

C Community Development Committee
Meeting date: August 20, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	August 15, 2012
Subject:	Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Not Applicable
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Susan Hoyt (651.602.1330)
Division/Department:	Community Development, Corridors of Opportunity Unit

Proposed Action

There is no action or direction requested from the Committee. The purpose of this report is to provide information about the community engagement approach developed and implemented through the Corridors of Opportunity by introducing the members of the Community Engagement Team and three organizations’ leaders that received grants for their engagement work around land use and transitway topics along transitway corridors. In addition, the Committee will be briefed about how the lessons learned through this grass roots community based engagement work from the Corridors of Opportunity is being integrated into the Thrive MSP 2040 outreach and engagement process.

Background

Corridors of Opportunity. The HUD Sustainable Communities Grant prioritized \$750,000 for engaging underrepresented communities (low income, new immigrant communities, communities of color and persons with disabilities - including disabled seniors) in the land use and transitway planning process. The grant identified a Community Engagement Team (CE Team), whose members include:

Repa Mekha, Nexus Community Partners

Russ Adams, the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability

Margaret Kaplan, now Ned Moore, the Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing, CURA

The CE Team worked with community based organizations, who work with underrepresented communities, to develop a grant program for community engagement around any of seven transitways (Northstar, Central, Hiawatha, Bottineau, Gateway, Cedar and Southwest). In October, 2011 the first round of engagement grants of \$393,000 were awarded by the Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board to community based organizations, many of them working collaboratively. The average grant was

\$ 30,000. The second round of grants will be awarded in September 2012 for \$323,000.

(Attachment 1 – List of First Round of Grantees.)

Thrive: The connections established between the Metropolitan Council and other government staff and the community based organizations that received grants has resulted in more opportunities to work together. Building on these relationships with the Community Engagement Steering Committee, about 90 community based organizations, the Metropolitan Council staff invited these leaders to participate in two small group listening sessions around Thrive MSP 2040 on August 14, 2012 in community locations. Fifteen participants attended each of the two sessions. Communities represented included Native American, Hmong, Laotian, Latino, Somali, Ethiopian, African American, persons with disabilities, potential small business entrepreneurs and white.

Order of Presentation

Introduction of the Community Engagement Team – Susan Hoyt

Introduction of the Community Engagement Grantees – Repa Mekha

Funding \$ 750,000 of HUD Sustainable Communities Funds

Known Support / Opposition No Known Opposition

ATTACHMENTS:

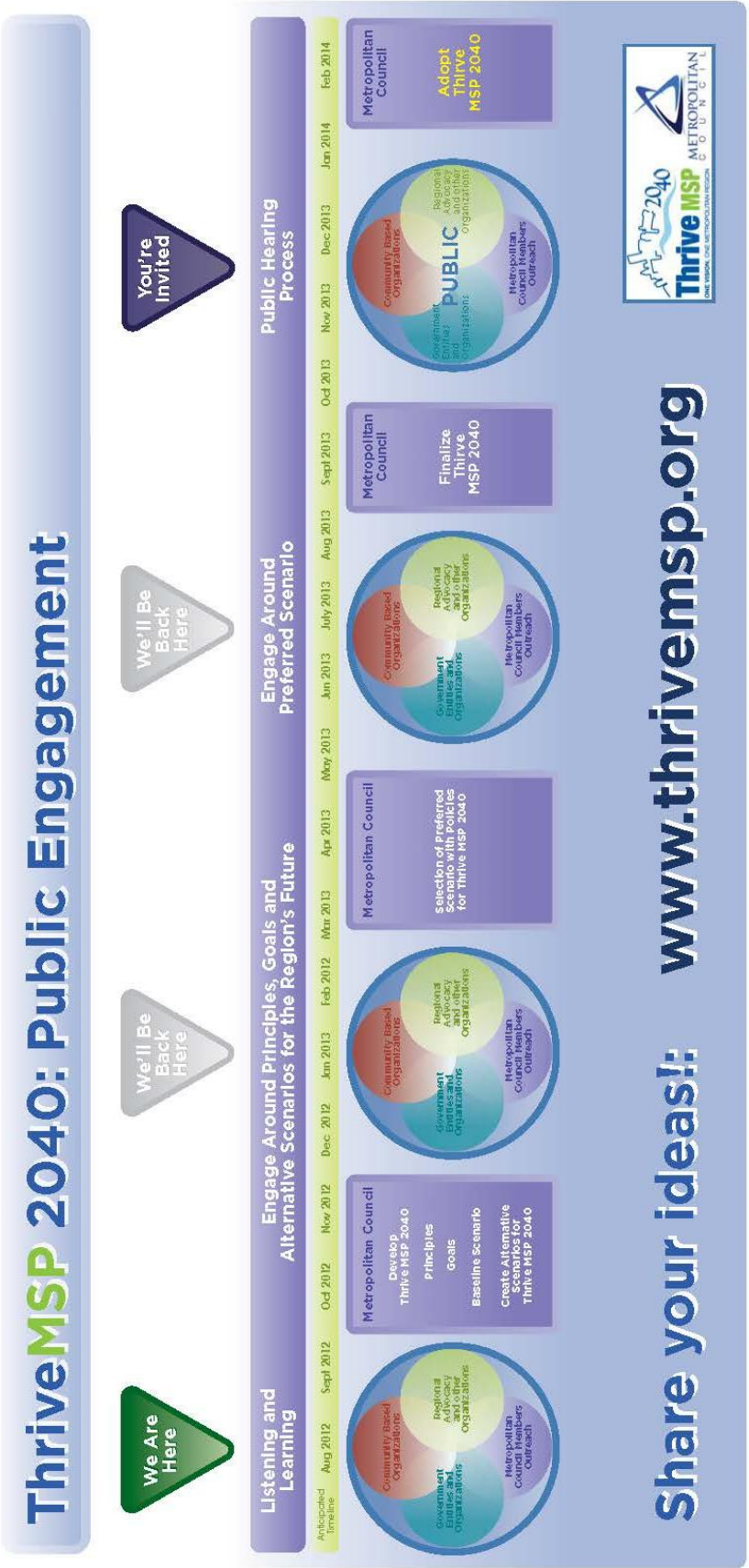
1. Grantees from Round 1
2. Process for Thrive MSP 2040 Engagement
3. Engagement Information Map used for Grass Roots Engagement

