

SUMMARY

Franklin LRT Task Force

Final Report - March 1, 2000

Intent

Bridge the gap between Seward and Phillips and lead to development of the station area as an inviting gateway to both neighborhoods

Guiding Principles

- The station and surrounding area should be safe and accessible
- The economic and environmental impact of new development should be distributed fairly

Two Main Goals for Redevelopment of the Station Area

- Enliven the station area with new mixed-use development that creates a safe, inviting pedestrian environment 24 hours a day
- Enhance access to the station area from all directions

Primary Barriers

- The presence of the LRT Shops and Yards
- Hiawatha Avenue
- Grade separation of Franklin Avenue from the station platform
- The massive intersection of Cedar, Franklin and Minnehaha Avenues

Key Strategies

- Create a development parcel between the Shops and Yards and Franklin Avenue by moving the yard north and vacating half of Franklin Avenue.
- Use the air rights over the Shops and Yards to build a parking structure that will support development in the station area.
- Before rail operations begin, install retaining walls and footings adjacent to the Shops and Yards that will permit later development.
- Incorporate bridges or skyways above Hiawatha Avenue into development plans.
- Enhance under-bridge areas with lighting, public art and safety measures including video cameras, call boxes and routine monitoring.
- Create vertical access from Franklin to the LRT platform including stairs, elevators and ramps suitable for pedestrians, bicycles and wheelchair users.
- Redesign the street pattern at Cedar, Franklin and Minnehaha Avenues to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment.