



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

May 10, 2022

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 12, 2022.

New Business

- [2.](#) Introduction of Planning Intern- Maxwell Lohse
- [3.](#) TH 47/TH 65 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study update

Old Business

- [4.](#) EV Program Discussion
- [5.](#) Energy Action Plan Updates
- [6.](#) Grant Updates
- [7.](#) 2022 Outreach Events

Other Items

- [8.](#) Informal Status Reports

Adjournment



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 12, 2022.

Background

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 12, 2022.

Recommendation

Approve the Minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Commission meeting of April 12, 2022.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Minutes- April 12, 2022.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

April 12, 2022

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Ave N.E.

MINUTES

Call to Order

CHAIR DRITZ called the commission to order at 7:02 PM

Roll Call

Amy Dritz
Justin Foell
Aaron Klemz
Sam Stoxen
Nick Olberding
Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Commissioner Klemz to APPROVE the April 12, 2022, meeting agenda. SECONDED by Commissioner Foell. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Commissioner Klemz to APPROVE the March 8, 2022, meeting minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Stoxen. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

New Business

1. EV Program discussion

Ms. Workin provided an informational update regarding an electric vehicle program proposed by the Carbon Solutions Group in partnership with Energy Management Solutions.

Old Business

2. GreenStep City Award

Ms. Workin shared that the City was awarded GreenStep Step 4 Status and the APWA's 2022 Award for Excellence in Sustainability.

3. Energy Action Plan Updates

Ms. Workin provided an informational update regarding the Energy Action Plan.

4. Grant Updates

Ms. Workin provided an informational update regarding grant applications.

5. 2022 Outreach Events

Ms. Workin provided an informational update regarding 2022 outreach events.

Other Items

7. September- November Meeting Dates

Commissioners discussed guest speakers for September-November while the EQEC staff liaison is on parental leave.

8. Informal Status Reports

Ms. Workin shared that the City is part of a project team that was awarded a Lawns to Legumes demonstration grant. She asked for the commissioners' assistance in spreading the word about this opportunity.

Ms. Workin reminded the commissioners of the Commissioner Appreciation Dinner on April 18 as well as the Commissioner Conference on April 30.

Commissioner Klemz stated 56 Brewery was hosting an Earth Day event to celebrate the launch of a new beer benefiting MCEA.

Adjournment

MOTION by Commissioner Foell to adjourn the meeting SECONDED by Commissioner Stoxen. The MOTION PASSED unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Introduction of Planning Intern- Maxwell Lohse

Background

The City of Fridley's Planning Department's summer planning intern, Maxwell Lohse, will be starting May 9. This will be an opportunity for the EQEC to meet Maxwell and hear his plans for the summer.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy (EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

TH 47/TH 65 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study update

Background

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is undertaking a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study of Trunk Highways 47 and 65 between Northeast Minneapolis and County Rd 10 due to safety concerns and changing land uses along the roadway. Public outreach with more than 2,200 stakeholders, including a presentation to the EQEC, was completed in late 2020 to better understand the existing conditions and transportation needs of the study area. MnDOT used this feedback as well as traffic study data to develop a Purpose and Need Statement and Evaluation Criteria for the PEL Study. MnDOT is now utilizing those documents as part of Phase 2 of the study and will be providing a work session updates to the EQEC.

Recommendation

Commissioners should provide feedback to MnDOT on the Phase 2 of the PEL Study as part of the work session

Attachments and Other Resources

- November 2020 presentation to the EQEC
- Work to date can be found, including the Purpose and Need Statement and Evaluation Criteria, can be found at <https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-47-hwy-65-study>

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



University Ave at 69th Ave



University Ave at Mississippi St



Hwy 65 at W. Moore Lake Dr

University & Central Vision

Hwy 47 and Hwy 65

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Study Area

Study Area: Northeast Mpls to Anoka County Road 10

Cities: Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Hilltop, Minneapolis, Spring Lake Park

