

DRAFT REPORT

City of Hopkins Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan - Planning Process



A community where walking and biking are safe, comfortable, convenient and fun everyday activities.



FINAL DRAFT
03/11/13

Delivering sustainable,
people-centered solutions,
to mobility and place

community design group

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Planning Process and Community Engagement

The recommendations in this Plan respond to questions and ideas received from Hopkins residents and their representatives. This section includes an overview and summary of information received at public meetings.



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2.1 Community Engagement for this Plan

Community engagement and public participation are the foundation for any plan that seeks to respond to the needs and issues of a community and its residents.

As part of the work of this Plan, several opportunities to receive information directly from Hopkins residents have been coordinated and implemented. These include:

- A booth, with map and survey activities, at the Hopkins Farmers market,
- A booth, with map and survey activities, at the Depot Coffeehouse,
- A meeting with members of the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative,
- A public survey, available for responses from members of the public, starting in early fall of 2012.

A project website (<http://www.hopkins-pedbikeplan.info/>) has been used to publicize workshop events, and to share information about the Plan.

In addition, several social media and web news outlet contacts were completed, including dissemination of workshop information and Plan purpose through the Depot Coffeehouse Facebook page, and publication of a news article providing an overview of the Hopkins Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan through the Hopkins Patch news site: <http://hopkins.patch.com/articles/help-hopkins-build-better-walking-biking-paths>



A Hopkins resident sharing her ideas for walking and biking in the city at the Hopkins Farmers market.



Article announcing the project workshops, published by the Hopkins Patch.

2.2 Workshop at Hopkins Farmers Market

Summary

The first Hopkins Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan workshop took place at the Hopkins Farmers Market on Saturday, October 13th from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm. Approximately 40 people stopped by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan booth to share their ideas and recommendations and learn about the issues being addressed by the plan. A wide variety of visitors stopped by, most of whom were Hopkins residents, but some from neighboring municipalities as well.

Tools and activities

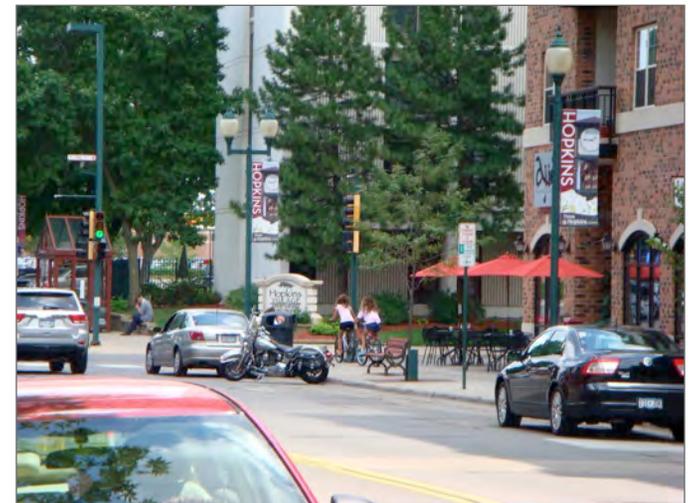
Activities available at this workshop included:

- A board activity, with questions about likes, dislikes, and opportunities for improvement for walking and biking in Hopkins,
- A mapping activity, where participants could draw or mark:
 - ▶ Destinations in and around Hopkins that they would like to reach by foot or bike,
 - ▶ Problem intersections, or barriers to pedestrian and/or bicycle travel, that they would like improved, and
 - ▶ Location of walking or biking assets in and around the city
- A survey with questions related to respondents' experiences related to walking and bicycling in Hopkins

Notes were also taken as part of conversation with participants. A brief summary of the information received through these activities is available over the next two pages.