Attachment 1: Grantees from Round 1

First Round Community Engagement Grantees					
	Grantee	Formal Partner(s)	Corridor	Project Title - Brief Summary	Dollars
1	African Career, Education, and Resource, Inc. (Wynfred Russell, ACER Contact)	City of Brooklyn Park	Bottineau	Making Transit Meaningful - Work within the African immigrant and African American persons to engage in the transitway decision making process; this effort will focus on alignments of the transitway	\$30,000
2	Asian Media Access (David Kang, Asian Media Access, Contact)		Bottineau	Asian Pacific Community Network (APA ComMNet) - Engage through media especially around Asian Community about the line and livability	\$30,000
3	Harrison Neighborhood Association (Larry Hiscock, Harrison Contact) (Kristy Clemens, Heritage Contact) (Sunny Chanthanouvang, Lao AC, contact)	Heritage Park Neighborhood Association, Lao Assistance Center	Bottineau	Transit Equity Partnership - Engage community members to build capacity to speak for themselves; special focus on 30 acres of land owned by Mpls. Public Housing Authority next to the Van White (Bottineau station)	\$45,000
4	Asian Economic Development Association (Va –Megn Thoj, AEDA, Contact)		Bottineau, Central	Organizing for Transit and Equitable Development - Create a team of culturally competent “community outreach ambassadors “to engage residents, Southeast Asian residents who don’t speak English, into the process.”	\$45,000
5	Advocating Change Together Rick Cardena, Advocating Change Together, Contact)		Central	Advocating Change Together - Connect with the agencies and organizations along the Central Corridor about the concerns of persons with disabilities; it will develop skill building opportunities for persons with disabilities, increase representations, coalitions and involvement in decision making	\$39,700

Attachment 1, continued: Grantees from Round 1

	Grantee	Formal Partner(s)	Corridor	Project Title - Brief Summary	Dollars
6	Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation (Veronica Burt, Just Equity, Contact)	Just Equity	Central	Historic Rondo/Equitable TOD Campaign - To incorporate the Power of 1 Resident Leadership work and Preserve and Benefit History Rondo Committee to launch the Historic Rondo Equitable Transit Oriented Development Campaign; work on development expertise on overall equitable TOD strategies and to support a culturally centered development perspective.	\$60,000
7	West Bank Community Development Corporation (Tim Mungavan, Contact)	Somali Action Alliance	Central	Don't Pass Us By - Work with the Somali community to influence the planning decisions around the Central Corridor West Bank station; specifically parcels identified for development by the City; Listening sessions will be one tool used in this work.	\$47,086
8	Intercongregation Communities Association / Blake Road Collaborative (Cathy Macs, Contact)	Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, Joint Community Police Partnership	Southwest	Blake Road Neighborhood Discussion Circles - The Blake Road station is positioned for major change as part of the transitway build out. The project will address the disconnect in communications between immigrant communities, mainstream residents and government representatives.	\$30,000
9	New American Academy (Asad Alilweyd , NAA, Contact)		Southwest	SW Corridor Immigrant Opportunities Outreach & Engagement -NAA has been actively engaged negotiating with the city around community benefits; this project will be to outreach to, identify and recruit low income as well as disenfranchised immigrant participants to assert leadership by forming a SW Corridor Immigrant Council.	\$30,000
10	Prosperity campaign (Mikael Carlon, Kent Hranika (Prosperity Campaign, contacts) (Brian Joyce, Am. Indian Family Center, contact) (Suasnc Moua, Hmong American Partnership) (Elder Atum Azzahir, Janelle Dodd, Cultural Wellness Center, contacts) Ivette Isea-Martinez, Casa de Esperanza, contact) (Deanne Foster, District 4, contact) (Leslie McMurray, District 5, contact)		Gateway	Gateway Eastside Engagement - Key moments for the decisions around the Alternatives Analysis for Gateway are an opportunity to reach out to communities to learn about and provide input into the Gateway transitway decision making processes including identifying leaders from diverse communities and to form a Citizen Advisory Committee to inform and guide decisions; facilitate a residents' vision of the East Side and how transit development fits and promotes that vision.	\$40,000
	TOTAL GRANTS FOR FIRST ROUND (10)				\$396,786
	GRANT DOLLARS FOR 2ND ROUND				\$323,214



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