

## **Community Engagement**

### **FTA tasks #1 and #3**

The community engagement conducted as part of the Task 1 and Task 3 work was important for several reasons:

- It provided insights into the housing and commercial markets that only those working on an everyday basis know about.
- It helped to understand what challenges exist that those who are looking for affordable housing within the corridor.
- It allowed the general public to engage in what future zoning changes might look like in their neighborhood and community on a proactive basis. Zoning changes and community engagement are traditionally done on a reactive basis when a development is proposed.

From these stakeholders we heard:

- That generally, housing along the corridor is considered affordable, but lack of certain unit sizes, maintenance, discrimination, gentrification and displacement are major concerns.
- That LRT is likely to be a catalyst to development, and that neighborhood amenities and are important to help attract and support that development.
- That the public sector should have a clear vision, political will, and appropriate zoning to help facilitate development.
- Different concerns for the TOD zoning, which were then reflected in changes to the draft zoning document.

### ***FTA Task #1 (Commercial Market Analysis and TOD Zoning)***

- For the commercial market analysis and development assessment, the following community engagement occurred:
  - 10 developer interviews
    - Included commercial and residential developments (market rate and affordable)
    - Many of these developers were recommended by city staff for interviews
  - City staff conversations occurred with Crystal and Robbinsdale
- For the TOD Zoning work, the following community engagement occurred:
  - Engagement with property owners of key opportunity sites and neighbors along the corridor. This included 1 on 1 in person meetings, phone conversations and emails. Over 50 properties were targeted in this effort.
  - Coordinated zoning and infrastructure community workshops. Working with the community engagement happening with the Infrastructure work (task #2), joint community workshops were held in each city. Half of the workshop focused on infrastructure and the other half of the workshop focused on zoning—each half had a short presentation/background and an interactive activity.
    - March 15-Robbinsdale. Approximately 25 people attended

- March 20-Brooklyn Park (as part of the Think Again Brooklyns meeting). Approximately 40 people attended.
- March 28-Golden Valley. Approximately 40 people attended.
- April 4-Brooklyn Park. Approximately 25 people attended.
- May 21-Crystal. Approximately 20 people attended.

***FTA Task #3 (Housing Gaps Analysis)***

- Conducted community stakeholder interviews with the following organizations in fall 2017:
  - ACER
  - Las Asamblea de Derechos Civiles
  - Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County
  - City of Lakes Community Land Trust
  - Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
  - Redeemer Lutheran Church/Redeemer Center for Life
- Conducted a meeting with Blue Line Coalition and HEEC members (December 13, 2017)
  - Presented draft findings to the members
  - Received comments and feedback from attendees
- Conducted interviews to understand the current and future housing needs along the Bottineau Corridor and within each station area
  - For sale housing market included real estate agents
  - Multifamily housing market included developers from market rate housing, affordable housing, senior housing and student housing