

North Minneapolis Greenway – Frequently Asked Questions (Revised 1/21/13)

Project timeline and funding

Q: What will be accomplished with the current project funding?

A: With the current funding for the north Minneapolis greenway project, the City will identify a preferred greenway route, develop initial concept designs along the route, and gather community input on the route and designs. The City will also develop initial guidelines for converting streets to greenways.

Q: Why is the health department funding this planning process? Where did the money come from?

A: The funding from this project comes from the Minnesota Department of Health through its Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). SHIP funds are paying for projects across the state to reduce obesity and tobacco use and increase healthy eating and physical activity. The Minneapolis Health Department received funds for 11 projects, including the north Minneapolis greenway planning project. The greenway would provide north Minneapolis residents and visitors with a safe, beautiful space for walking and biking, whether for transportation or recreation.

Q: Could the funding for this planning process be used for something else?

A: No. The grant funding that pays for this project must be used to develop plans for the greenway.

Q: When will the greenway be built?

A: We do not know at this time when the greenway would be built. Currently, no funding is available to construct the greenway. It is likely that if the greenway is constructed, it will be constructed in smaller segments over many years.

Q: Will I be assessed if this is built on my street?

A: Assessments are one tool that the City uses to fund its street projects. We do not know at this time whether property owners along the route will be assessed if the greenway is constructed. This will in part depend on community input and on funding options available for construction.

Q: I live on the greenway route. What will happen to my property value and taxes if the greenway is built?

A: We do not know what will happen to property values along the greenway route; however it is possible that property values will increase. Construction of the Midtown Greenway in south Minneapolis resulted in substantial investment and development along the route. If property values increase, then property taxes could increase. The City may seek market value exclusions for properties along the route to prevent tax increases for property owners for a set period of time; however, this is not guaranteed.

Q: What will happen next with this project?

In Fall 2012, the City gathered community input on greenway route and design options. Based on that input, the City selected a preferred route and has proposed designs along the route. The City is currently gathering input on the preferred route and designs. After this input is gathered, the City will develop a final report summarizing the results of the community engagement process and making recommendations based on input gathered. Depending on the results, the City will seek additional funds to further develop plans and, eventually, to construct the greenway. More information about the project can be found online at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/ship/northminneapolisgreenway.

Q: Who makes the final decisions on the greenway?

A: The Minneapolis City Council will make the final decisions on the greenway.

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Q: You have developed plans for a specific route and designs. Are these plans final? Can changes still be made?

A: The City is in the initial planning stages for the north Minneapolis greenway. Plans are not final and will likely change before the greenway is constructed, based on community input and on further study and plan development by the City.

Greenway design

Q: Where will I park if my street becomes a full greenway?

A: Residents living on a full “linear park” greenway will still have access to their alleys and will be able to park in their driveways and garages. Small parking lots will also be developed at the ends of blocks to provide additional parking space for residents and visitors.

Q: Will emergency vehicles still be able to access homes on the greenway route?

A: Yes. Plans are being designed to accommodate emergency vehicles. Emergency responders will review greenway plans and ensure that their emergency vehicles are still able to access all homes along the route.

Q: Will the City demolish any homes as part of this project?

A: No, the City will not demolish homes as part of the greenway project. The current plans use the City's existing right-of-way in the streets.

Q: If a full “linear park” greenway is constructed, will the parallel streets become more congested?

A: The full “linear park” greenway type will only be used on streets with very little traffic. Parallel streets may see slightly more traffic, but traffic volumes on those streets should still remain very low.

Other questions

Q: What is a greenway?

A: Greenways are safe, beautiful routes for bicyclists and pedestrians. They are designed to be user-friendly for people of all ages and abilities and are a free, accessible space for recreation, commuting, and physical activity.

Q: Are there other examples of greenways in Minneapolis? Where are they?

A: Yes. Examples for comparison include 37th Avenue North between Queen and Knox Avenues, Milwaukee Avenue in Seward neighborhood, and the Midtown Greenway in South Minneapolis.

Q: How will the greenway be maintained?

A: As greenway plans are further developed, the City will work with its partners to determine how it will be maintained. Other trails in the City are maintained by the City and by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Q: Who can I contact if I have other questions?

A: Contact Lara Pratt, lara.pratt@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-3815.