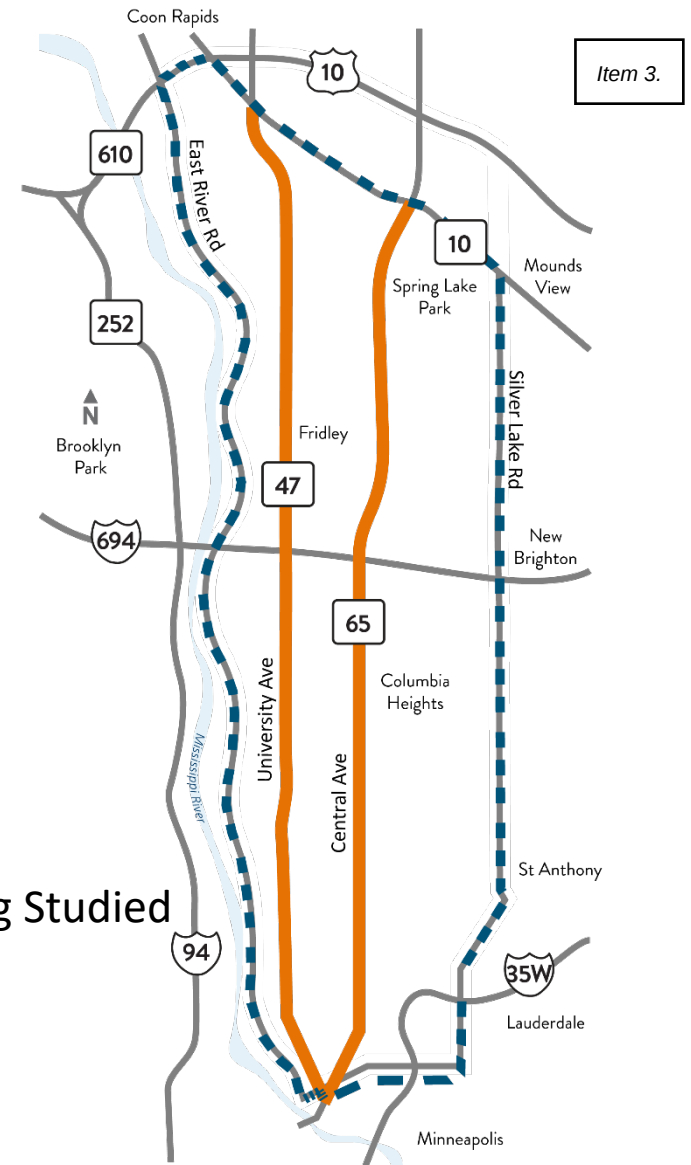
Counties: Hennepin and Anoka

Residents: 145,000

Jobs: 60,000

Businesses: 4,000

— Roadways Being Studied
- - Study Area



Study Area



Northtown Mall Transit Center



Central Ave at Lowry Ave



Columbia Heights: Central Ave at 49th Ave

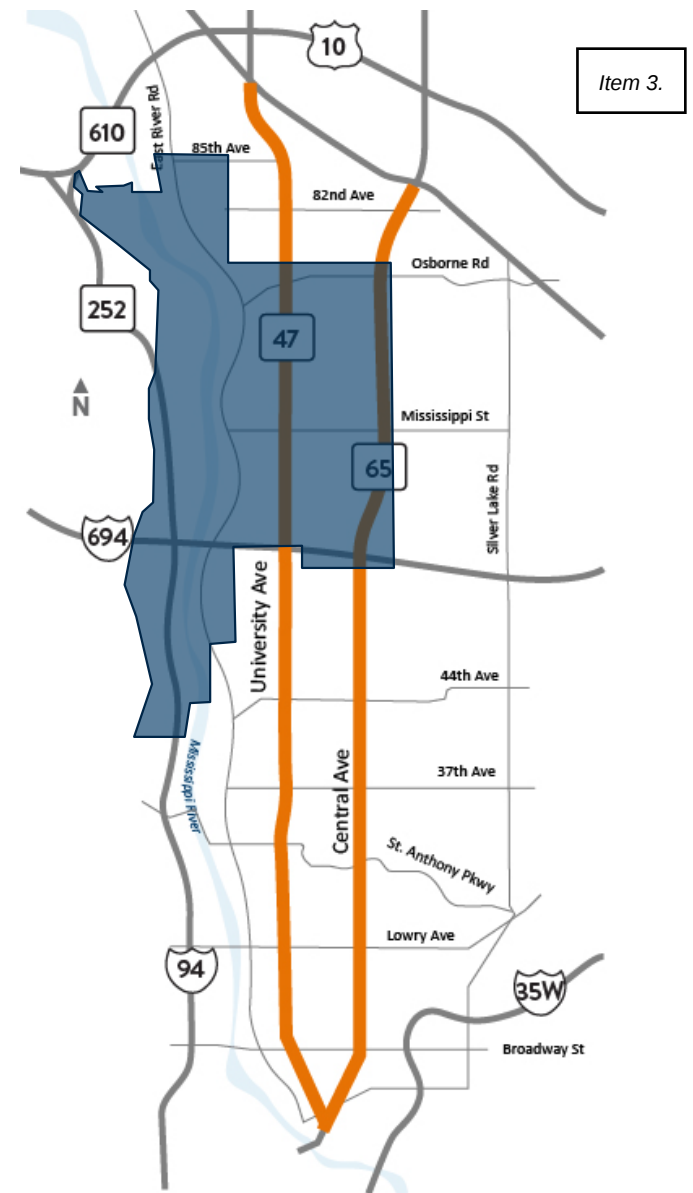


City of Hilltop



Item 3.

Fridley and Study Area



1. Study Team and Partners



**Agency
Partners**



MnDOT:

Area management
Planning
Environmental
Bicycles and Pedestrians
Freight and Intermodal
Traffic Forecasting

Federal Highway Admin.

Metropolitan Council

Blaine, Columbia Heights,
Coon Rapids, Fridley,
Hilltop, Minneapolis,
Spring Lake Park

Hennepin and Anoka
Counties

Consulting Team:

Short Elliott
Hendrickson (SEH),
Alta Planning + Design,
CPCS, HFTE, Goff Public
and NewPublica

