



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
*Melvin Carter, Mayor*

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To: Planning Commission  
From: Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee  
Date: September 27, 2018  
RE: Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan

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### **Background and Planning Process**

The creation of the Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan was a collaborative effort of the Cities of Maplewood, Roseville, and Saint Paul and Ramsey County. Two committees helped guide this planning effort: The Gateway Planning Committee (GPC), which was comprised of elected officials from each of the cities and County Staff, City Staff, and the Community Advisory Group (CAG), which included residents, business owners, and other stakeholders.

The planning process was initiated in March 2017 and continued through February 2018. There were approximately five separate meetings with the CAG, seven meetings with the GPC and two joint meetings with both groups. In addition to feedback from the two planning groups, the consulting team hosted two community planning meetings and an open house for the recommendations.

The Vision Plan includes analyses of land use, market conditions, natural resources, sidewalk width, transportation and traffic, community health indicators, resiliency, and bicycle and pedestrian circulation.

Key findings from this work included the need to:

- create a safe, pedestrian friendly environment;
- redevelop key sites along the corridor;
- improve the street network along the corridor to improve multimodal access and circulation; and
- enhance connections to amenities and open spaces along the corridor.

The overarching importance of this corridor and adjacent neighborhoods cannot be overstated. Many of the County's poorest families and new immigrant populations reside in this area because of the concentration of naturally-occurring affordable housing.

### **Vision for the Gateway**

Based on conversations with the GPC and the CAG and initial phase of community outreach, the following vision for the area was set forward:

*The Rice-Larpenteur Gateway will be a safe, engaging, and inviting neighborhood center that includes common spaces, a high-quality pedestrian environment, and robust reinvestment for the diverse people of the surrounding communities to live, conduct business, and play together.*

## **Plan Recommendations**

The plan offers a series of recommendations to guide public and private investment in this area, including those for:

- pedestrian, bicycle, and transit user experience enhancements;
- public realms improvements around streetscape and urban forest;
- stormwater management;
- roadway changes and intersection improvements; and
- key redevelopment sites within the gateway area.

The plan implantation identifies short- and long-term actions the partners can take to bring the plan to life. Somewhat unique for this type of plan, the initial first step action step is to create a Rice-Larpenteur Development Alliance to support implementation activities as there is currently no organization to manage these activities.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee recommends the Commission review the study and forward a recommendation on to the Mayor and City Council to approve the Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan as a foundational document for transportation improvements and overall revitalization of that area.

Attachments:

1. Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan
2. Draft Planning Commission Resolution
3. City Council Study Initiation Resolution (February 8, 2017)