

Friendly Streets Initiative timeline of work in Summit-University / Rondo / Frogtown

FSI's Primary Funders: Central Corridor Funders Collaborative (2013-Present), Knight Green Line Challenge (2015) and the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (2015). Fiscally sponsored by the Hamline Midway Coalition.

2009-2012 – FSI's first project growing out of grassroots efforts by residents partnering with Frogtown Neighborhood Association and Hamline Midway Coalition, led to the Charles Avenue Bike Boulevard.

Spring 2013 - Lars Christiansen and Darius Gray made presentations to district councils in Green Line neighborhoods to brainstorm ideas for adapting the “Friendly Streets” block party engagement method developed during the Charles work to address resident concerns and interests in other streets and areas.

August 2013 – Collaboration with Irna Landrum and Max Holdhusen from SUPC to create a one day demonstration on the Victoria Street Bridge. The bridge was part of a community garden walk and the installation included historic and contemporary photos from Rondo hung on the railing, along with potted plants and wayfinding signs. Following up on this, a continued partnership with SUPC and FNA for Victoria Street was included as a potential project in the 2014 CCFC grant.



2013 Victoria Bridge Installation & Garden Tour

April-May 2014 – Lars Christiansen and Robyn Hendrix met with SUPC new Director Sara Udvig to re-introduce Friendly Streets' ideas, resources, and offer/brainstorm potential collaborations. FSI met with Sam Buffington from Frogtown Neighborhood Association about possible work on Victoria.

August 2014 – FSI was asked to work with Max Holdhusen who had returned to work at SUPC part time for the summer, on continuing to explore ideas and trying to form a working group of residents to partner with. An event similar to 2013 began to be planned for the end of August, but due to the short time frame of Max's position with SUPC, staff illness, and feeling that we didn't have enough involvement of residents, we decided to postpone the event and reevaluate the project.

September 2014 – FSI outreach and a mini-survey about Victoria Street at University Ave Open Streets

Fall 2014 – Discussions began to expand the Better Bridges work as a Green Line Challenge proposal. FSI met with Nieeta Presley and Vaughn Larry from Aurora / St. Anthony NDC, and Margaret Jones, Anne Parker and Kabby Jones from the Lexington-Hamline Community Council. DCC's work on Snelling and Dale was also included in the overarching project. When the grant was written, Lexington

Bridge partners included LHCC, SUPC and UPDC. Victoria partners included FNA, SUPC and ASANDC. Dale Bridge partners included DCC, SUPC and FNA. DCC is considered the “lead” organization for Dale, and FSI is considered “lead” for Victoria and Lexington.

Throughout 2014 – Separate partnership with Frogtown Crew & Smart Trips

February 2015 – Robyn and Kim from FSI presented to the SUPC Board of Directors to garner advice and guidance for Better Bridges.

Winter and early spring 2015 – Intensive work with LHCC on Hamline, Griggs and Lexington projects. Jens Werner from SUPC joined that working group when she began her position.

April 2015 – FSI hired community organizers Melvin Giles and Isaak Rooble. The *Better Bridges Bash* party included engagement and surveys about Hamline, Griggs and Lexington bridges. Attendance of ~400. LHCC, UPDC and SUPC were all involved in some capacity along with event-specific partners Skyline Towers, Gordon Parks High School, High School for the Recording Arts, Transforming Central, and Trust for Public Land. Efforts to publicize the event to Union Park and Summit-University residents included email newsletters, social media, flyering, posters, and tabling at Central High School.

June-August 2015 – Melvin and Robyn met with partners and began to form a working group of residents and community members to brainstorm, give feedback, and partner with us on the Victoria Bridge. FSI was a sponsor of the June 19th Peace Celebration, and tabled at the Frogtown Annual Party.



Victoria Bridge Working Group Meeting and Site Tour, July 2015

July 2015 – Community Design Workshop held for Hamline, Griggs and Lexington bridges. FSI lemonade stand style tabling at the Victoria Garden during Rondo Days Parade giving away free drinks and gathering ideas on a map of Victoria.

August 2015 – FSI participated in National Afternoon Out, presenting a survey and gallery for the Victoria Bridge for the first time, developed based on ideas and feedback from working group meetings and FNA, SUPC and ASANDC staff.

September 2015 – Outreach tabling at Selby Ave Jazzfest and Maxfield Elementary School BBQ and Parent Nights. Block Party on the Victoria Street Bridge September 16th with approximately 275 attendees, free food, music, dancing and art activities. Online survey continues to be open for additional responses. We've received approximately 70 responses so far.



FSI gallery at National Afternoon Out, August 2015



Victoria Street Bridge Block Party, September 2015



Victoria Street Bridge Block Party, September 2015



Next steps

FSI has resources to:

- host a community design workshop with the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation on Wednesday November 4th
- create a thorough report based on engagement activities and survey results that community leaders can use in the future
- build temporary installations or demonstrations on the bridge in winter and/or spring of 2015-2016 that test out community ideas and visions for future improvements, including hiring local artists/carpenters/etc from the neighborhood whenever possible
- reallocate these resources as needed based on feedback from residents and community members
- explore ways this project can support and align with other neighborhood efforts and organizations such as the community garden, Rondo Commemorative Plaza, Maxfield Elementary, Victoria Theater, local churches, etc.