



Hennepin County News

Public Affairs • 612-348-3848 • 300 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis, MN 55487-0011

Oct. 20, 2010

Contacts: Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Commissioner: 612-348-7884
Sandy Colvin Roy, Minneapolis City Council Member: 612-673-2212
Cara Lee, Public Affairs: 612-348-6883

County, City celebrate one of state's largest energy efficient lighting projects Monday, Nov. 8

Learn more about one of the largest studies in energy efficient lighting taking place in the state, and find out what simple steps residents can take to conserve energy in their own homes.

Residents and local business owners are invited to attend a celebration of Hennepin County's [Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works Project](#) 46th Street pilot lighting project on Monday, Nov. 8, from 4:30 – 6 p.m. (4:30 p.m. short program) at [Minnehaha Cafe](#), 4554 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis.

The 46th Street pilot lighting project stretches from 34th to 46th avenues. The pilot lighting project not only improves street lighting for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles using 46th Street and accessing the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit line station, it allows the county and City of Minneapolis to directly compare standard High Pressure Sodium (HPS) street lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights and induction lights, and study the lights' energy consumption, maintenance and operating costs.

"It's essential that we embrace new technologies that save energy, improve neighborhoods and save taxpayer money. That's what this project is about." said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "This is one of the first investments to come out of the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works project and one identified as a priority of the neighborhoods along the corridor. More investments will follow."

"This investment by the county, in collaboration with the city, provides a welcome new look to 46th Street, a gateway into Minneapolis. And in the future, it will provide useful information

– more –

Pilot lighting project/2

to our city and county operations, as we change to fixtures that will burn less energy to provide light where we want it,” said Sandy Colvin Roy, Minneapolis City Council Member.

The pilot lighting project is the first part of a series of improvements that will be made along the corridor as part of the Minnehaha-Hiawatha [Strategic Investment Framework](#). Project partners include Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Minnesota Local Road Research Board.

Eight types of LED lights from six different manufacturers are being studied along the east side of the corridor with a mixture of high-level lights (30-foot-tall light poles with fixtures) and low-level lights (15-foot-tall light poles with fixtures). LED lights require less power to achieve HPS light levels, and are designed to last up to four times the lifespan of a standard HPS light.

Three types of induction lights from three different manufacturers are being studied along the west side of the corridor, and all are low-level lights. Induction lights are similar to the lightbulbs used in a light fixture in a house, except gases are used to make the light instead of a wire filament.

Residents, local business owners, and anyone traveling through the corridor are encouraged to comment directly on the types of lights – how they’re working, what people do or don’t like about the lights – at the project website. Each grouping of streetlights has a sign indicating which type of light it is, and contact information.

The Hennepin County Community Works program was created under the premise that a corridor-oriented approach to infrastructure investment would provide the broadest impact in improving quality of life for nearby communities and the region by improving access and connectivity.

The five basic principles of Community Works projects are:

- Stimulating economic development.
- Building bridges for effective planning and implementation.
- Maintaining and improving natural systems.
- Strengthening communities through connections.
- Enhancing the tax base.