GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS
BRING SAFETY AND SMILES

New Medians at 28th Street Crossing

Safety always a top priority for the Coalition

Last June, a cyclist attempting to use the pedestrian/bicycle crosswalk at 28th Street and the Greenway was hit by a car and seriously injured. Fortunately, he survived his injuries. Unfortunately, this wasn’t the first time someone was hit at that crossing, which is why the Coalition has been working with the City of Minneapolis to improve it.

We are pleased to report that late last year, the City agreed to install new medians/islands in the crosswalk, helping to slow down traffic and increase safety considerably.

The new medians will also feature native plantings, which will be maintained by volunteers from the Coalition’s new GreenSpace committee.

The medians are a significantly victory for safety. Thanks to everyone who worked to support this improvement, including the City of Minneapolis Public Works staff, the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, members of the Minneapolis Bike Love community, and City Council Member Gary Schiff.

Greenway Gets Greener

CEPRO Site is Perfect for Picnics

▲ CEPRO site is a major new green space on the Greenway.

Another exciting development is the completion of the east side of the CEPRO site, located next to the Greenway between 10th and 11th Avenues. (CEPRO is the name of the grain elevators that formerly stood on the site.) This new public green space on the Greenway features wheelchair-accessible pathways, picnic tables, two gliding benches, two swinging benches, and abundant open space. The site is supported by a partnership between Hennepin County, the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, and the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

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Winter Wonder Walk/Ride

Message from the Executive Director

Analysis to Study Greenway Streetcar, Other Transit Options

Recommendations to the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee

The Coalition Would Like To Thank . . .

▲ New medians at the 28th Street and Greenway crossing increase safety.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last July, it was my honor to have been selected by the board of directors as the new executive director of the Midtown Greenway Coalition. As a frequent Greenway user, resident of Longfellow, and active bicyclist, the job is a dream come true!

I am inspired by the many stories I hear about people who started biking to work because of the Greenway, as well as the way the Greenway has helped bring economic development to the Lake Street/Midtown corridor.

Of course, the Midtown Greenway was made possible by individual members/donors from the neighborhoods along the Greenway and beyond. They supported the Coalition’s work to get the Greenway built by public agencies, and they continue to support programs that protect and enhance it.

Your membership is as important today as it ever was. The larger our coalition, the more powerful our voice is when defending and improving the Greenway.

Your membership helps us:

• Continue the fight against the proposed high-voltage power lines in the Greenway. That fight isn’t over, and we’re gearing up for (hopefully) one last push to get the lines buried on 28th street, rather than installed overhead along the Greenway. Please visit the Coalition’s website and Facebook page for updates.

• Continue our work to make trail crossings safer. Last October we celebrated our successful effort to get the City of Minneapolis to install new medians/islands at 28th street and the Greenway, making that trail crossing safer for bikers and pedestrians.

• Continue to operate our Trail Watch safety patrol, which bikes the Greenway every night to help keep it safe.

Thanks to our members and funding partners, we’re also expanding our Immigrant and Refugee Outreach Program, so that all families know that the Greenway is for everyone. New efforts to install more native gardens and public art in the Greenway are also underway.

We’re also getting ready for an Alternatives Analysis of the Midtown/Lake Street corridor, which will evaluate new transit options. The Coalition has long advocated for a streetcar or trolley in the Greenway, which will improve safety, connect to the Hiawatha LRT and future Southwest LRT, and support community development.

Thank YOU for supporting the Midtown Greenway and our Coalition. With your help, we are creating a world-class corridor that is great for the environment, great for health, and great for Minneapolis.

See you on the Greenway!

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

MISSION
We empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people’s lives.

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

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS
The Coalition board of directors consists of one seat for each of the 17 neighborhoods along the Lake Street-Midtown Corridor, and four at-large seats.

Holly Buchanan
CARAG
Glen Christianson
EAST CALHOUN
John DeWitt
PROSPECT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD
Amanda Dlouhy
PHILLIPS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD
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Kelly Wilder
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Michael Wilson
CIDNA
Margaret Wunderlich
AT LARGE

For a list of board members’ roles and responsibilities, visit www.midtowngreenway.org. Click on “The Coalition,” then “Board of Directors,” or call 612-879-0105.

2834 10TH AVENUE SOUTH, GREENWAY LEVEL, SUITE 2, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407 • WWW.MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG • FAX: 612-879-0104
ANALYSIS TO STUDY GREENWAY STREETCAR, OTHER TRANSIT OPTIONS

Metro Transit is currently beginning the process of improving transit in the Midtown/Lake Street Corridor, a project that could potentially lead to the creation of a Midtown Greenway Streetcar.

