HEALTHY CORRIDOR FOR ALL: HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE CENTRAL CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL LINE

Advancing Equity in Minneapolis-St. Paul: Action Research, Advocacy, and Place-making

New Partners for Smart Growth | February, 2012

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HEALTHY CORRIDOR FOR ALL

A coalition convened to conduct a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the re-zoning and land use around the Central Corridor Light Rail Development.

Partners:

- ISAIAH
- TakeAction Minnesota
- PolicyLink
CENTRAL CORRIDOR
LIGHT RAIL

• Light Rail Line connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul

• Significant Public Infrastructure Project

• High Impact on Low Income Communities and Low Income Communities of Color
GOALS FOR HIA

• Assess the impacts of the CCLRT zoning plan on Health

• Maximize potential for zoning plan to create health and equity

• Build the capacity of community steering committee to advocate for their vision for their communities
WHY HIA?

• Health Impact Assessment is a growing field that assess the potential health impacts of a project, policy or development
• Shifting public and political debate to put equity and healthy communities as a central priority
• Linking research and advocacy to create more legitimacy and credibility for equity
• Draw a broad range of partners across sectors for sustained participation
SETTING THE TABLE

• Community Steering Committee
  - 22 Constituency-Based Groups

• Technical Advisory Panel
  - Lawyers, Public Health Professionals, Urban Planners

• Stakeholders Engagement
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROCESS

Identify *most important issues* for the community.

Develop a plan on what *strategies and methods* to use to assess those issues.

Conduct an assessment of the issues to understand *current conditions* of the Corridor.

Conduct assessment, reviewing the proposed zoning, to *forecast zoning impacts* on prioritized issues.

Develop *recommendations* to maximize health.
PRIORITIZED AREAS:

• Healthy Housing

• Transit

• Healthy Economy
PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. Quality, *Healthy Jobs* that Increase Wealth, Income and Equity for All Residents

2. *Diverse, Local Businesses* – Existing and New – Are Developed and Supported

3. Protect Residents from Negative Impacts of *Gentrification*

4. Construct & Preserve *Affordable and Diverse Housing* in Proportion to Demand

5. Maintain & Improve *Affordable & Accessible Public Transportation*

6. *Safe, Connected Biking & Walking* To and From Transit Stops and Across Major Streets
## EXAMPLE INDICATOR

**PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GENTRIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Existing Conditions: Are Central Corridor neighborhoods at risk of gentrification?</strong></th>
<th><strong>Race/ethnicity, foreign born, non-English speaking (see demographics section)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Household Income (see demographics section)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tenure: renter and owner occupancy by single family and multi-family building types</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Housing burden: share of household income spent on housing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Proportion of households living in overcrowded conditions</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Households in proximity (¼ and ½ mile) to transit, percent of workers taking public transit (see transportation section)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Residential mobility: how long residents have lived in the area and how often they move (see demographics section)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Household size, household type (families and non-families), age, families with children (see demographics section)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIA RECOMMENDATIONS:

• Targeted Inclusionary Zoning in Up Market Areas

• Density Bonuses

• Interim Commercial Parking on Vacant Land

• First Source Hiring
BUILDING COMMUNITY POWER

Building community power through the whole process

• Meeting with Decision-Makers

• Tracking the Political Process

• Leveraging the HIA Process
MOVING INTO ACTION

Public Action
Public Meetings
Negotiations
Engaging in Public Process
Media Work
March 5, 2011: 300 Gather with City Council Members to advocate for recommendations
WHERE WE ARE NOW

Anti-Displacement & Affordable Housing City Resolution

Study the Density Bonuses

Affordable Housing Table to Create a Plan for Housing
SUSTAINING THE MOVEMENT

Foreclosure Actions

Calling on City for Mediation and Bringing Banks to the Table

Capacity to Connect to Research and Data; Released Foreclosure Study
LESSONS LEARNED:

Setting the Table Work is Most Important

Linking Data and Organizing/Advocacy is Very Powerful

Ongoing challenge to create robust research that is accessible and usable by all leaders.
ACCESS THE HIA

www.policylink.org/HealthyCorridorforAllHIA