

Friendly Streets Initiative

Raymond Station Area aka “Missing Link” Report

Friendly Streets Initiative
in collaboration with
Desnoyer Park Improvement Association
Saint Anthony Park Community Council

June 1st, 2015

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Missing Link Block Party, September 23, 2014



Introduction

This report is intended to compliment the work that Community Design Group and SEH will be focusing on for the Grand Rounds. This report highlights the work that the Friendly Streets Initiative has completed with the Desnoyer Park Improvement Association and Saint Anthony Park Community Council.

The Friendly Streets Initiative has worked with Desnoyer Park Improvement Association and Saint Anthony Park Community council since 2013. The two neighborhoods came together to re-envision the gap in the Grand Round Bikeway that goes through both neighborhoods, Desnoyer Park and St. Anthony Park. This effort has consisted of different community visioning and engagement strategies for the missing link of the Grand Rounds.

It was through the work of these communities that we uncovered this was a crucial missing link of the Grand Rounds. The project area lacks any consistent Grand Round signage, markings or other infrastructure usually represented in Grand Round infrastructure. Therefore the community began to envision what this area should look like.

The community organized a number of events. At these events data was collected in a number of ways to help encourage the design process. During the Missing Link Block Party held at and in collaboration with Avalon High School, there was gallery of images and map that allowed participants to give vital input on the improvement of the Missing Link Area. A community walk was also organized where interviews were conducted.

Furthermore, there has been other engagement and work done solely on Pelham, which I believe you have been made aware of. Friendly Streets Initiative has done engagement at two Desnoyer Park Neighborhood Picnics over the past two years. As a result of that engagement we have produced a report of the findings as well as completed a parking study, which has been provide to you.

The remaining parts of this report will focus on the findings from these efforts of engagement undertaken by the neighborhoods of Desnoyer Park and Saint Anthony Park in collaboration with Friendly Streets Initiative. We hope the community engagement work completed so far will be represented in the final plans for the Missing Link area.

See also:

Pelham Boulevard DPIA and FSI Collaboration Summary of Results, Published February 26, 2014

FSI Parking Study Report for DPIA, Published August 15, 2014

All Friendly Streets Initiative Reports available at www.friendlystreetsinitiative.org

Findings

Gallery:

The gallery of images allows for party attendees to vote on concepts they might like (or not like) to see in the Missing Link area. Friendly Streets provides a three-scale post-it rating system that allows people to stick their vote right on the image itself. Green= Yay!, Yellow= Maybe, and pink/red=No thanks. The full gallery of images presented at the September 23, 2014 Missing Link Block Party is provided in the Appendix.

According to gallery post it data, the following received the **overall strongest support. (Support strongest in the order appearance)**



14. Bicycle Wayfinding

Bicycle Wayfinding images received the highest amount of support. The responses given demonstrate the importance of wayfinding in this area. This could be used to help direct people to the Green Line and business areas, other bike paths, and other important community assets. While this was a favorite among respondents, Grand Round wayfinding signage (6. Grand rounds Wayfinding) found little support among respondents.

Strongest Support Continued...



11. Artistic Bench



15. Public Art

Artistic Bench and Public Art were the next two strongest images support in that order. The Missing Link is an area devoid of art and placemaking; respondents reinforce the importance of beautifying the Missing Link project area.

According to gallery post it data; the following **received the overall weakest support.**



4. Ariel Bumpout



12. Buffered Bike Lane

Weakest Support Continued...



13. One-way cars, two-way bicycles

Buffered bike lane and one -way cars, two-way bicycles were among the images that received the least amount of support, The 2nd and 3rd lowest amount of support, respectively.

Map Data:

People gather around the map to discuss the difficult areas of their neighborhood, problematic intersections, community assets and a number of other ideas. Post it notes are provided for people to voice their ideas for improvements of the area. This summary includes themes that were brought up more than once on the map as well as made note of in field notes.

The main themes present in the map data center around a number of issues, including the request for the unused Rail Road tracks to be taken out of the street on Wabash, and repairing of the streets around the tracks. Slower speed limits throughout the length of Pelham and a stop sign at St. Anthony were suggested. Lastly, map respondents commonly desired adding bike lanes on Myrtle and omitting parking on one side of the street.

Pelham Promenade Recorded Interviews:

The two neighborhoods hosted a community walk, deemed the Pelham Promenade on June 14, 2014 for the Green Line LRT opening day. The intent was to celebrate the Green Line opening and to encourage people to travel by foot or bike to Raymond Avenue station. Walking interviews of participants were conducted. This section summarizes the content of interviews conducted.

The low railing on the Pelham Bridge and poor sidewalk quality was a common concern among event participants. Many conversations center on the need for higher railings to create a safer bridge. A separation of bike and vehicle traffic was a common conversation topic. The redirection of truck traffic is an important issue for residents.

Appendix 1 Gallery Images



1. Parklet



2. Planters



3. Rain garden in Parking Space



4. Ariel Bumpout



6. Grand Rounds Wayfinding



7. Grand Rounds Kiosk



8. Creative Street Message



9. Hanging Planter



10. Cycle Track



11. Artistic Bench



12. Buffered Bike Lane



13. One-way Cars, Two-way Bicycles



14. Bicycle wayfinding



15. Public Art



16. Creative Crosswalk

Additional data available by request:

Full post-it vote counts for Gallery of Images

Full transcripts from audio recordings
of Pelham Promenade Interviews

Full list of post-it comments
on Missing Link area map

Send requests to info@fsimn.org