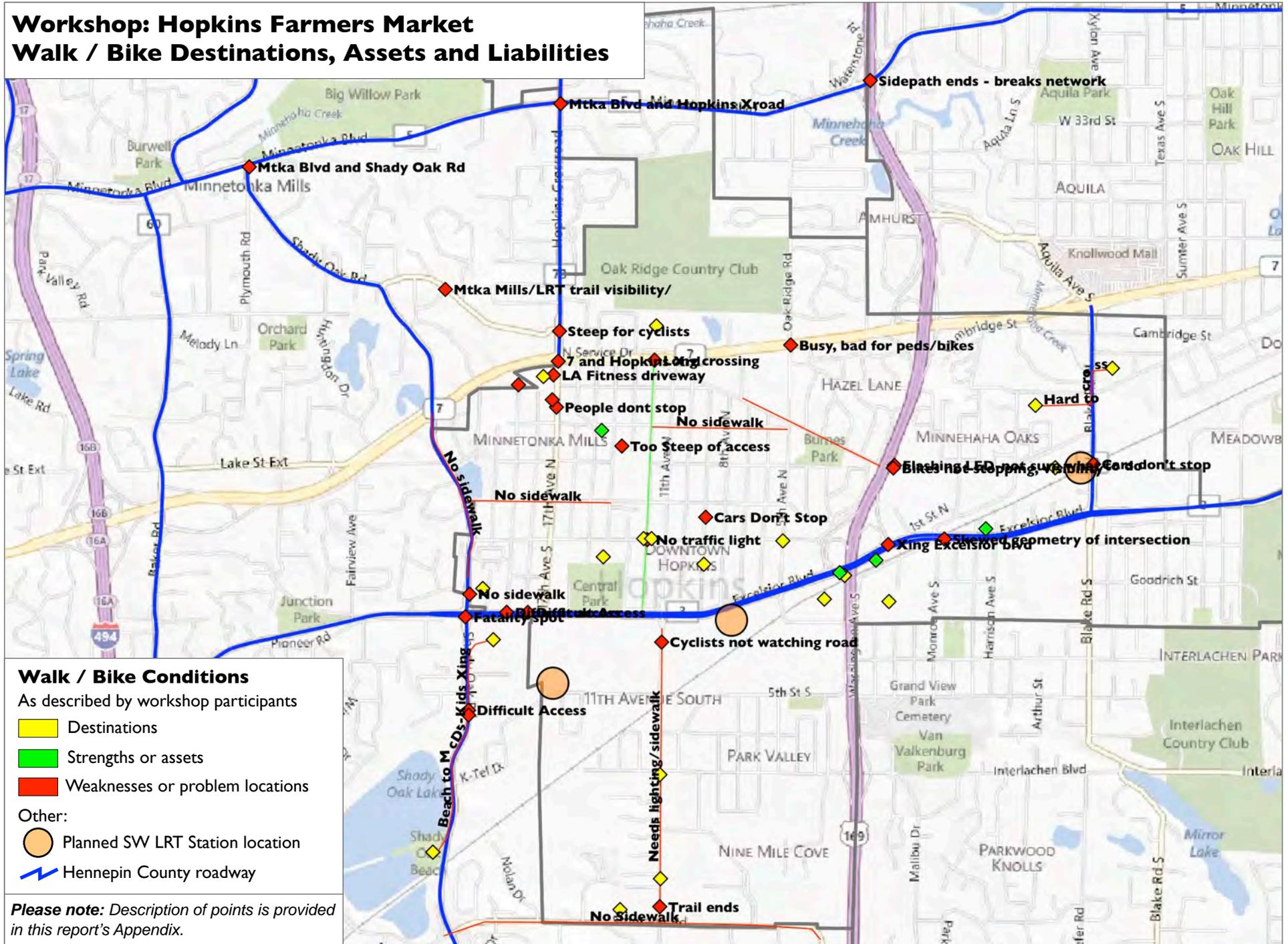


Locating issues and recommendations provided by a Hopkins resident.



Downtown Hopkins was valued as an important destination for many participants.

Workshop: Hopkins Farmers Market Walk / Bike Destinations, Assets and Liabilities



Map activity

Participants identified several walking and biking assets in the city, as well as several barriers or impediments to the safe and comfortable movement of pedestrians and cyclists. Notable barriers identified include lack of sidewalks along Shady Oak Road, and difficulty crossing Blake Road, Highway 7, and portions of Excelsior Boulevard.

Board activity - Likes, dislikes and opportunities for improvement

What Do You Like about Walking and Biking in Hopkins?

- Trail riding
- Getting all my shopping done without a car
- Biking is great in Hopkins, ALL trails lead to Hopkins!
- Trail system, east and west
- Trails w/trees, feels like the woods!
- Soft trails for running, easy on the joints

What Do You Not Like About Walking and Biking in Hopkins?

- Enforcement (bikes and cars)
- Etiquette for riders!
- Lack of drinking fountains/sources of water
- Lighting is needed generally

How Can We Make it Better?

