

# Friendly Streets Initiative



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Friendly Streets Initiative announces kick-off celebration of Better Bridges Project**  
Saint Paul, MN – April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Noon-4pm Block Party at the new Griggs Bridge over I-94

Better Bridges Bash!

A Friendly Streets Initiative block party in collaboration with the Lexington-Hamline Community Council and additional neighborhood partners.

Saturday, April 25th 2015 Noon-4pm on the Griggs bike/pedestrian bridge and the intersection of Griggs Street and St. Anthony Avenue in Saint Paul.

Rain location: Skyline Tower Auditorium, 1247 St. Anthony Avenue, Saint Paul.

Celebrate the new Griggs bikeway and walking bridge, while also envisioning big changes for the future of the Lexington and Hamline bridges over I-94! Help our community decide which kinds of transportation infrastructure, public art, placemaking and wayfinding ideas would be best to improve north-south connections over the freeway and up to the Green Line. Enjoy free food from Flamingo Restaurant and Pizza Luce, live music by local performance artists, art activities, pop up street soccer and basketball, & more! Everything is free, family-friendly and open to the public.

**Partners and collaborators for this event to date:**

The Friendly Streets Initiative, Lexington-Hamline Community Council, Summit-University Planning Council, Hamline Midway Coalition, Union Park District Council, CommonBond Communities/Skyline Tower, St. Paul Police Department – Western District, Concordia University, Transforming Central, Gordon Parks High School, Sanneh Foundation, Frogtown Crew, High School for the Recording Arts, Express Bike Shop, Jimmy Lee Rec Center, Oxford Community Center, Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Trust for Public Land, and the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation.

Additional Details:

### **Better Bridges for Stronger Communities**

Interstate 94 has left a legacy of separation. Saint Paul's Green Line communities report that the bridges are psychological and physical barriers to walking and bicycling. They are exposed to the elements, most are wide and motor-oriented, aesthetically unremarkable and displeasing, and in several cases, unsafe for non-motorized passage. They are also remarkable opportunities to become safe for users of all abilities, and become expressions of artistic creativity with iconic potential. Better Bridges for Stronger Communities is a community-led effort to re-envision the bridges over I-94. The project is focusing on eight bridges: Pelham, Fairview Underpass, Snelling, Hamline, Griggs, Lexington, Victoria, and Dale. The Better Bridges project aims to create both long-term community-led visions and plans for these bridges, and build short-term pop up installations on each bridge which will demonstrate improved walking, bicycling, and artistic expression at each bridge site.

### **The Friendly Streets Initiative**

The Friendly Streets Initiative is based out of Saint Paul, Minnesota and facilitates community organizing through creative public engagement events. FSI assists communities in visioning for positive change to public spaces, collects and analyzes data, and helps neighbors navigate city planning processes. [www.friendlystreetsinitiative.org](http://www.friendlystreetsinitiative.org)

### **The Lexington-Hamline Community Council**

The Lex-Ham neighborhood in St. Paul is bounded by University Avenue, Lexington Parkway, Summit and Hamline Avenues. Since the Lexington-Hamline Community Council was established in 1969, it has been the cornerstone for organizing and serving the 3,000 residents living in this neighborhood. [www.lexham.org](http://www.lexham.org)

Additional partners in the overall Better Bridges project include the Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, Desnoyer Park Improvement Association, St. Anthony Park Community Council, Frogtown Neighborhood Association, and the District Councils Collaborative.

Notes: Short sections of St. Anthony, Griggs and Bigelow will be closed to automobile traffic the day of the event. Please follow posted detour routes.

This project is made possible by the generous support of the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative and the Knight Foundation Green Line Challenge.

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