Safety



Pedestrian fatal Avenue was Colu

NORTH METRO

Man on foot is struck and killed while on Central Avenue in Columbia Heights

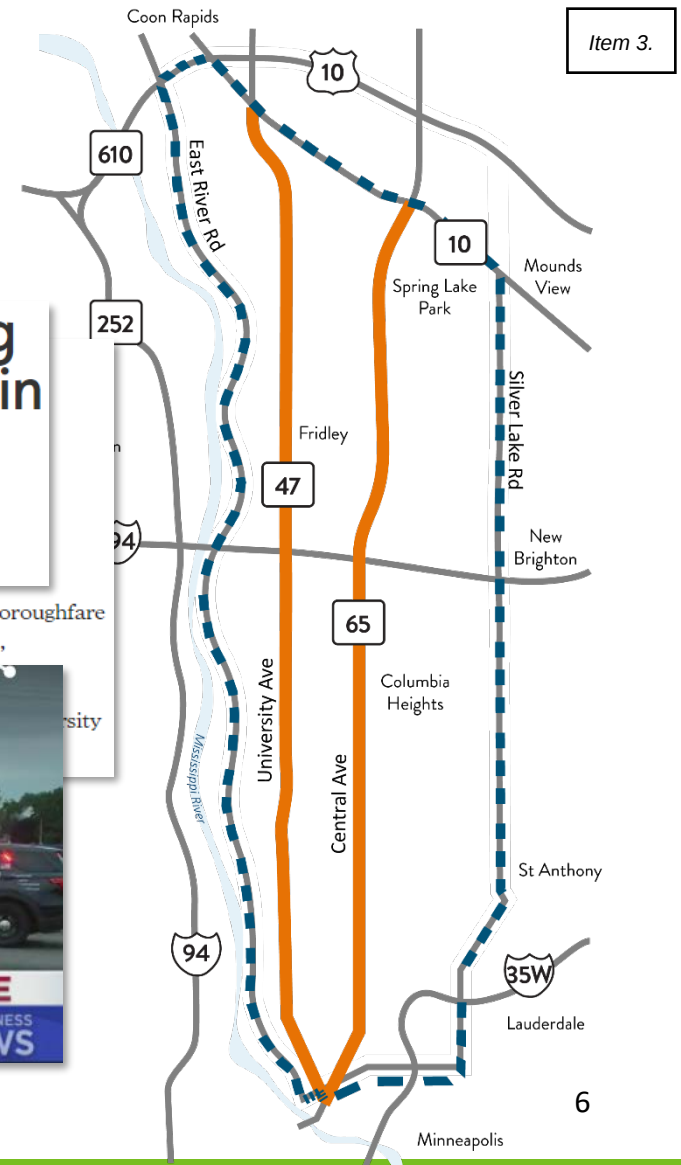
Star Tribune | SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 — 3:04

Authorities have identified the pedestrian crossing a highway in Columbia Heights.

Alfred Mulbah, 65, of Columbia Heights, was struck and killed while crossing Central Avenue on foot. The driver, a 21-year-old man from Columbia Heights, stopped and was cooperating, officials said.



- 11/9/2020 -- DRAFT



Crashes 2015-2019

2,473 total crashes in last 5 years

5% involved pedestrians and bicyclists

110 of all crashes were fatal or severe injury

30% involved pedestrians and bicyclists



What is a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study?

- High-level. Holistic. Contextual.
- For large study areas, many stakeholders, complex issues.
- Data-driven.
- Lots of public engagement.
- Federal Highway Administration involved early on.

Fridley Plans Reviewed

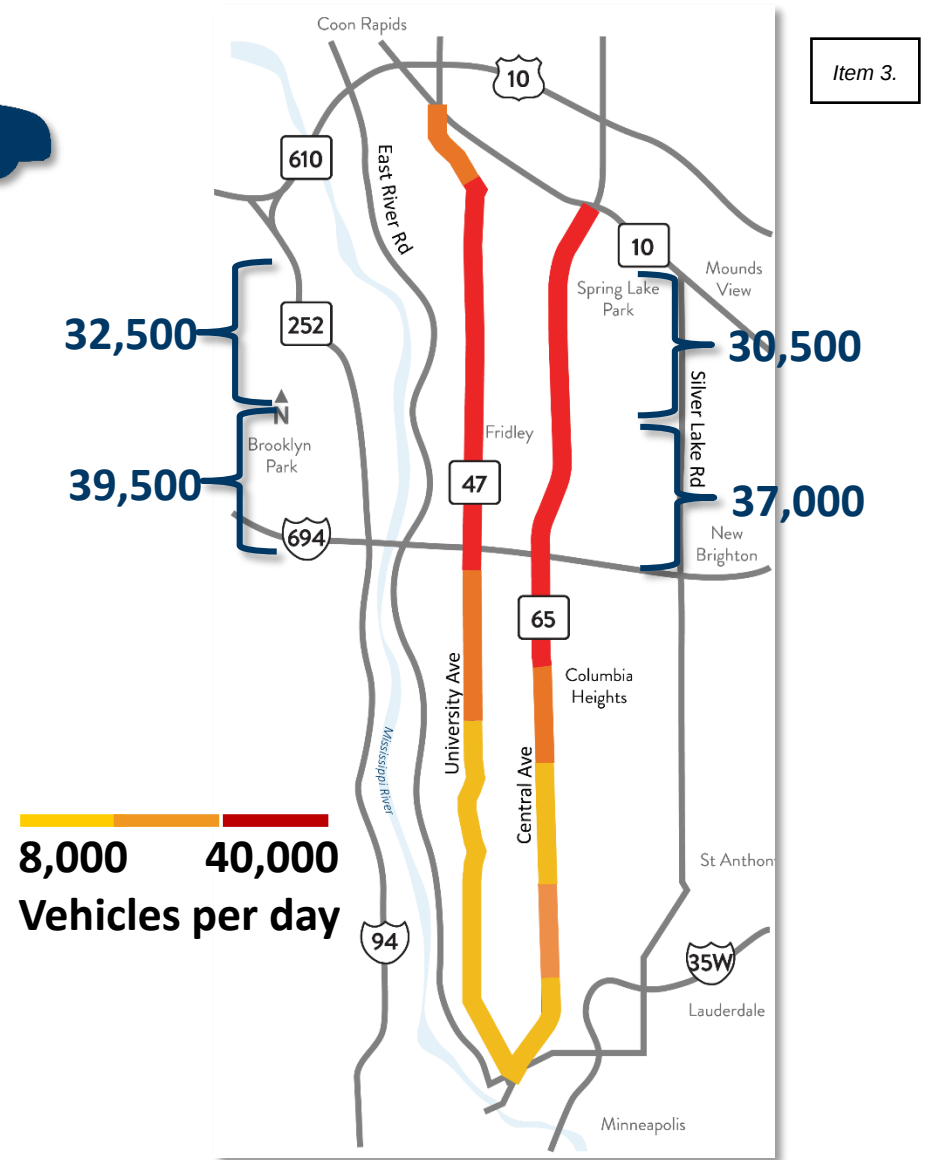
- Fridley 2040 Comprehensive Plan (2019)
- Fridley Active Transportation Plan (2020)
- East River Road Corridor Study Fridley/Coon Rapids (2012)
- Fridley University Ave & Central Ave Corridor Development Initiative (2019)

