

# Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works NEWSLETTER



Hennepin County Housing, Community Works, & Transit

Issue # 5 -- March 2012

## County Board Adopts Strategic Investment Framework

In November, the Hennepin County Board adopted the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works (MHCW) Strategic Investment Framework.

The Framework guides improvements within the corridor that support other public and private investments in the area. The document's Action Plan highlights 16 projects to catalyze larger scale investments in the corridor.

These infrastructure investments aim to:

- Improve the ability to walk, bike, drive, and travel to and through the corridor;

- Support business vitality and job creation;
- Create a diverse set of housing, commercial, and employment opportunities to serve the community;
- Enhance the sense of community while honoring its history; and,
- Promote environmental sustainability.

To date, the County Board has appropriated \$3.1 million for the project, leveraging more than \$250,000 in funding from other entities. Work on the project will continue through 2017, with an additional \$3 million in funding.

### Open Positions on Project Steering Committee

In spring, the county will be creating a Steering Committee to oversee implementation of MHCW projects. We are looking for community and business members to serve on this Steering Committee. Check the project web page in late March for more information.

### Responsibilities

- Provide strategic direction
- Set project priorities
- Review and approve projects
- Identify funding sources
- Build consensus and support collaboration

### Commitment

- 2 year term
- Quarterly daytime meetings

## Pedestrian Improvements Proposed for Hiawatha Avenue

One concern raised through community engagement is the difficulty pedestrians and bikers have crossing Hiawatha Avenue.

Hennepin County, with the City of Minneapolis, Metro Transit, and Minnesota Department of Transportation, reviewed the intersections at 32nd, 38th, and 46th streets to identify opportunities to improve the pedestrian environment.

Recommended improvements include straighter, wider crosswalks; wider medians; reduced east-west lane crossing width; and improve-

ments to make the intersection ADA compliant.

The County and area neighborhood organizations will be hosting a series of public meetings in mid-March to provide an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the recommendations. Check the box on the right or project web page for more information on these meetings.

In spring, the county will be working with partners to identify funding opportunities for the project.

### Hiawatha Pedestrian Crossings Open Houses

Monday, March 19 / 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church  
2600 East 38th Street

Tuesday, March 20 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Hiawatha Flats Apartments  
3625 East 43rd Street

Wednesday, March 21 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm  
Clare Midtown  
3105 South 23rd Avenue

Project web page: [www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com](http://www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com)  
Contact: Robb Luckow — 612.348.9344 — [Robb.luckow@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:Robb.luckow@co.hennepin.mn.us)

## Longfellow and Phillips Talk about Environmental and Health Risks

In December 2010, Hennepin County received a \$100,000 Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) award from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The CARE program helps create partnerships to reduce toxins in the local community.

Hennepin County and community partners are using the grant to launch the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor Environmental Collaboration to identify, prioritize and address environmental health risks. Work is focusing on the geographic area encompassing the East Phillips and western Longfellow neighborhoods.

Hennepin County is joined by the Women's Environmental Institute and Longfellow Community Council in leading a collaboration of community groups,

businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to facilitate this project. The project will work with community members to identify their top environmental and health concerns and ways to deal with them.

During the summer, the CARE partners talked to people living, working, visiting, or worshipping in the area to hear their concerns. People identified over 100 issues, ranging from environmental sustainability to obesity to safety to economic instability, as important to them.

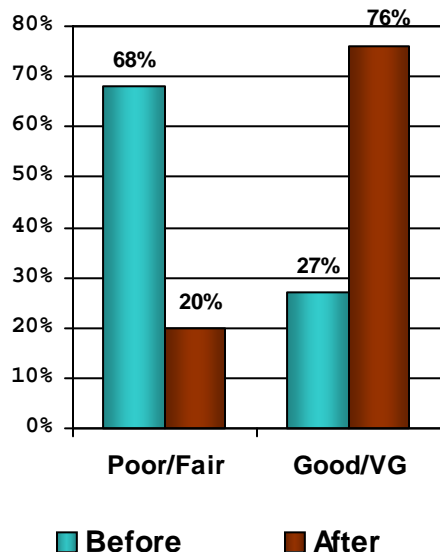
In spring, the CARE partners will be hosting a series of discussion groups to talk more deeply about these concerns and to identify the top issues the community would like to address. Check [www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care](http://www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care) for more information.

### Community-Identified Issues

- Access to health care
- Air pollution
- Asthma
- Bugs and pests
- Community blight
- Crime and personal security
- Economic instability
- Empty storefronts
- Energy consumption
- Environmental sustainability
- Food access and insecurity
- Lack of community
- Lack of green/open space
- Lead
- Mold
- Obesity and nutrition
- Pollution from vehicles, traffic
- Radon
- Secondhand smoke
- Soil contamination
- Toxins in the home
- Trash
- Unfriendly bike/ped environment
- Water quality

## 46th Street Pilot Lighting Project Tests New Technology

What is your overall impression of light levels on 46th St?\*



New energy-efficient streetlights on 46th Street have been operational for almost two years. Located along 46th Street between 34th and 46th avenues, this pilot lighting project is testing 43 LED and 12 induction lights from nine different manufacturers for energy use, costs savings, and light quality.

Initial results show the following:

- Induction and LED lights consume 2 to 3 times less energy than standard high-pressure sodium bulbs.
- Induction light levels do not appear bright enough for commercial areas, and they experienced a slight degradation during cold temperatures.

LED light levels varied between manufacturers.

- Two LED and one induction light failed. One LED light was damaged in an accident.
- Estimated payback for the lights is around 3.5 years for induction and 10-12 years for LED.
- Approximately 80% of the cost savings from the efficient bulbs comes from the reduced maintenance costs (not having a crew change the bulbs as frequently) and 20% from energy savings.

The test will continue through the end of the year, and the results will inform future lighting decisions.

\* Based on surveys of 100 respondents within 1 block of 46th Street. No answer = 6% / 4%.