It's great to see so many immigrant families and individuals out walking and biking in the Midtown Greenway. The Minneapolis Foundation awarded the Midtown Greenway Coalition a grant to engage Latino and African immigrants to shape and use the Greenway and the open spaces along it to improve their lives. This work builds on existing relationships and past programs, such as our Green Way to Go walking and biking groups.

The first six months of the project will entail working with other organizations to learn about needs and interests, and then adopt shared goals with these organizations that we will achieve together. We are excited to have Midtown Greenway Coalition board member Angelina Matias assisting us in leading this project.

Are you an African immigrant or from Mexico, Central or South America and want to explore how the Midtown Greenway can benefit your community? If yes, contact Tim Springer at 612 879-0105 or Angelina, who speaks Spanish, at 612-940-5515 to learn more and get involved. One way to get involved right away is to help plan improvements to the greenspace next to the Greenway at 10th Avenue. On November 7 you can see draft plans for performance spaces, seating areas, play structures, and public art, and you can help shape this plan (see page 5).

Propuesto Lineas de Alta Tensión en el Greenway

Por Tim Springer, Director ejecutivo

Es muy gratificante ver a tantos individuos y familias inmigrantes caminando y andando en bicicleta en el sendero Midtown Greenway. La Fundación Minneapolis otorgó a la Coalición Midtown Greenway un subsidio para que los inmigrantes latinos y africanos se interesen en participar en el diseño y uso del sendero Greenway, y sus espacios abiertos para mejorar la calidad de sus vidas. Este trabajo reforzará las relaciones ya existentes y los programas anteriores, como por ejemplo, los grupos Green Way to Go de caminatas y excursiones en bicicleta.

Los primeros seis meses del proyecto se destinarán a trabajar con otras organizaciones para conocer sus necesidades e intereses, para después incorporar y lograr los propósitos (continuado en la página 5).

Traducción: Acentos, Inc.
Translation by Accentos, Inc.
High Voltage Lines Still Proposed Along Greenway

By Eric Hart and Amanda Dlouhy, board members

About a year ago, we first heard about Xcel Energy’s proposed Hiawatha Project. This project involves two new substations in the Midtown Greenway Corridor, one near Hiawatha Avenue and another near I-35W, plus two high voltage transmission lines connecting these two substations. Xcel prefers overhead power lines and their preferred route for the power lines is along the south rim of the Midtown Greenway. Their preferred site for the Hiawatha Avenue substation is on top of the 2009 Arbor Day planting site where several hundred trees were planted in a community greening project. Their preferred site for the Midtown substation is on Oakland Avenue, where the community has envisioned a public walkway to provide neighborhood access to the Greenway. While the Midtown Greenway Coalition supports the provision of electricity to meet the current and future needs of the local business and residential communities, we are concerned that high voltage lines towering over the Greenway would squash the potential for the corridor to serve as a spine for higher density development and that the new substations would take away valuable green space.

Xcel needs approval for the route of the line and the substation locations from the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In May, the PUC accepted Xcel’s application, starting a year-long approval process. The first major part of the process is the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the state. Over the summer, an Advisory Task Force was convened to recommend what topics should be included in the EIS. Task force representatives were from each of the neighborhoods affected, the Midtown Greenway Coalition, City and County government, plus each of the affected Minneapolis City Council Wards. The completed work of the task force has been published.

Upcoming dates:
- December 14, 2009, deadline for parties to file a petition to become interveners in the legal proceedings that will take place in 2010.
- January 6, 2010, draft EIS released at a public meeting.
- January 20, 2010, comments deadline on the draft EIS.
- February 22, 2010, final EIS available.
- February 22 through 26, 2010, public hearings before an Administrative Law Judge.

After the hearings, the Law Judge makes a recommendation to the PUC and the PUC makes a decision about the High Voltage Transmission Line route and substation locations.
SAFETY UPDATE

By Kristin Lammi, volunteer Safety Program intern

The Midtown Greenway Coalition’s Trail Watch program, along with alert trail users and the Minneapolis Police, have succeeded in bringing crime rates down along the Greenway throughout the summer. As fall and winter set in and night falls earlier and earlier, this program becomes more important for the safety and security of trail users. Last year’s crime rash occurred during early evening hours at the onset of winter. The Midtown Greenway Coalition hopes to prevent a recurrence.