Traffic Volumes



Cars and light trucks

- Both highways transition from 4-lane undivided in the south to 4-lane divided in the north
- Speeds and daily traffic trips increase from south to north

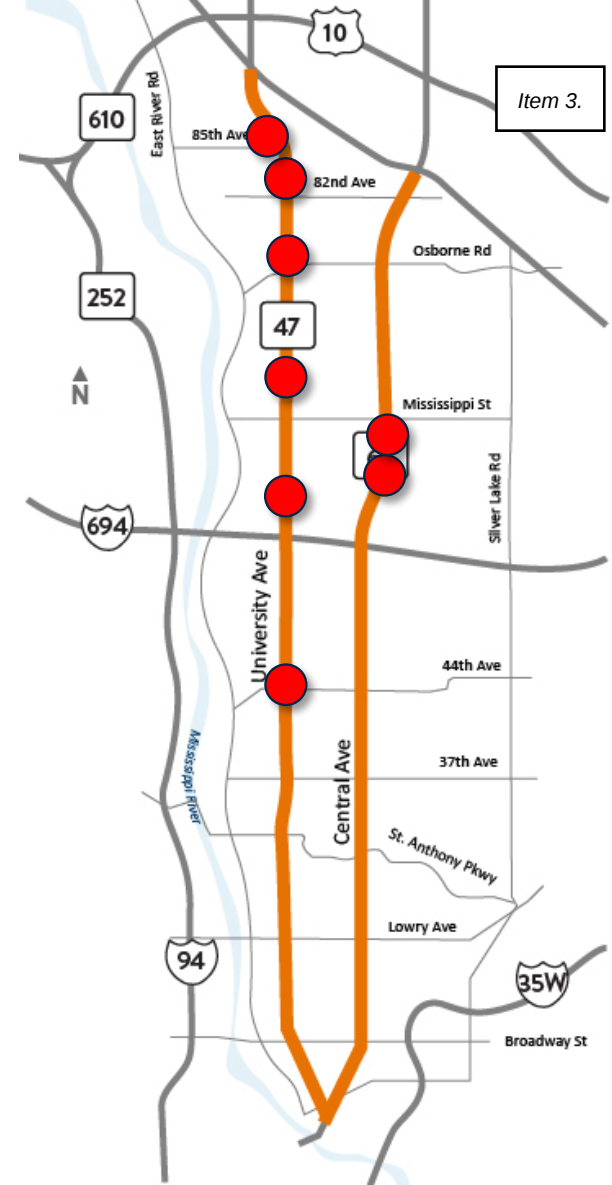


Vehicle Traffic



Sustained High Crash Intersections in Fridley 2015-2019

1. University at 44th Ave
2. University at 57th Ave
3. University at 73rd Ave
4. University at Osborne Rd
5. University at 83rd Ave
6. University at 85th Ave (Blaine city line)
7. Hwy 65 at Moore Lake Dr
8. Hwy 65 at 63rd Ave



