



# Hennepin Community Works

Program Update Summer 2008



Economic deterioration in several urban neighborhoods and suburban municipalities including unemployment, heavy reliance on social services, high crime rates, substandard properties, and disengaged residents

- Public cost: declining tax revenues; increased spending on public assistance, police services, health, and social services
- Human cost: emotional distress, disconnection from community, chronic health problems, crime victimization, lower educational attainment

# Background – Response

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Hennepin Community Works created in mid 1990s:

## Mission

To enhance how the communities of Hennepin County work together to create good jobs, provide access to employment, and build the long term value of communities by investing in infrastructure, public works, parks, and the natural environment and by improving the existing implementation systems.

## Principles

- Stimulate employment development
- Build bridges for effective planning and implementation
- Maintain and improve natural systems
- Strengthen communities through connections
- Enhance the tax base

## Place Enhancement

- Linear parks
- Community gardens
- Commercial redevelopment
- Industrial land improvements
- Housing maintenance programs
- Polluted land clean-up
- Abandoned site reclamation

## Community Linkages

- Corridor streets
- Neighborhood connectors
- On-street trails and pathways
- Rail to trail conversions
- Parkways along creeks and rivers

## Natural Systems

- Wetland restoration
- Daylighting natural systems
- Reforestation and habitat restoration
- Public education
- Open space reserves
- Settlement ponds



# Midtown Corridor

## Issue

An under-used rail corridor running across south Minneapolis attracted crime and contributed to blight in nearby neighborhoods.



**Before**

# Midtown Corridor

## Opportunity

- Create a natural amenity connecting the Chain of Lakes to Mississippi River
- Promote job creation and activity along Lake Street and in the corridor area
- Create a limited-access cross-town commuter bike route providing fast connections to area destinations
- Improve walking and transit opportunities in the area





# Midtown Corridor

**After**



# Midtown Corridor

After



Cepro Ramp Access



Martin Olav Sabo Bridge



# Humboldt Greenway

## Issue

Neighborhood lacked housing stock diversity – limiting ability of residents to age-in-place. Existing homes were small and lacked basements, potentially affecting entire neighborhood.



**Before**

# Humboldt Greenway



## Opportunity

- Create parkway improvements and central greenspace
- Diversify housing stock to create family housing and senior housing
- Create green trail connection between two area schools
- Make pedestrian and bike connections to Shingle Creek Parkway and Mississippi River



# Humboldt Greenway

After



# Lowry Avenue Corridor

## Issue

Traffic congestion, inadequate sidewalks and bike lanes, lack of green space, and blighted buildings created environment that detracted from area's quality of life.



**Before**

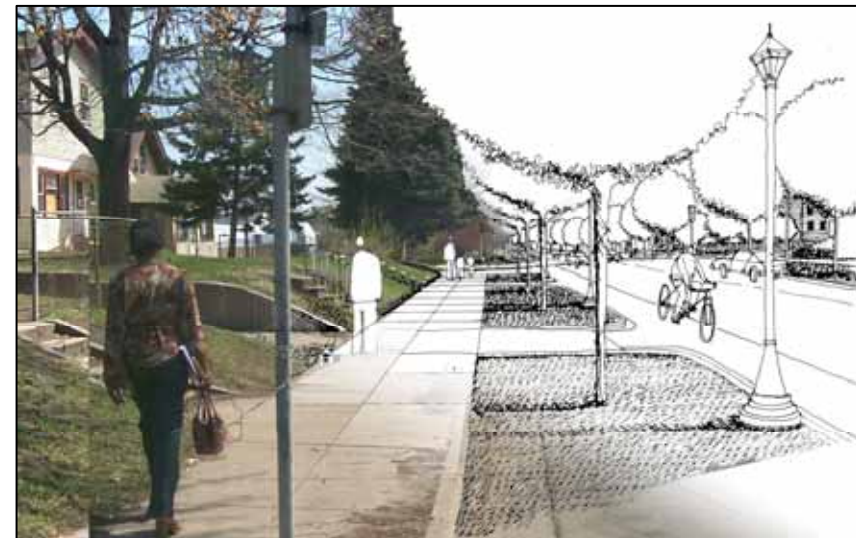




# Lowry Avenue Corridor

## Opportunity

- Improve street design with boulevards, sidewalks, and bike lanes
- Enhance access to jobs through public transportation
- Effectively link civic spaces through transit, pedestrian, and bicycle connections
- Congregate service, retail, and office space around transit centers



# Lowry Avenue Corridor

## Under Construction Phase 2b through 2009



**Improved Sidewalks**



**Construction**

