







PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Louisiana Gateway



Place a Pin!

- This needs attention 
- I have an idea 
- I have a concern 
- I like this 

This report summarizes engagement events and community feedback collected from surveys and in-person events. The Arrive + Thrive Open House from June 27th, an online survey, and an online interactive map are included. Over 150 community members have participated.

August 2023

Arrive + Thrive Phase 1: Issues and Opportunities

When: May 1 to July 14, 2023



Phase 1 purpose

The first phase of the Arrive + Thrive Gateway Planning process set out to inform the community of the project, share its purpose and process and learn about individuals' experiences in the study area. Engagement activities were targeted at learning these experiences across each of the four gateways.

Feedback will inform the refinement of goals for the four gateways and solidify the issues and opportunities analysis.



Phase 1 events

There were two primary methods for collecting input for the first phase of engagement. An open house on June 27th at the Municipal Service Center provided an opportunity to gather in-person with community members and gather feedback. The online engagement opportunities were available from May 1 to July 14, 2023, providing an opportunity for the community to learn about and engage with the project.

Activities at the open house included the following.

- Project overview and context
- Push pin activity: locate the places that need attention, have something you like, or you have a concern about
- Priorities activity: identify the priorities that are most important to you for each gateway
- Create a headline: what will they be writing about after implementation

The input gathered at the open house was included within the online survey summary in the following pages.



Phase 1 promotion

A number of tactics were used to promote the open house and community survey, including:

- City and neighborhood social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor)
- GovDelivery emails to existing subscribers
- Yards signs placed in the study area
- Attendance at community events
- Flyers and postcards located throughout the community

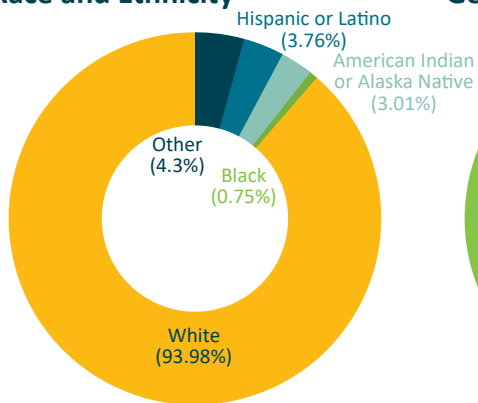
Online community survey

When: May 1 - July 14, 2023

20 Questions, open-ended and multiple choice

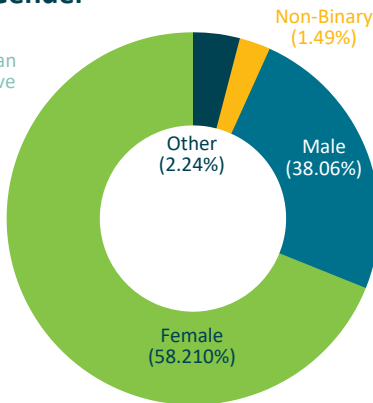
146 Participants

Race and Ethnicity



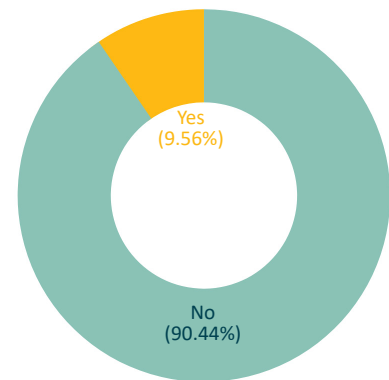
The average household size represented is between 2-3 individuals. (147 respondents)

Gender



Most respondents (over 75%) live in a single unit detached house. (144 respondents)

LGBTQ+ Community



Almost 10% of respondents identified as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. (136 respondents)

The community is drawn to the study area(s) because:

- They live and/or work nearby
- They enjoy outdoor activities and look forward to future trail connections
- They are looking forward to using the new light rail line
- They are interested in future development and improvements