Auto Travel Patterns

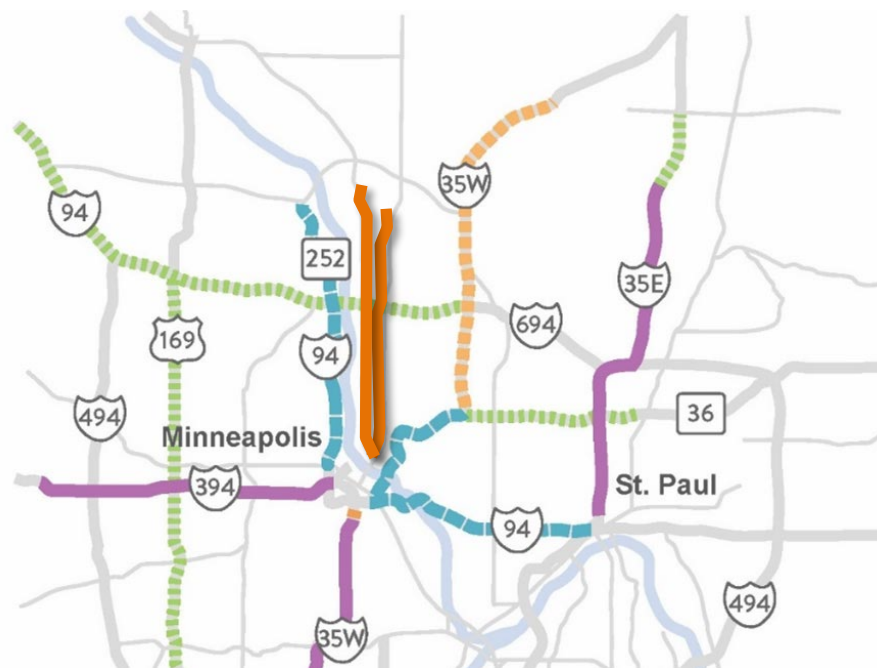


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- Very few corridor end-to-end car trips
- Most car trips are short, local
- Traffic forecasts show little/no growth on Hwys 47 and 65 in the next 20 years
- Improvements on Hwy 252/I-94 and I-35W will likely influence future traffic on University and Central aves



MnPASS —————
Future MnPASS - - - - -



Pedestrian Comfort



Walking Along the Corridors (north/south):

- Comfortable in southern areas—sidewalks buffered from traffic, few gaps in sidewalk network
- Uncomfortable in north areas—few buffers from traffic, incomplete sidewalk network (except in Fridley, where there are side paths)

Crossing the Corridors (east/west):

- Comfortable in southern areas: shorter crossing distances, lower traffic speeds and volumes
- Very uncomfortable in northern areas: longer crossings, higher traffic speeds and volumes



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More comfort
Hwy 47 at 8th Ave NE



Less comfort
Hwy 47 south of 27th Ave NE

Transit Users



- Top ***origins and destinations***: Northtown Mall, Downtown Minneapolis, retail on Hwy 65 in Columbia Heights
- 17% of bus stops are ***not connected to the pedestrian network***
- 65% of study area transit riders own or have access to vehicles, but ***walk to transit***-frequently



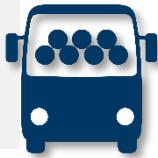
 ***Sidewalk connection; shelter***
Hwy 65 and 18th Ave NE



 ***No sidewalk connection; no shelter***
Hwy 47 and 81st Ave NE

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Transit Users



Bus stop sidewalk connection



No bus stop sidewalk connection



Bicyclists



Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress analysis:

- “Very stressful” along most of Hwy 47 and Hwy 65
- Many bicycle barriers to desired destinations (especially E. River Road)



Lower Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress

Hwy 65, south of Rice Creek



Higher Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress

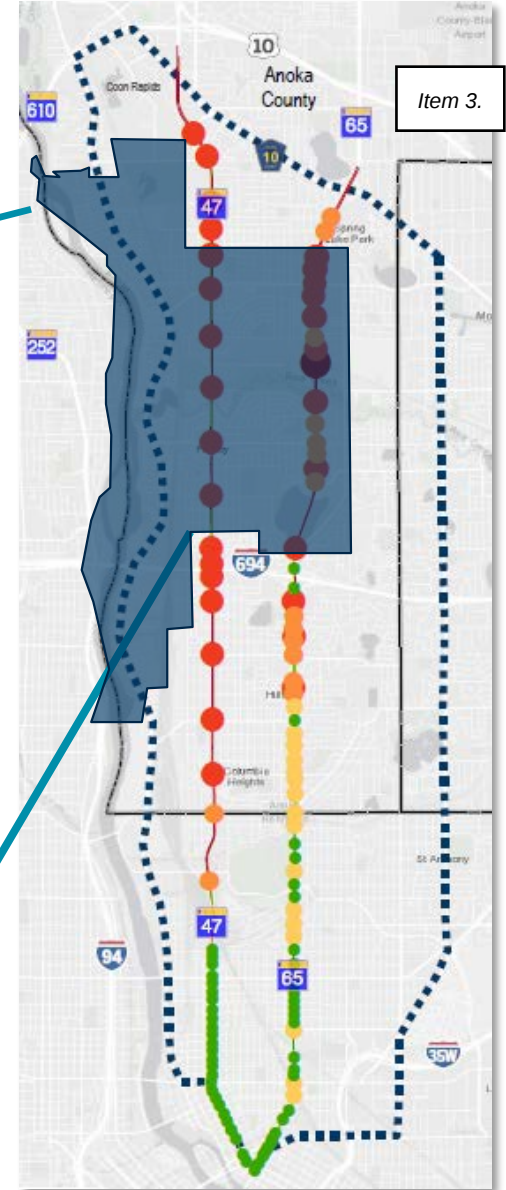
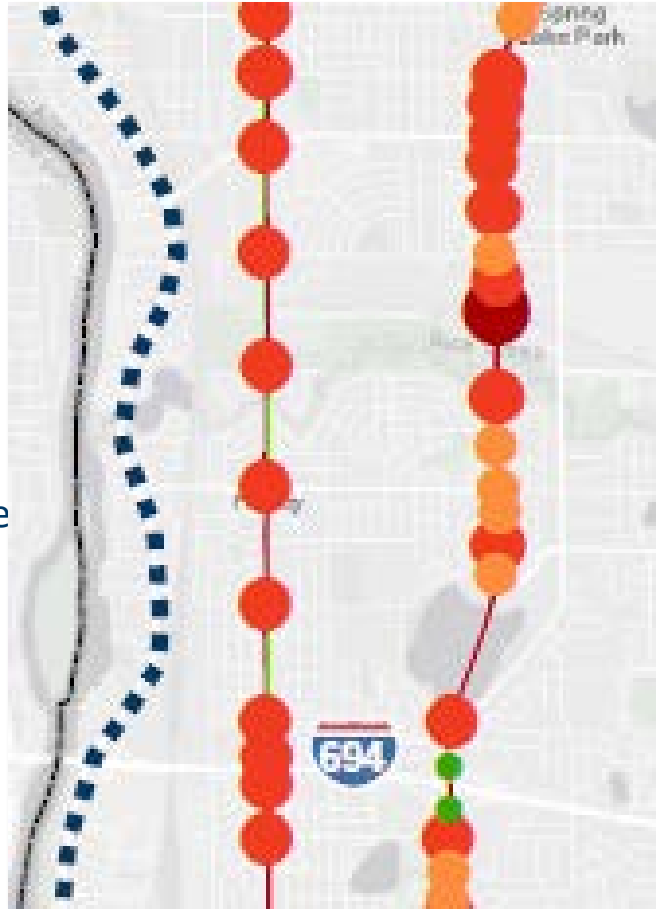
Hwy 65 and 42nd Ave NE

