



City of Saint Paul

Reimagine the Railway

Studying New Uses for the Ford Spur

City Council

December 5, 2018

WHAT WE'LL COVER

- Project Background
- Project Phases
- Study Content
- Implementation

LOCATION

Five miles of right-of-way between downtown Saint Paul and the 122-acre Ford Site


DOWNTOWN SAINT PAUL



HISTORY & POTENTIAL

- Built to serve Ford Motor Company Twin Cities Assembly Plant
- Owned by Canadian Pacific Railway
- No significant rail activity since plant closed (2011)
- New use of the spur could:
 - Expand transportation options
 - Provide a recreation asset
 - Support Ford Site redevelopment
 - Improve neighborhood connections



PURPOSE & FUNDING

- Application submitted to US DOT in 2014 and granted
- Study began early 2017 using Federal funding, City match, and donations from East Metro Strong and Ford Motor Company Fund
 - Examine issues/opportunities for walking and bicycling and develop preliminary designs
 - Consider that public transit may be a future use in the corridor



GOALS OF SPUR

- Connect downtown Saint Paul and diverse neighborhoods in a new, healthy, efficient, and attractive way
- Allow future development on the Ford site to be served with more and safer transportation choices
- Complement the regional transportation system
- Coordinate the goals and needs of related studies and stakeholder agencies to develop, design, and plan collaboratively
- Foster economic development along the corridor

SCOPE

- Stakeholder Review
- Plan Review and Coordination
- Topographic Survey
- Existing Conditions Review
- Project Goals, Evaluation Criteria, and Strategies
- Environmental Screening
- Concept Design
- Preliminary Design
- Operations and Maintenance

SCOPE

Two design options:

1. Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Only
2. Bike/Ped with co-located transit



Dequindre Cut, Detroit

PROJECT AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUPS

Advisory Group Members

- City staff - PED, Public Works, City Council Wards 2 and 3, Mayor's office
- Ramsey County
- Metropolitan Council
- Metro Transit
- MnDOT
- East Metro Strong
- West Seventh Business Assoc.
- West 7th/Fort Road Federation (D9)
- Highland District Council (D15)
- Highland Business Association
- Transit for Livable Communities
- Saint Paul Public Schools
- Metropolitan Design Center
- Neighborhood House



PHASES

1. Study introduction:

April – June 2017

Open House **#1** May 23, 2017 at Jewish Community Center

2. Preliminary concept review:

July – September 2017

Open House **#2** August 29, 2017 at Palace Community Center

3. Revised concept and recommendation review:

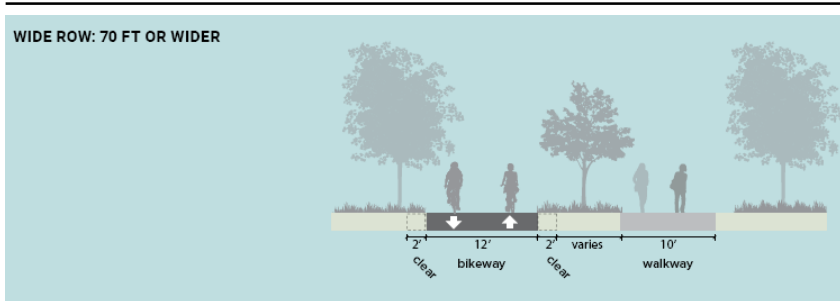
October 2017 – March 2018

Open House **#3** March 1, 2018 @ West 7th Community Center

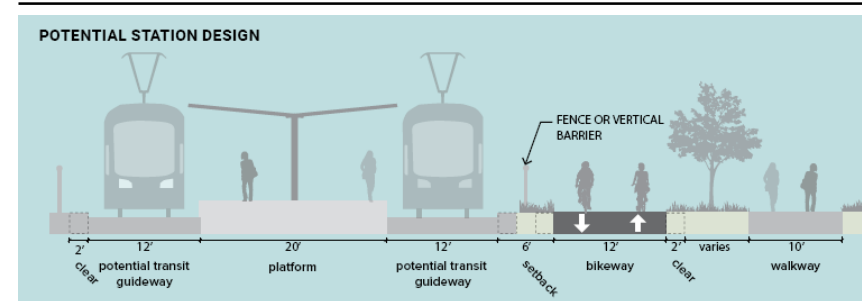
DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Separated walking and bicycling trails

IF TRANSIT NOT PRESENT



IF TRANSIT IS PRESENT



- Location and type of crossing treatments
- Considerations for connections to other modes of transportation
- Opportunities for trail supporting facilities, such as wayfinding, bicycle repair stations, gathering spaces

COST ESTIMATES

CAPITAL (\$12.4M – \$13.1M):

- Estimate of trail construction and design costs based on very preliminary designs and understanding
- Estimates do not include:
 - Land acquisition
 - Cost of constructing transit
 - Environmental mitigation
 - Grade separated bridge over West 7th (\$8M)

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE (See report for \$):

- Surface maintenance
- Pavement markings
- Winter maintenance
- Vegetation
- Trash removal
- Energy use

PURPOSE: to give order of magnitude estimates for future consideration

IMPLEMENTATION

- Acquisition, transit decisions, and budget are the major outstanding questions
- Land ownership and transit decisions will determine funding strategy
- The project will likely need to be broken into fundable phases (4-year cycle from award to construction)
- Role of an ongoing Project Advisory Group & project champions

DRAFT RESOLUTION

- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul City Council hereby **approves the study as a foundational document for future design and engineering work.**

Thanks! Questions?

Mike Richardson
mike.richardson@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651.266.6621