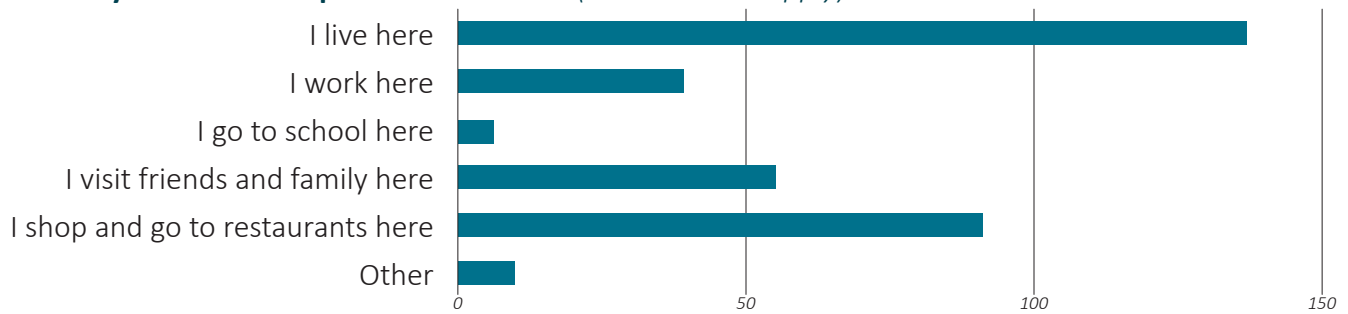
The community is excited about:

- Trails and connections to open space for pedestrians and cyclists; improved walkability
- Connections to Downtown by light rail
- New residential and mixed-use development, and overall neighborhood revitalization
- Environmental restoration and improved biodiversity

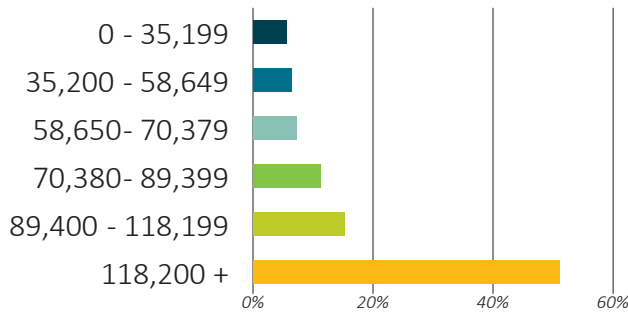
The community is concerned about:

- Limited infrastructure and traffic from new development
- Lack of neighborhood cohesiveness and connectivity
- Pedestrian and cyclist safety
- Lack of senior and affordable housing opportunities

What is your relationship to St. Louis Park? (Select all that apply)

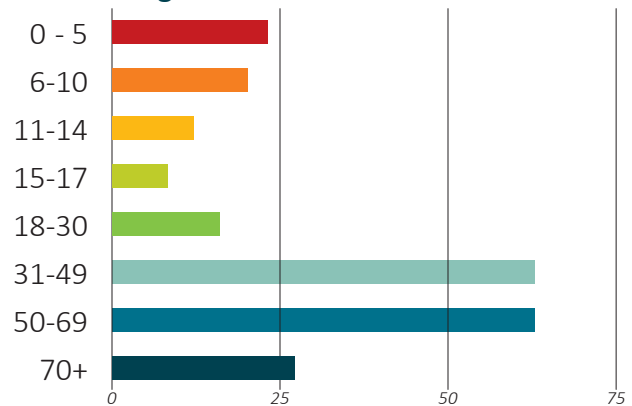


Household income



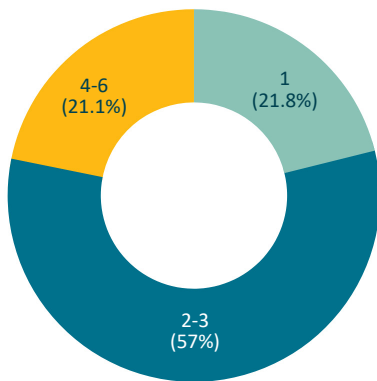
Over half of the respondent's households take home over 118,000 dollars annually. (121 respondents)

Household age



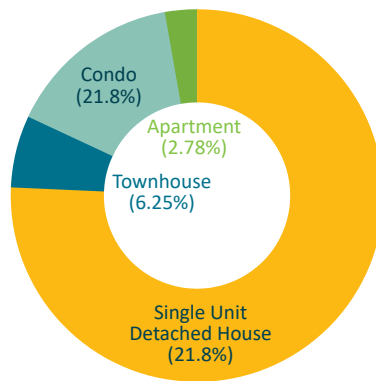
Over 70% of respondents do not have any children in their household. (143 respondents) Most of the respondents are between 31 and 69 years old. (141 Respondents)