- Develop and share a narrative of what it feels like to be a pedestrian/cyclist/driver and interact with other modes—to build empathy and understanding
- Holding motorists accountable
- Need a sidewalk on 3rd St N
- Pedestrian bridge over Excelsior Blvd would be great
- Lighting and emergency call box for Lake Minnetonka LRT
- Shady Oak Rd needs lighting
- Talk to Parks and Rec department
- Improve crossings etc.



The aggregate surface of the Lake Minnetonka Regional LRT Trail was named as an amenity for walking and jogging.

2.3 Workshop at the Depot Coffeehouse

Summary

The second Hopkins Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan workshop took place at The Depot Coffeehouse on Sunday, October 14th from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Approximately 20 people stopped by the booth to give their input and/or learn about the issues being addressed by the plan. Although the majority of those who stopped by were cyclists traveling through the city and who resided outside of the city, a number of Hopkins cyclists and pedestrians also stopped to visit and provide ideas and recommendations.

Tools and activities

Activities available at this workshop included:

- A board activity, with questions about likes, dislikes, and opportunities for improvement for walking and biking in Hopkins,
- A mapping activity, where participants could draw or mark:
 - ▶ Destinations in and around Hopkins that they would like to reach by foot or bike,
 - ▶ Problem intersections, or barriers to pedestrian and/or bicycle travel, that they would like improved, and
 - ▶ Location of walking or biking assets in and around the city
- A survey with questions related to participant experiences related to walking and bicycling in the city

Notes were also taken as part of conversation with participants. A brief summary of the information received through these activities is available over the next pages.



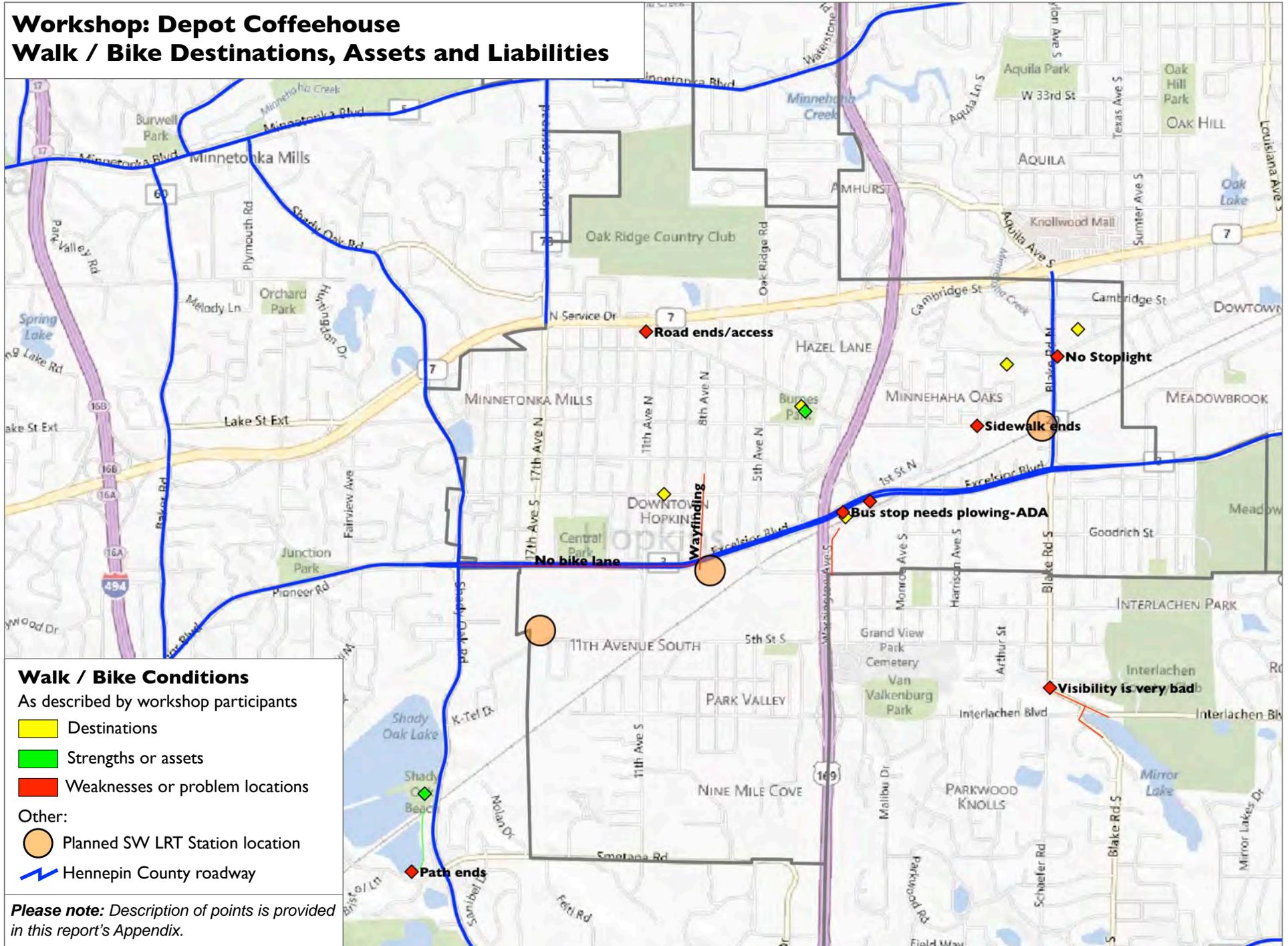
Several Hopkins pedestrians and cyclists stopped by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan booth.



