

DALE STREET LEADERSHIP CIRCLE · OUTREACH & INVITATION
JULY 6, 2016 · Rondo Outreach Library, Dale Street
BE A PART OF THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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

Two community information sessions were held on July 6. The purpose was to introduce community leaders to the Dale Street Bridge Project and to invite them to become members of the Leadership Circle. The Leadership Circle is a stakeholder group of community members and organizations (residents, organization staff, and businesses), public officials, and public agency staff. The Circle's role is to:

- bring diverse voices and perspectives into the decision-making process.
- work to ensure that community concerns and issues are given fair and full consideration.
- share information and learn from one another.
- create a positive space where community members and public staff and officials can co-problem solve.

PARTICIPANTS (from Sign-up Sheets)

Community Members

July 6, 2017 — Midday

Marvin Anderson*
Carolyn Brown
Lars Christiansen
Sally Hoover
Russell Knighton
Penny Pergament
Marvin Scroggins
Rebecca Ryan

July 6, 2017 — Early Evening

Ross Callahan
Yeng Callahan
Kim Club
Kristen Kidder
Pat Lamb
Laverne McCartney Knighton
Jean Schroepfer
Kjensmo Walker
Joyce Williams

Ramsey County

Commissioner Toni Carter
Noel Nix, Aide to Cmr. Carter
Jim Tolaas, Director, Public Works
Erin Laberee, Project Manager, Public Works
Joe Lux, Transportation Planner, Public Work
Patricia Brady, Director, Workforce
Development and Ramsey County Workforce
Innovation Board
Hua Moua, Workforce Development
Kathy Hedin, Public Health

City of Saint Paul

Paul Kurtz, Public Works
Paul St. Martin, Public Works

Minnesota Dept. of Transportation

April Crockett, Metro Division

Community Resource Team*

Marvin Roger Anderson, Rondo Avenue, Inc.
Jens Werner,
Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC)
Melvin Giles, Community Advocate
Carol Swenson, SUPC
Craig Churchward,
Michael Baker International
Andrew Tran, Community Design Group

- arrive at a shared vision and a shared set of values and principles for the project.
- lead the way to building a bridge and road that are safe and welcoming to everyone and honors the neighborhood and communities it serves.

Session Snapshot

- Community engagement organizers offered a brief history of the origins of the Dale Street Bridge and Pedestrian Improvements project and what it includes.
- Rondo community members who experienced trauma caused by construction of I-94 shared their memories and the potential they see for using the Dale Street project to help heal some of the wounds inflicted on the community.
- Ramsey County, City of St Paul, and MnDOT representatives talked about their interest and role in the project.
- Community engagement organizers invited everyone to join the Leadership Circle and provide feedback on proposed community engagement process, structure, and priorities.
- Community members and government staff shared a meal and began building relationships.

Participation

Seventeen community members and 10 public agency staff attended one or both information/invitation sessions. Community members and organizations represented a cross-section of those who live on Dale or in the project area, are a part of the Old Rondo community, or represent organizations with a stake in the community.

At the request of the community, Ramsey County, which owns Dale and is the lead organization on this transportation project, assembled leaders from a cross-section of county departments that have a stake in the process and outcomes of the Dale Street Bridge Project. This included staff from: Public Works, Workforce Solutions, and Public Health. Heads and staff from these departments committed to participating in and supporting the project and process. All departments were represented at both July 6 meetings.

Staff from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), which built I-94, and the City of Saint Paul were represented as well.

Outcomes

- Out of these meetings and additional outreach, a core group of community members participate in Leadership Circle meetings.
- Ramsey County departments along with representatives from the City of Saint Paul and MnDOT have participated in Leadership Circle meetings.
- Community members participating in the meetings began sharing information about the project with family, friends, and neighbors.
- Over 20 community members plus 12 government staff and community engagement team members participated in the first meeting of the Leadership Circle in August 2016.