Trail Watch riders, also known as the Safety Patrol, will continue their efforts to maintain a crime-free Greenway throughout this season. Sunday ride leader Mark Ambroe says, “I think the Safety Patrol’s presence in the coming months will be just as, if not more, needed than before. It will be dark during peak commuting hours and, realistically, there will be fewer overall trail users to provide the safety of a crowd.” The Safety Patrol currently rides four nights a week and is always welcoming new riders. The Coalition’s Safety Committee meets regularly and is open to the public (see calendar on back page for details).

For more information or to join the Safety Patrol, please visit http://midtowngreenway.org/trailusers/Trail%20Watch/TrailWatch.html, contact Lauren at Trailwatch@midtowngreenway.org or call (612) 879-0106.

MEMBERSHIPS SUPPORT OUR WORK, JOIN TODAY. See back page.
MISSION
We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people’s lives.

Norotemos habilitamos a las comunidades a desarrollar, mejorar, proteger y disfrutar del sendero urbano Midtown Greenway para mejorar la vida de la gente.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING 2009 DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS! (Please call if we have missed you!)

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

The Coalition of directors consists of one seat for each of the 17 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Greenway Corridor, and four at-large seats.

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Gabriel Hoffman
Rachel and David Hoffmann-Dachelt
Hokan
Holy Rosary Youth
Shad Hollman

Elsa Segura uses the Greenway to walk her dog Mia, who will be one year old in October. When asked why she enjoys the Greenway, she shared, “it’s spacious, smooth, and an easy way to walk my dog rather than on the street with traffic.”

Elsa Segura and her dog Mia
Planning is underway for additional improvements to the Midtown Greenway at the entryway, located between 10th and 11th Avenues South and East 29th Street, also known as the Cepro site.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Inc. (MPNAI) and the Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC) are working together to involve the community with developing a site plan. Close Landscape Architects was recently hired to help prepare the site improvement plan and then we’ll advocate to get it done.

We invite interested individuals to join us in the process this fall. It is never too late! Our first community-wide meeting was held Tuesday, September 22nd and two more community-wide meetings are scheduled for:

• Saturday, November 7, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
• Saturday, November 14, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Both meetings will be held at the Midtown Greenway Coalition office.

We are asking people to participate on a continuing basis this fall in taking surveys and providing input which we can share with the design team.

At the November 7 meeting, the team will present their 70% completed version of the plans for additional community comments. At the November 14 meeting, they will provide us with their fully completed plan for approval.

The fully accessible ADA ramp was installed two years ago. Elements of the site which we are considering this fall include universal design, public art, landscaping with native trees/grasses/flowers, recreational features, benches and tables, open spaces for recreation and performance art and a storm water public art feature.

For further information or to take the survey, email Shirley, Project Coordinator for MPNAI at shirleymidtownphillips@msn.com or Theresa Nelson at Theresa@midtowngreenway.org.
MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name _____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City, State, Zip _____________________________________
Phone, E-mail ______________________________________

☒ $250 – Greenway Angel
☒ $100 – Greenway Patron
☒ $50 – Greenway Advocate
☒ $25 – Greenway Sponsor
☒ $12 – Greenway Friend (low income)
☒ Business $____________
☒ Other $____________
☒ Yes, I want to volunteer
My main interest is: _________________________________

Please make your check payable to:
“Midtown Greenway Coalition”
and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN  55407

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, October 22 and Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LAND USE COMMITTEE
2nd Mondays, October 12, November 9 and December 14, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

SAFETY COMMITTEE
3rd Mondays, October 19, November 16 and December 21, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

CEPRO COMMUNITY MEETINGS
Saturday, November 7, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 14, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

All meetings, unless indicated otherwise, are at the Coalition office (2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN  55407).