Household size



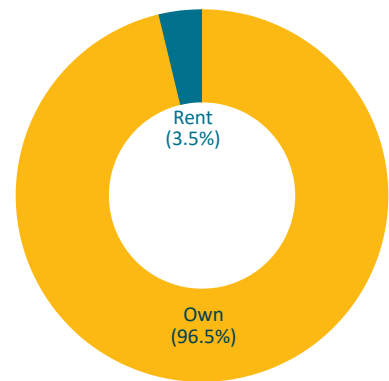
The average household size represented is between 2-3 individuals. (147 respondents)

Home type



Most respondents (over 75%) live in a single unit detached house. (144 respondents)

Homeowners Vs. renters



Over 95% of respondents own their home. (143 respondents)

Other key takeaways:

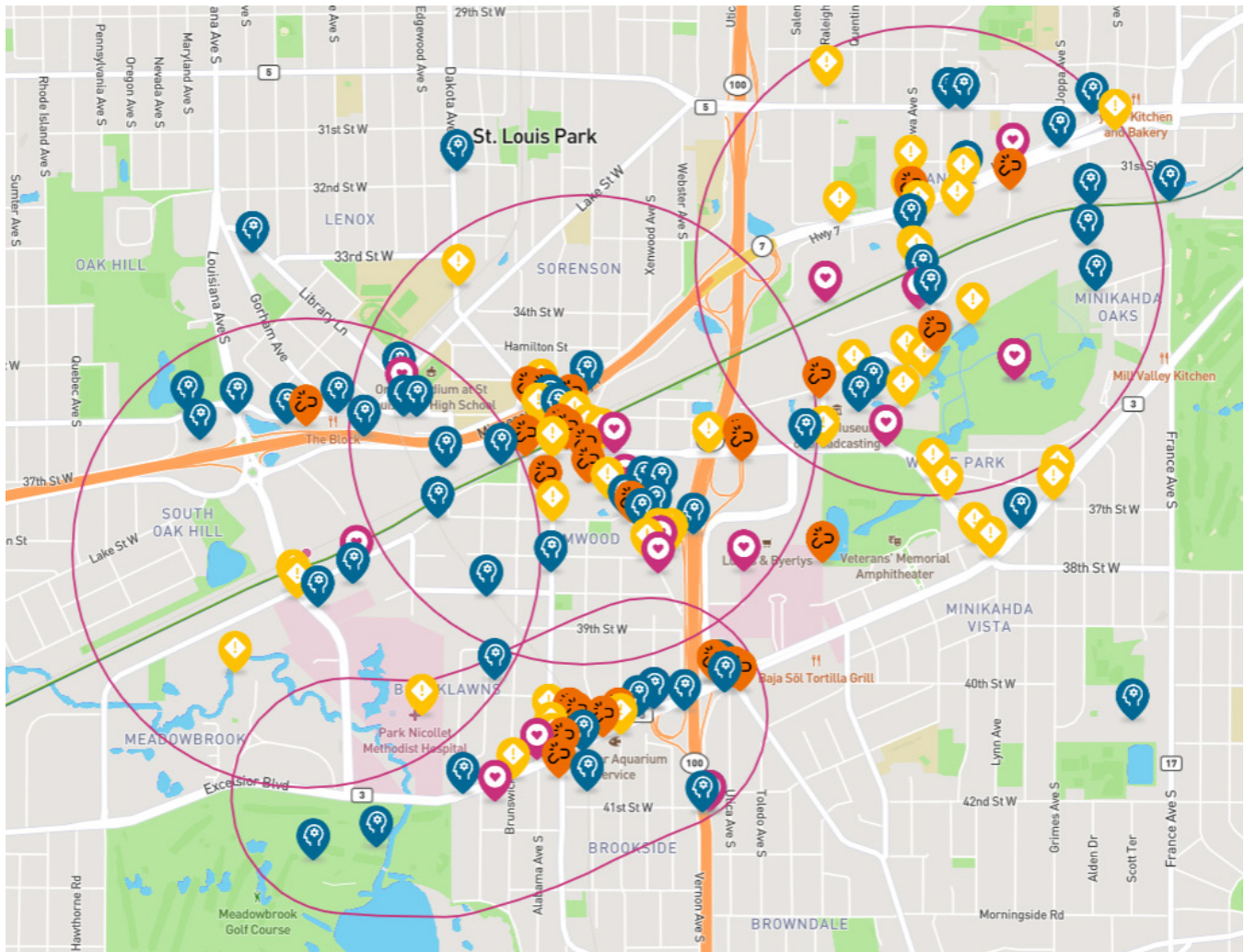
- **Connections to the open spaces within the study area could be improved.** 20% of respondents did not agree that these spaces were well-maintained and accessible. Over 30% were neutral.
- **Over 45% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed they could find housing within the study area that met their needs** with access to services they wanted. Around 17% did not agree.





