FIRST PHASE OF GREENWAY EXTENSION OPENS IN SAINT PAUL
NEW TRAIL CREATES MOMENTUM TO COMPLETE THE CONNECTION TO MINNEAPOLIS

Thanks to support from our members and partners, we’re pleased to report that our vision to extend the Midtown Greenway over the river and through Saint Paul is advancing!


This incredible success was due to the support of our members/donors and partners, who sent e-mails, wrote letters, filled out surveys, contacted elected officials, and attended virtual meetings with Saint Paul Public Works. The Saint Paul City Council vote to install the trail was very close, but our collective advocacy prevailed!

To celebrate the opening, Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter invited community members to join him on November 7th for a socially-distanced bike ride. More than one hundred people joined him, including many Midtown Greenway Coalition members.

We call this new trail Phase I, because just like the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, we expect the Midtown Greenway Extension in Saint Paul will be constructed in phases.

The next step is to connect the new Ayd Mill trail to the Midtown Greenway. Creating that connection and extending the Greenway over the river will take a lot of work, but we have momentum and will keep up the effort!

continued on page 3

▲ Phase I of the Midtown Greenway extension opened on November 7th in Saint Paul. Photo courtesy of the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Words cannot do justice to the challenge that was 2020. In addition to the pandemic, of course, we faced unprecedented social and political unrest.

We joined so many people and organizations calling for justice for George Floyd, and for fundamental changes to our systems that will make our public spaces safe for all.

We mourned the destruction of many small businesses near the Greenway (and beyond), which were already suffering from the pandemic.

We struggled seeing more community members experiencing homelessness, calling on Hennepin County to significantly expand social service outreach and find housing for all.

There were a few bright spots in 2020, however, which we should take time to celebrate.

For our work, the opening of the new bike/ped trail along Ayd Mill Road in Saint Paul was the brightest. This new trail – which we strongly advocated for – will increase pressure to connect it to the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis.

The trail is proof that our advocacy is working, and thanks to our donors and partners, we will continue our effort to Extend the Greenway over the river and through Saint Paul.

We went forward with our socially-distanced version of the Greenway Glow Arts Festival in September. It featured more local artists than ever, and culminated with a socially-distanced dance party in the parking lot outside of Vine Arts Center and the Ivy Building. Many people told us they were thankful to be able to attend an event that brought our community together.

Our other Greenway programs continued in 2020 too, including socially-distanced trash clean-ups conducted by our Adopt-A-Greenway organizations.

The Greenway also remained busy with cyclists, including essential workers commuting to Abbott Northwestern and Children’s Hospitals, as well as people seeking outdoor recreation.

We received much support for our work for the Greenway in 2020, for which we are thankful. Please take a minute to review our donor list at the end of this newsletter. If you were a donor, thank you! We hope you will continue supporting our work for the Greenway this year and beyond.

Here’s to a brighter 2021, and we’ll see you on the Greenway!

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a coalition of individuals and organizations 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!

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

Jane Connelly
Julia Curran
Zack Mohlis
Michael Nelson
Morgan Zehner
Treasurer
Executive Director
Treasurer
Board Secretary
Board President

Dan Cross
David Krco
Peter Mason
Jo Ann Musumeci
George Puzak

2834 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407 • WWW.MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG • PHONE: 612-879-0105
We are thankful for support from many elected officials, staff from Public Works and other agencies, and our Extend the Greenway Partners – including the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition, Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter, and the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. We are especially thankful for our donors/members, who make our work possible.

Want to help Extend the Greenway over the river and through Saint Paul? Support our work by making a donation to our “1,000 Friends of the Greenway” annual fund. Visit our website for the link: www.midtowngreenway.org
NEW WAYFINDING SIGNS SUPPORT EAT STREET BUSINESSES

Thanks to a grant from the City of Minneapolis’ Great Streets program, and a strong partnership with the Whittier Alliance and Hennepin County, we were pleased to install new wayfinding signs at Nicollet Avenue.

Local artist Brigid Higgins created the beautiful sign designs, inspired by the ecological benefits of pollinating butterflies and the Whittier community’s favorite things about Eat Street. “Like pollinators, folks who use the Greenway to travel to destinations like Eat Street bring resources into the community and help the small business district to flourish,” says Higgins.

These new signs will help Greenway users know when they have reached Eat Street, so they can take the ramp up and support the many small businesses and restaurants located along Nicollet Avenue. The new signs also point to the ramp down to the Greenway, helping people find their way to the trail.

In addition to wayfinding, the signs help with placemaking and create a more inviting Greenway exit and entrance. Higgins also donated her time and supplies to paint the concrete barricades at the entrance, matching the new signs.

While the colorful new signs are only located at Nicollet Avenue so far, our hope is they will influence the design for a future wayfinding system in the Greenway.

Thanks to the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Whittier Alliance and local artist Brigid Higgins for their support for our project.
The following individuals and businesses donated $100 or more to become “Friends of the Greenway.” (Due to space limitations we are only able to list Friends of the Greenway in this publication.) We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Please contact soren@midtowngreenway.org to make edits/corrections.
The Midtown Greenway Coalition was sad to learn of the passing of Robert “Bob” Corrick last year. Bob was an avid cyclist and longtime champion for the Midtown Greenway. He served on our board of directors for many years, including terms as Board President. His efforts around land use and planning for the Greenway helped establish it as the best urban bikeway in the nation, and led to tremendous growth along the corridor. We greatly appreciate Bob’s contributions to the Greenway and to our community. He will be missed.

Former Midtown Greenway Coalition president Bob Corrick at the opening of the trail link between Minneapolis and St. Louis Park (2003). Photo of Bob Corrick from Minnesota Public Radio News. (c) 2003 Minnesota Public Radio®. Used with permission. All rights reserved.
MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name ____________________________________________
Address _______________________________________
City, State, Zip _________________________________
Phone, E-mail ___________________________________

☐ $1,000+ – Platinum Level Friend
☐ $750 – Gold Level Friend
☐ $500 – Silver Level Friend
☐ $250 – Bronze Level Friend
☐ $100 – Friend
☐ Any amount comfortable for you  $__________

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
or donate at www.midtowngreenway.org