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Bicyclists



-  Most comfortable
-  Comfortable
-  Uncomfortable
-  Most uncomfortable



Large Trucks



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2,400 freight businesses

- Shoreham Yards
- Target Distribution
- Cummins
- US Post Office,
- Quality Park Products
- Cub Foods
- Minco Products Inc.
- Medtronic, RMS Co.



Target Distribution Center on University Ave.

Primary routes:

- I-694 interchanges with Hwys 47 and 65
- Hwy 280/I-94 via Hennepin and 37th Aves

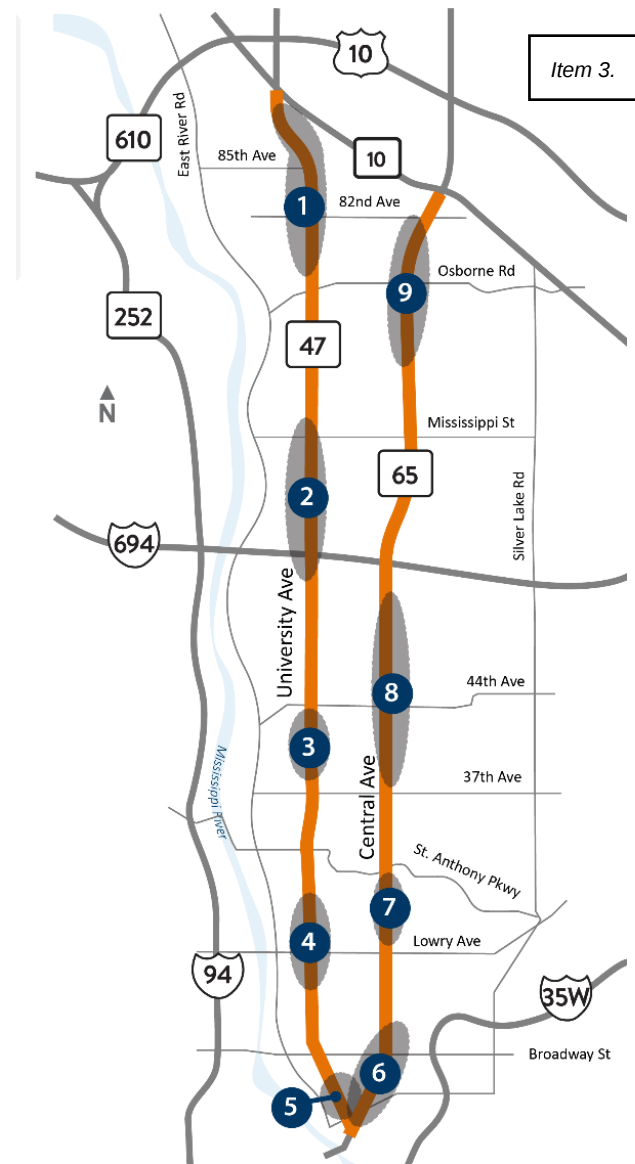
Focus Areas

University Avenue

- 1 Osborne Rd NE to University Ave
- 2 53rd Ave NE to Mississippi St
- 3 37th Ave NE to 42nd Ave NE
- 4 16th Ave NE to 27th Ave NE
- 5 Hwy 65 to 1st Ave NE

Central Avenue

- 6 University Ave NE to Broadway St NE
- 7 24th Ave NW to 29th Ave NE
- 8 37th Ave NE to 51st Ave NE
- 9 Rice Creek to 81st Ave NE