Many Hopkins visitors appreciate the comfort and convenience of the Minnesota Bluffs Regional LRT Trail.

Workshop: Depot Coffeehouse

Walk / Bike Destinations, Assets and Liabilities



Walk / Bike Conditions
 As described by workshop participants

- Destinations
- Strengths or assets
- Weaknesses or problem locations

Other:

- Planned SW LRT Station location
- Hennepin County roadway

Path ends

Please note: Description of points is provided in this report's Appendix.

Map activity

Participants identified several walking and biking assets in the city, as well as several barriers or impediments to the safe and comfortable movement of pedestrians and cyclists. Notable barriers identified include lack of sidewalks along Shady Oak Road, and difficulty crossing Blake Road, Highway 7, and portions of Excelsior Boulevard.

Board activity - Likes, dislikes and opportunities for improvement

What Do You Not Like About Walking and Biking in Hopkins?

- Need more wayfinding!
- Unpaved LRT trails
- Getting into Minnetonka
- Lack of public restroom facilities

How Can We Make it Better?

- Route through Downtown Hopkins (North/South)



In this workshop, some bicyclists expressed dissatisfaction with unpaved trail facilities (contrast with comments from walkers/joggers at Farmers Market workshop in previous workshop).

Image: The Lake Minnetonka Regional LRT Trail.

2.4 Blake Road Corridor Collaborative

Summary

The third Hopkins Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan workshop took place with members of the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative at the Dairy Queen located on Blake Road on Wednesday, November 14th from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Approximately 10 members of the Collaborative participated in the meeting and provided their impressions and recommendations for walking and biking in the city, with special emphasis on their experiences and aspirations for Blake Road. Most of the participants live in close proximity to Blake Road, and travel on foot to connect to transit and to local shopping.

Tools and activities

Activities available at this workshop included:

- A facilitated discussion about likes, dislikes, and opportunities for improvement for walking and biking in Hopkins,
- A mapping activity, where participants could draw or mark:
 - ▶ Destinations in and around Hopkins that they would like to reach by foot or bike,
 - ▶ Problem intersections, or barriers to pedestrian and/or bicycle travel, that they would like improved, and
 - ▶ Location of walking or biking assets in and around the city

Because of time limitations (the meeting was held as part of the Collaborative's regular meeting) a survey was not provided at the meeting, but cards with the URL for the survey were distributed, and participants were encouraged to visit the online survey and provide additional comments through that tool.

In addition, notes were taken as part of conversation with participants. A brief summary of the information received through these activities is available over the next two pages.

