

Meeting Summary: Station Area Working Group Round 2 - Cayuga Street & Olive Street

Meeting Number: 2
Date: 2/13/2024 6pm-8pm
Location: Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, 435 University Ave E., St. Paul, MN
55130



Attendance

- 11 participants
- 5 staff

Agenda

- Welcome + Dinner
- Intro + Agenda
- Review Goals, Themes, Glossary

- Review Draft Actions
 - Brainstorm Physical Improvements
 - Brainstorm Programs/Policy
 - Closing Comments
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Feedback by Goal

Make Vibrant Public Places

- Discussion on the difficulty of maintaining public spaces without sufficient funding and staffing.
- Suggestions for community involvement in maintenance, such as an "Adopt a Bus Shelter" program, to help keep areas clean and safe.
- Calls for the beautification of areas like Olive St.

Connect People and Places

- Recognition of the need for safe, accessible public transit for all community members, including those with physical impairments.
- Critiques on the unpredictability and perceived inefficiency of bus services.
- Mention of the importance of still providing some parking availability, recognizing the traffic flow towards major areas during rush hour.

Prioritize Safety and Security

- High levels of concern regarding safety on transit due to homelessness, drug use, and recent incidents affecting perceptions of security.
- Immediate concerns about lighting in St. Paul, with a comparison to Chicago's better-lit environments. This included calls for a plan that addresses the theft of materials like copper to ensure reliable lighting.
- Concerns about safety in poorly lit or visually obstructed areas, especially under bridges.
- Discussions on the effectiveness of private security personnel and the new force with Metro Transit.
- Concerns about the lack of cleanliness at bus stops and public areas, linking this to safety issues and the potential for illegal activities.

Create Neighborhoods for Living

- Discussions on how safety and security measures can impact diversity and inclusion, with a suggestion that focusing on rehabilitation for the homeless population could enhance safety.
- The need for a balance between green spaces and visibility for motorists, with suggestions for not allowing grass to grow too tall.

Build Businesses and Community Services

- A call for more proposed development in residential areas to improve the overall community environment.
- Suggestions for improvements in local infrastructure and services, including the addition of gas stations/convenience stores.
- Concerns about areas with low housing and business density, leading to reduced ridership and security issues outside business hours.
- Suggestions for improving accessibility, including the importance of having stops near key locations and amenities.