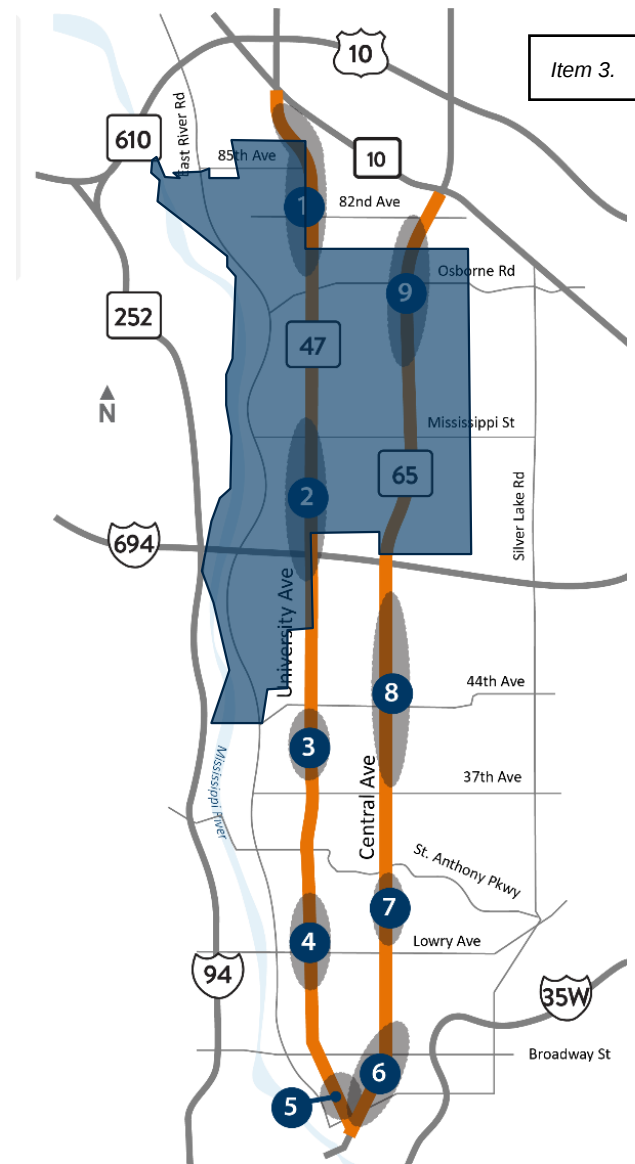
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Share Your Vision: www.UniversityCentralVision.com

Item 3.

✓ Learn More

Check out the project website. Take a video tour.
See what looks “comfortable” to you!

☐ Share your opinions

Take the online survey on the website.

☐ WikiMap It

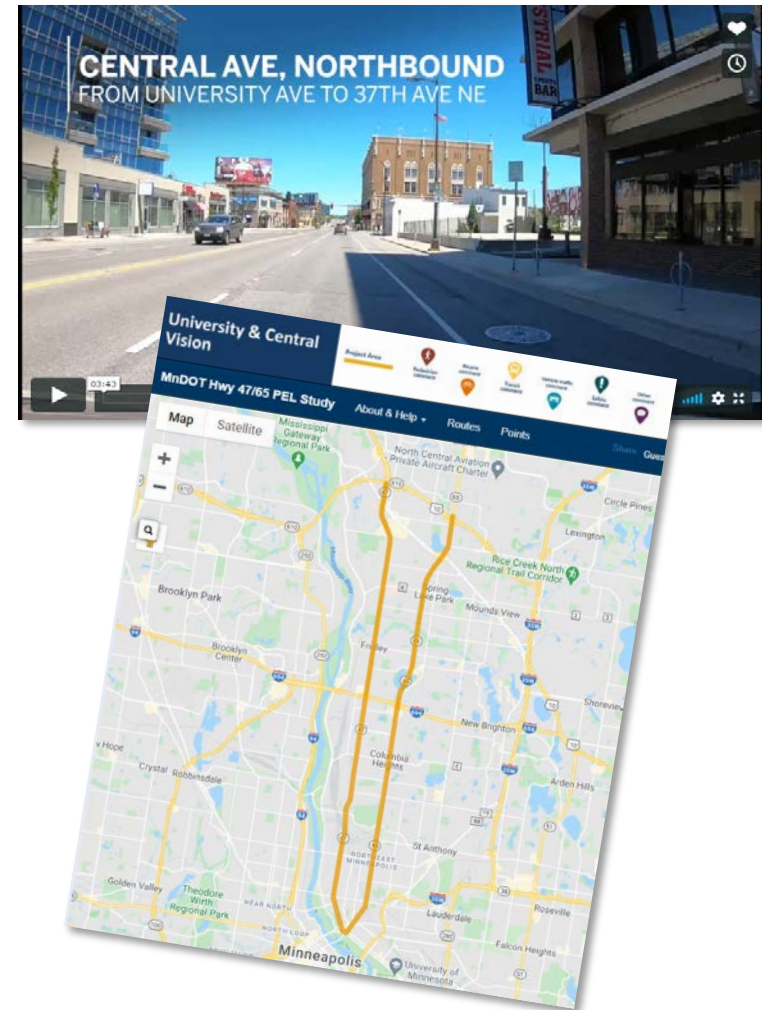
Drop a pin on our interactive map to show us exactly where there’s a problem.

☐ Keep in Touch!

Sign up for email updates to be notified when new information is released.

☐ Visit Fridley’s University and Central Ave Development Phase 2

www.fridleymn.gov/1550/University-Central-Avenue-Development



Next Steps



Item 3.