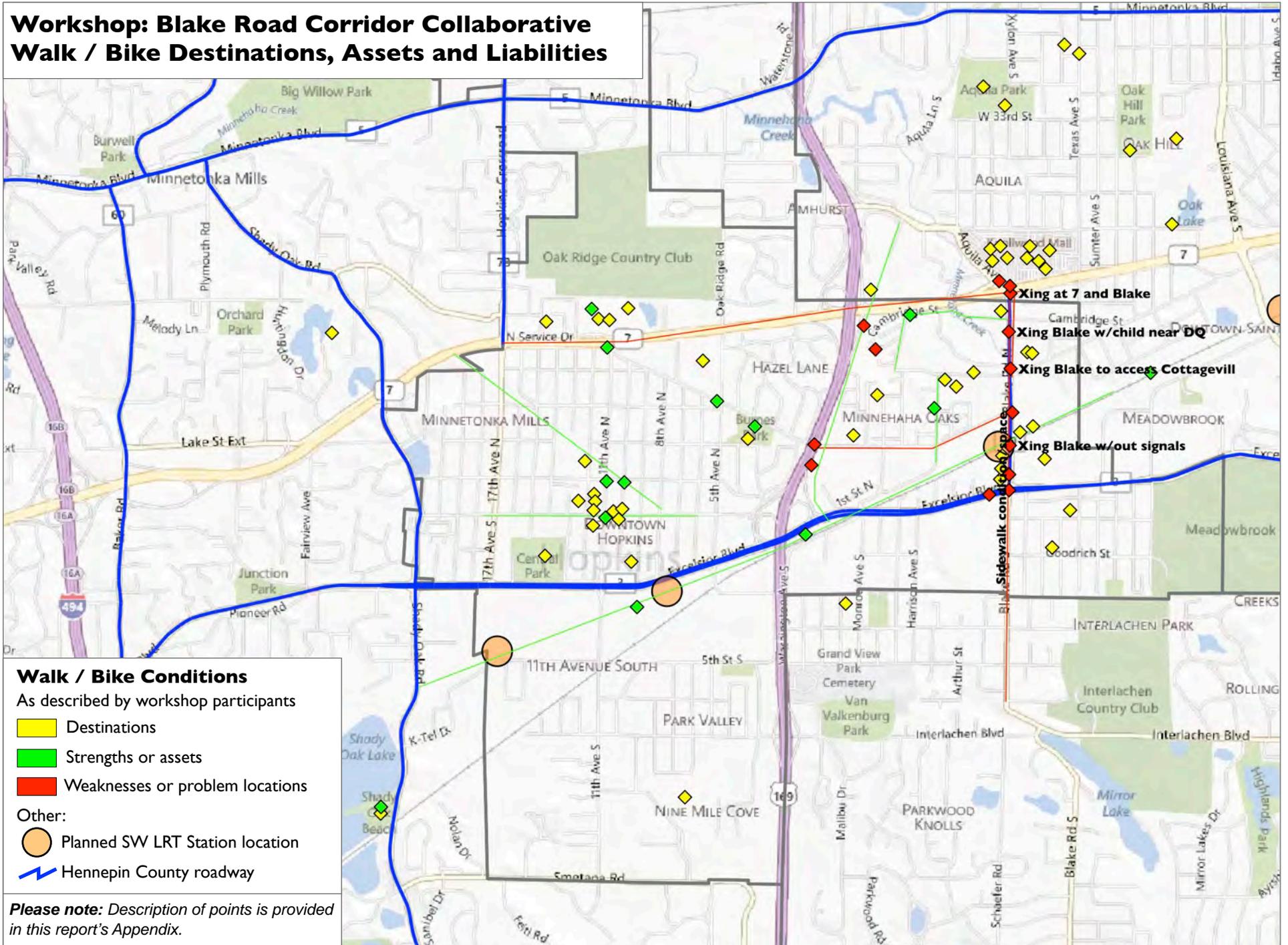


The workshop with members of the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative took place at the Dairy Queen located on Blake Road.



This community conversation covered many important ideas and recommendations for Blake Road.

Workshop: Blake Road Corridor Collaborative Walk / Bike Destinations, Assets and Liabilities



Walk / Bike Conditions
 As described by workshop participants

- ◆ Destinations
- ◆ Strengths or assets
- ◆ Weaknesses or problem locations

Other:

- Planned SW LRT Station location
- Hennepin County roadway

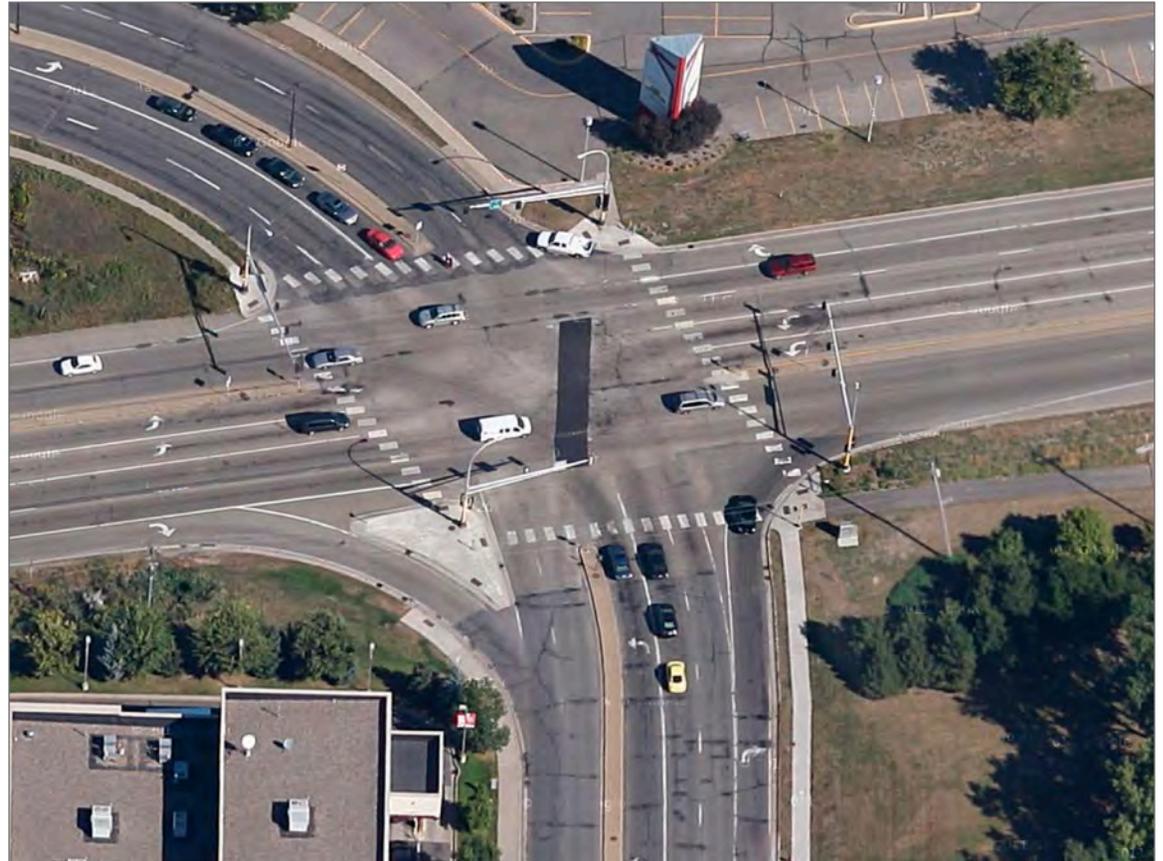
Please note: Description of points is provided in this report's Appendix.

Map activity

Participants identified several walking and biking assets in the city, as well as several barriers or impediments to the safe and comfortable movement of pedestrians and cyclists.

Assets named by participants included the city's extensive trail facilities, and favorable conditions near the city's downtown and several schools.

Notable barriers identified included the difficulty of crossing Blake Road through most of its length, and crossing Highway 7, especially to access Knollwood Mall, where many of the workshop participants shop.



The intersection of Highway 7 and Blake Road was identified as being problematic by several participants.

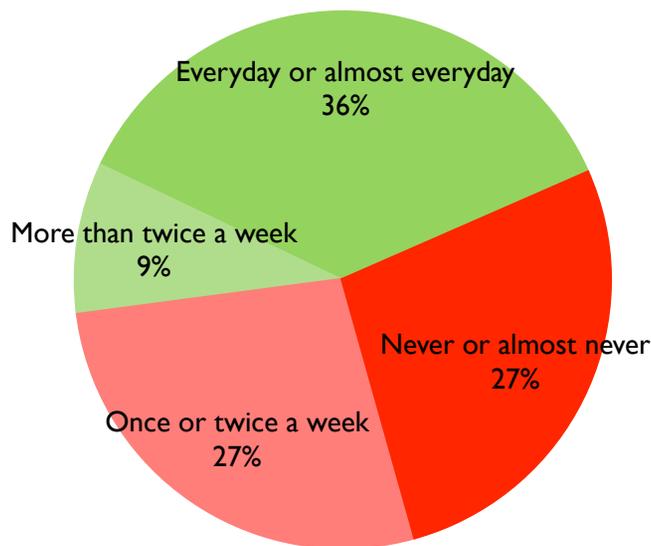
2.5 Survey results

A copy of the administered survey, as well as the complete responses, can be found in the Appendix.

A total of 16 people responded to the survey.