In October, Metro Transit received federal funds to perform an Alternatives Analysis for the Midtown Corridor. This “AA” will examine various transit improvement options for the corridor, including bus, streetcars, and light rail for the Midtown Greenway or Lake Street.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition believes that a turf-embedded Greenway streetcar would be the best option. By operating in the Greenway, a streetcar would run much faster than on Lake Street. By embedding the tracks in the grass, the streetcar would be the least obtrusive option for the Greenway, maintaining the green aesthetic for the corridor. It would also enhance safety, by bringing more people to the Greenway and having streetcar operators who could alert authorities to any issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINNEAPOLIS BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee (MBAC) has submitted a list of bicycle infrastructure projects to the Minneapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) for further study. These projects will undergo cost estimates and feasibility study before being considered for construction. The Midtown Greenway Coalition recommended five projects be considered, and all five were included in the MBAC’s list of projects for DPW analysis! These projects are:

- A 10th Avenue Bikeway between 24th and 31st Streets
- Closing the LRT Trail Gap between 28th and 32nd Streets
- A ramp at Pleasant Avenue to the Midtown Greenway
- A bicycle route on 21st Avenue from the Midtown Greenway to 40th Street
- A 38th Avenue bicycle route from 28th Street to 42nd Street in Longfellow

Thank you to the MBAC for their hard work! The Midtown Greenway Coalition is hoping that many of these projects — if not all of them — will be constructed in the next few years.

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION STAFF

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New Ramp and Bridge in Uptown

Connection to the Greenway Increases Access

In case you haven't seen it, there's a new ramp on the Greenway at Girard Avenue, increasing access to Hennepin Avenue and the Uptown area. There's also a new bike/pedestrian bridge on Girard, spanning the Greenway. The project is the result of a partnership between public and private partners, including Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, The Ackerberg Group, and Greco Development. The Midtown Greenway Coalition provided input to the bridge and ramp design. The new ramp and bridge are expected to open in February. Please visit the Coalition's website and Facebook page for updates.

New ramp on Girard Avenue increases access to Uptown.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition has an Improvements Committee, which helps guide development and land-use on and near the Greenway. If you would like information about how to join the committee, please contact Soren Jensen, executive director, at 612-879-0105 or soren@midtowngreenway.org.

WHO WE ARE

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a coalition of neighborhoods and individuals who love the Midtown Greenway. We're the organization that got the Greenway built by public agencies, and now we work to protect and enhance it. We grow stronger with each new member. Join us to help protect YOUR Greenway and make it even better!
WINTER WONDER WALK/RIDE
FEBRUARY 11TH, 2011
12 P.M. TO 2 P.M.

Join the Midtown Greenway Coalition, Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, and Bike Walk Twin Cities to celebrate winter on the Greenway!

Meet outside of Freewheel Midtown Bike Center at noon to begin your afternoon of winter fun. Fat tire bikes, tricycle trains, obstacle courses, delicious snacks, bike-powered skijoring and more. Don't miss it! Bring your bike or some good walking shoes, your cold-weather gear, and a friend.

Register (it's free!) at http://midtowngreenway.wufoo.com/forms/winter-wonder-walkride/.

THANK YOU TO OUR TRAIL WATCH SUPERSTARS
(2011 QUARTER III & QUARTER IV)

VOLUNTEERED FOR 12-20 RIDES:
Tom Holm
Gabriel Hoffman
Dana Colestock
Kathleen Sullivan
Bob Francis
Paul Casperson
Jim Brennan
Paul Holt
Brendan Abrams
Ted Duepner
Lisa Nemec
Hokan
Mark Evans
Jennifer Lazer
Annie Dressen

VOLUNTEERED FOR 21+ RIDES:
Rick Stafford (53)
Jim Holm (48)
Andrew Paule (41)
Kathy Koch (29)
Mark Ambroe (24)
Ben Cherland (21)

TRAIL WATCH SPONSORS:
Bikes and Pieces LLC, Bryant Lake Bowl, Common Roots Café, Freewheel Bike, Galactic Pizza, New Belgium Brewing, Pizza Luce, Peacock Groove
THANK YOU

TO OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

(6/1/2011-11/30/2011 … Please call if we have missed you!)
MGC Transit Seminars
and Happy Hour
January 21 in the MGC office
3:00 p.m. Streetcar Seminar
4:00 p.m. Winter Biking on a Budget
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Open House and Happy Hour

Winter Wonder Walk/Ride
February 11, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Board of Directors
Fourth Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
(January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26)

Greenway Improvements Committee
Second Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
(January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12)

Executive Committee
Third Thursdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
(January 19, February 16, March 18, April 19)

Unless indicated, all meetings are held at the Midtown Greenway Coalition’s office (2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN 55407).