Nov 25: Initial public comment wraps up

Early 2021: “Purpose and Need”
document ready for public review

Mid-2021: Join us to develop alternatives

Fall 2021: Help us select a corridor vision

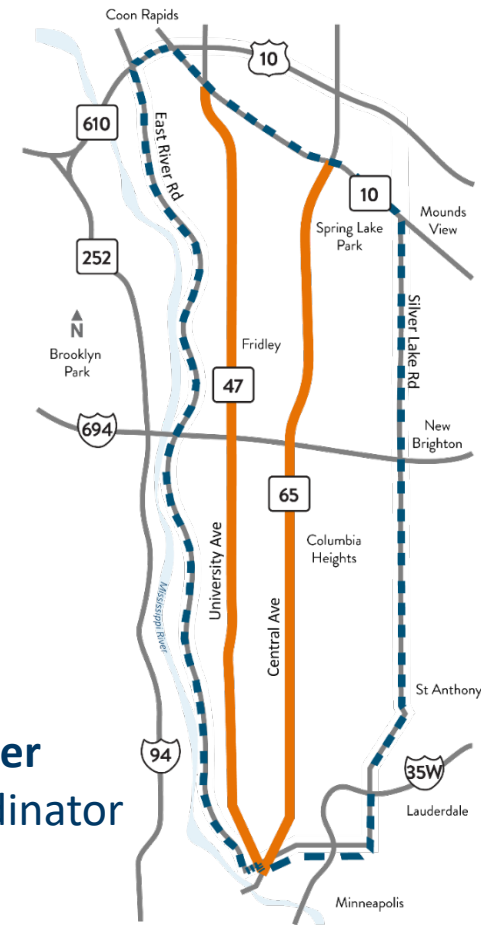


Thank you!



David Elvin, Co-Project Manager
MnDOT Metro Planning
David.Elvin@state.mn.us

Tony Wotzka, Co-Project Manager
MnDOT Metro North Area Coordinator
anthony.wotzka@state.mn.us





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Meeting Type: Environmental Quality and Energy
(EQEC) Commission

Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

EV Program Discussion

Background

Electric vehicle charging stations are projected to be more important as the market share of electric vehicles increases. The City of Plymouth has been featured recently for its partnership with Carbon Solutions Group (CSG) resulting in a significant number of new EV chargers in the City. Staff shared information on the CSG model at the April 12, 2022 meeting and will provide an update on discussions with program representatives.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

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Submitted By: Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Energy Action Plan Updates

Background

At the November 9 meeting, the EQEC recommended adoption of Phase 2 of the Energy Action Plan. The following activities were completed this past month:

- 2 insulation rebates issued
- May newsletter on outdoor energy savings

The following activities are projected in the next month:

- Summer intern beginning outreach to multi-family properties
- Tabling at environmental fun fair

Recommendation

Commissioners should review and discuss if there are other activities that should be considered.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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Title

Grant Updates

Background

The purpose of this item is to provide Commissioners updates on sustainability grants held by the City.

Grants in the Pre-Application Stage

- CCWD grant for Apex Pond improvements

Grants Under Review

- Met Council Regional Solicitation Grant for 44th Avenue Bridge w/ Anoka County

Active Grants

- Recycling grant (ongoing)
- CCWD grant for Craig Park improvements
- BWSR/RCWD grant for Moore Lake IESF project
- DNR grant for mitigating impacts of EAB
- RCWD grant for 6 raingardens in Rice Creek Terrace neighborhood
- RCWD grant for road diet on University Ave Service Rd
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 2
- LRIP grant for 53rd Avenue Trail Project
- RS grant for 7th St Trail Project
- CCWD grant for hydrodynamic separator in 2022 Street Project Area
- RCWD grant for sumps in Farr Lake neighborhood
- University Avenue Lighting Project
- SHIP grant for bike fleet (SNC/Recreation)
- SHIP grant for Civic Campus orchard
- Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant (ACD grant in partnership with Coon Rapids, and Lino Lakes)
- Met Council Climate Mitigation grant for feasibility study of 73rd Ave
- BWSR HELP grant for native plant restoration on Commons Park hillside
- Met Council Water Efficiency Grant pt 3

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

Grants Closed (1/1/2021+)

- SHIP grant for wayfinding kiosk
- MDH Well Sealing Grant

Recommendation

Commissioners should review and discuss if there are other activities that should be considered.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

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2022 Outreach Events

Background

Outreach at community events is an important strategy to build environmental awareness and increase engagement. Events that have been completed since the last meeting as well as upcoming outreach events are listed below.

Completed events (4/12-5/10)

- Household Hazardous Waste Event
- Earth Week + Environmental Fun Fair

Confirmed events and topics

- Recycling Drop-offs (5 in 2022)
- 49rs Day (June 17)
 - EV Showcase
- Park Plaza Recycling Dropoff (June 18)
- Book Swap (July 19 before Civic Campus concert)
- Garage Sale/Trash to Treasure Day (7/22-7/24)
- Night to Unite (8/2)
 - Green Block Parties

Potential Events

- Community wide clean up (TBD)
- Pumpkin Night in the Park
 - Energy
- Coats from Cops
 - Light bulbs give away

Recommendation

Commissioners should discuss if there are other community events that are a priority, what topics should be highlighted, and if there is an interest in commissioner involvement.

Attachments and Other Resources

- None

Vision Statement

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Title

Informal Status Reports

Background

Staff and Commissioners will share informal status reports on programs happening in the City.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

None

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