Interactive map

When: 1 May - 14 July 2023

1 map with 4 location identifiers

57 participants, 152 contributions

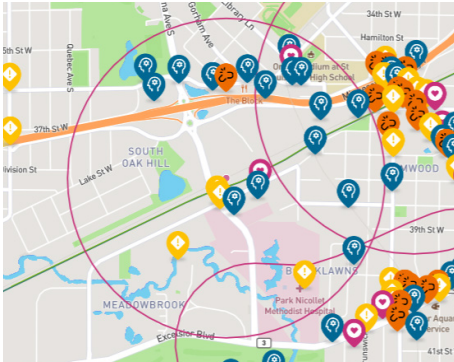


-  I have an idea
-  I have a concern
-  I like this
-  This needs attention

This map of St. Louis Park highlights the four Gateway study areas- Louisiana Station Gateway, Wooddale Station Gateway, Beltline Station Gateway, and Excelsior Boulevard Gateway. There were 58 ideas, 48 concerns, 17 likes, and 29 notices for attention added to the map.

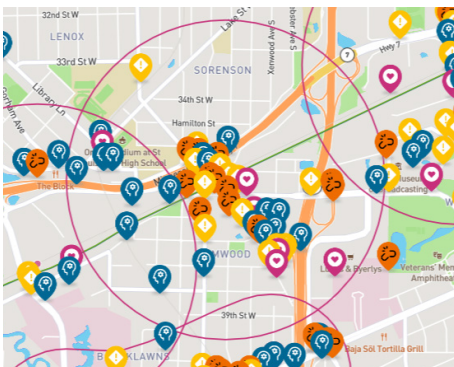
Overall, there are opportunities to create separate identities for each of the study areas while developing a cohesive plan. Improvements can be made to pedestrian and cyclist connections throughout the study areas - wayfinding, greenways, pocket parks, sidewalks and bike lanes, and crosswalks. There is also a need to connect the neighborhoods and amenities on the north and south sides of the new light rail tracks and Highway 7.

Interactive Map Key Takeaways



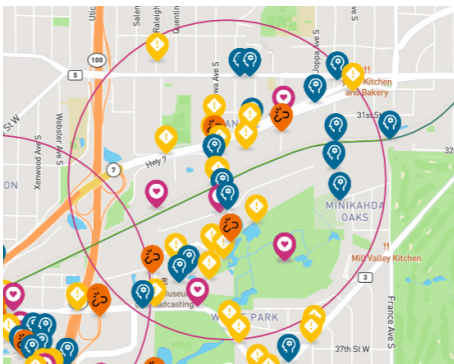
Louisiana Station Gateway

- A shuttle service from light rail stop to the Hospital
- Ensuring protection of and highlighting the creek as part of future development
- Additional neighborhood amenities on the north side of the new light rail stop such as pocket parks,
- Additional greenways and improved tree canopy for pedestrians and cyclists



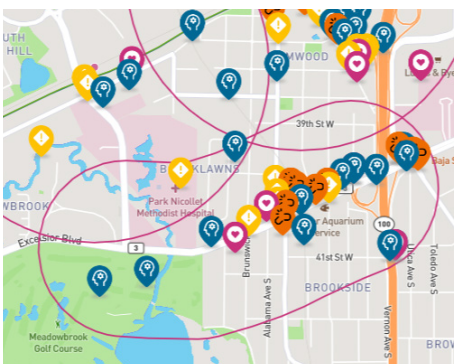
Wooddale Station Gateway

- Traffic is very congested in this area
- Highway overpasses are not pedestrian friendly
- The existing bike lanes are not separated enough
- There is an opportunity here to improve the north side of the study area and create a destination for restaurants and shops



Beltline Station Gateway

- Bass Lake Park is popular within the area and the community would like greenways to connect to the regional parkway networks
- There is an opportunity to add smaller-scale affordable housing options within this area
- A lot of this study area is industrial and could be redeveloped in a unique way
- Pedestrian routes need safer sidewalks and crosswalks



West Excelsior Boulevard Gateway

- This corridor should be more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly with improved crosswalks and separation from traffic
- Parking should be considered in redevelopment
- The intersection of West Excelsior Boulevard and Wooddale Avenue is congested and “messy”
- The new retail spaces should prioritize small, locally-owned businesses