSITY AVENUE

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

The primary purpose of the December 8 work session was to gather detailed community input on how to improve pedestrian safety and walkability on Dale from the bridge over I-94 to University Avenue.

Session Snapshot

The meeting opened with an update from Commissioner Carter's Aide Noel Nix and Jim Tolaas, Director of Ramsey County Public Works on jobs and training opportunities. Carol Swenson followed with a presentation on the community engagement process to date.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to exploring different strategies and best practices to improve safety and walkability on Dale. Participants worked in small groups and developed recommendations for intersections, sidewalks, boulevards, and medians. At the end of the exercise, groups presented and discussed their recommendations.

PARTICIPANTS (from Sign-up Sheets)

Community Members

Joya Barnes
Kenneth Barnes
Yeng Callahan
Lerris Cooper
Melvin Giles*
Seitu Jones
Irene Markley
Gloria Massey
Laverne McCartney Knighton
Jonathan Palmer
Rebecca Ryan
Tony Schmitz
Jean Schroepfer
Dale Swanson
Rev. James Thomas
Chaplain Irene Weaver
Joyce Williams
Ruth L. Wilson
Julia Wolfe

Ramsey County

Noel Nix, Cmr. Carter's Aide
Jim Tolaas, Public Works
Erin Laberee, Public Works
Joe Lux, Public Works
Matt Christensen, TKDA
Kathy Hedin, Public Health
Deborah Carter McCoy,
Communications
Hua Moua, Workforce Solutions

Mn Dept. of Transportation

Brian Isaacson's Office

City of St Paul

Jeannette Rebar, Public Works

Metropolitan Council

Mai Thor, Outreach Coordinator

Community Engagement Team*

Jens Werner, Summit-University
Planning Council (SUPC)
Carol Swenson, SUPC
Jono Cowgill,
Community Design Group
Craig Churchward,
Michael Baker Intl
Michael Huber,
Blue Cross and Blue Shield
of Minnesota

Notes and Observations

Jobs, Training, Workforce Hiring and Contracting Goals

- The November 17 Leadership Circle meeting surfaced a strong and deep community interest in addressing job training, employment, and minority/women contracting opportunities as part of the Dale Street Project.
- Ramsey County will be forming a work group that will focus on this important issue. Nix and Tolaas stressed that job and contracting opportunities extend beyond the immediate Dale Street project.
- Participants noted that there are local models for addressing employment and contracting goals, such as the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for the US Bank stadium.

Community Engagement Process Overview

- Since August 2016, the Leadership Circle convened five times. A core group of community members and government staff that coalesced and out of their meetings:
 - Core community values related to the project have been articulated.
 - Design criteria for the project have been developed.
 - A preliminary bridge design concept has emerged.
 - A set of related community issues that the community is concerned about is being created.

Street Design Exercise

- Participants broke into three groups. Each group was given an aerial photo of Dale from St. Anthony to University and a set of "cut outs" with images of streetscape features, such as trees and benches, and pedestrian safety elements, such as high visibility crosswalk, pedestrian lights, and signage.
- All three groups recommended:
 - Planted medians
 - Street trees
 - Pedestrian lighting
 - High visibility cross walks
 - Bump outs
 - Traffic control lights at one (Fuller Avenue) or more intersections
- Items such as benches, drinking fountains, and decorative planters were recommended by one or two groups, but not all three. Other ideas included: softening the edges of the street, making the library more colorful, and installing edible plants by the library.



- Need for economic redevelopment on east side of Dale Street
 - One work group raised the issue that there really isn't a reason for a pedestrian to be on Dale except to walk from one place to another. Granted, there are a few institutional uses such as a library, church, mosque, and Head Start center, but there are big gaps between them and they don't create a sense of place. There was a consensus among participants that public infrastructure improvements can help set the stage for economic revitalization, but roadway improvements alone will not remedy the problem.

Other Issues Discussed

- Meeting documentation: Participants asked that notes from the previous meetings be shared with the entire group and made public. Carol Swenson committed to doing this, ideally by December 24.
- Create a list of unresolved issues or questions such as access during construction and potential vibration impacts on St. James AME Church and other buildings.



Participants discuss different strategies for improving Dale Street.

Map of Community Infrastructure Recommendations for the Dale Street Corridor

This image is a synthesis of recommendations that residents provided during a basemap activity at the 12.8.2016 Leadership Circle meeting. The geographic scope of the exercise ran from University to Iglehart. Recommendations include medians with trees, crosswalks, trash receptacles, bumpouts, lighting, boulevard greenery, and planters.



Basemap Comments

Below are comments written directly on the basemaps. These comments supplemented the cutout/infrastructure recommendations that are reflected in the image above.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined Pedestrian lane? East side • Lighting to see people illegally crossing on foot • Site distance right turns • Hill steep for peds • Why would you want to be here? • Road to driveway • Can crash into lib (on intersection of University and Dale St. N) • Pedestrians • High left turns (on intersection of Fuller and Dale St N) • Drivers sneaking through • Make Central intersection full access to get to church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gateway • No Parking (on east side of St. Anthony) • Artist & Designer Fountain • Water reclamation for median and planters • Take out median at Central • Soften Parking • Camphor church • Vegetables in Planters (on Dale St N) • Soften Parking • Cafe (with X over Wendy's restaurant) • Gateway • All signals stops • Continue design North • Street Light • Line marking (on St Anthony) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No right turn on red (on east side intersection of St. Anthony and Dale St. N) • No right turn on red (on west side intersection of St. Anthony and Dale St. N) • Public art and garden • Camphor church • Coffee shop (with X over Wendy's restaurant) • All signals stops • North • Parking should be limited on this corner (on intersection of Aurora and Dale St. N) • Public art and garden

Report Out Feedback

These are notes taken reflecting the comments of group members who were "reporting out" to the rest of the leadership circle about their vision for infrastructure improvements along Dale Street. The exercise provided each group with a basemap of Dale from University to the bridge, along with cutouts of infrastructure enhancements (bumpouts, boulevards, trees, crosswalks, etc), markers and post its.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow traffic down • Beautify street • Difficulty crossing • Lots of parking & walls • Need more than just beautification • What's a plan to make Dale St. a place people want to be? • Safety and more lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateways. Welcoming people • Let people know "I am here" • Iconic built environment • What can draw people into this community • Get rid of Wendy's • Need to engage folks from the Islamic Center • Widen Dale because there is so much parking • Lucky Rosenbloom (owner of Tiger Jacks property) needs to be a part of the conversation too • Softening the street • How to bring it to Minnehaha • Library should be more colorful • Need flashing beacons at Fuller near the bus stop • Safe crossing on Fuller & Central to access the park • Legacy displays • Static & dynamic art displays--> example of artwork displays on Paris' left bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get rid of Wendy's • Safe crossing needed • People speeding down Dale • There's a school • Don't want a right turn on red • Parking right up to corner on Aurora at the Library is dangerous • Parking issues near Library-how to solve • Any possibilities for shared parking? • Soften boulevard near parking lots • Too many parking lots • Parallel Process to talk about economic development--> draw in PED? • Why the need for bus parking lot? • How do we value what Dale St. property is worth