Q1-1: During the summer months - how often do you walk to a destination in or around Hopkins?

A total of 11 people answered the question. A summary of responses is shown below:



Q1-2: Which destinations?

A total of 10 people answered the question and chose up to three destinations.

Destinations include:

- Mainstreet businesses (shopping, dining, theater and coffee)
- Library
- Various parks
- Alice Smith Elementary School
- Pizza Luce
- Driskill’s Grocery
- VFW, Elks and Legion
- Excelsior bus stop / Blake Road
- Lund’s (on Highway 7)
- Cargill
- St. John’s Catholic School/Church

Q1-3: What would help you walk more often?

A total of 9 people answered the question and chose one to three destinations.

Ideas include:

- Living in closer proximity to Mainstreet
- Safety between Blake Road North and 2nd Street
- Better connection and access to regional trails
- Better path from east Hopkins to downtown
- A safe walking path from Oak Ridge Road to get to the sidewalks across Hwy 7
- Better neighborhood lighting at night
- More shade and a pedestrian buffer on Blake Road

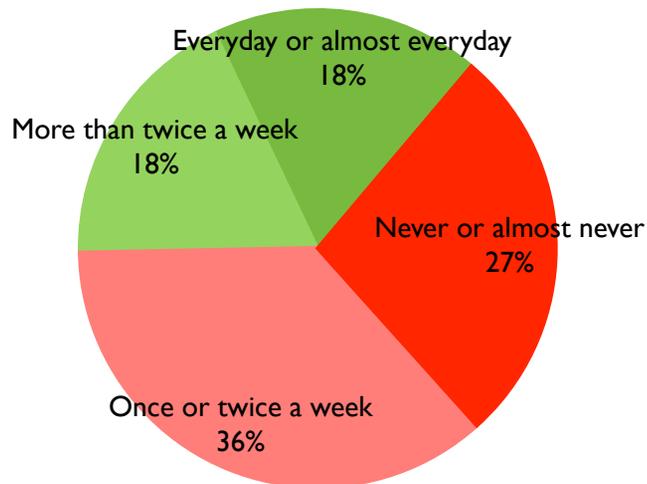
Q1-4: Which destinations in or around Hopkins do you wish you could walk to more easily?

A total of 5 people answered the question and chose up to three destinations. Destinations include:

- The Depot
- Downtown
- Library
- Burnes Park
- Blake Road
- Dunn Bros. Coffee
- Pizza Luce
- Knollwood Mall
- Highway 7 to Minneapolis

Q2-1: During the summer months - how often do you ride your bicycle to a destination in or around Hopkins?

A total of 11 people answered the question. A summary of responses is shown below:



Q2-2: Which destinations?

A total of 8 people answered the question and chose up to three destinations.

Destinations include:

- Lake Calhoun/Lake Harriet; Chain of Lakes
- General Recreation Rides (Lakes, Twins Stadium, Miss. River)
- Downtown / Main St (Dining, shopping, entertainment)
- MPLS Loop
- Library
- Cold Stone Ice Cream
- Burnes Park and other neighborhood parks
- Target
- Destinations out of Hopkins (Minneapolis, Eden Prairie, etc.)
- C-store
- Post office
- Bike trails
- Lake Calhoun area
- Knollwood Mall
- Carlson Towers in Minnetonka
- Cargill
- Driskill's Market
- VFW, Legion
- Midnite Market

Q2-3: What would help you ride your bicycle more often?

A total of 6 people answered the question and chose one to three destinations.

Ideas include:

- Dedicated bike lanes on Oak Ridge Road
- Dedicated bike infrastructure for children to ride to Eisenhower
- Better traffic crossings, including Excelsior, Highway 7 and Shady Oak
- Bike paths on Excelsior and Blake (similar to downtown Minneapolis)
- Roundabouts at busy intersections
- More options for bike lock-up (i.e. bike racks) in front of business, destinations, parks, etc.

Q2-4: Which destinations in or around Hopkins do you wish you could ride a bicycle to more easily?

A total of 4 people answered the question and chose up to three destinations.

Destinations include:

- Eisenhower/Xin Xing Elementary
- Anything crossing Excelsior (Harley, Depot, etc.)
- Anything crossing Highway 7 (Eisenhower Community Center)
- Country Village Strip Mall (Lunds, Great Clips, etc.)
- South Hopkins Area (along 11th Ave South)
- Connecting cities, such as Eden Prairie and Minneapolis

