

Southwest LRT Corridor Policy Leader Workshop & Mobile Tour a Success!

Over 60 policy leaders and their staff participated in a mobile tour and workshop on November 10, 2010 hosted by the Urban Land Institute Minnesota and the Regional Council of Mayors in partnership with Hennepin County, The McKnight Foundation, Family Housing Fund, MN Housing and the Center for Transit Oriented Development.

The mobile tour started at the McKnight Foundation where the group boarded the Hiawatha LRT downtown making various stops to view transit oriented development that has been implemented and discuss opportunities that were lost because the engineering and land use planning were not coordinated. At Bloomington Central Station the mobile tour continued by bus along the Southwest LRT Corridor with stops at selected station areas to understand and discuss redevelopment opportunities and challenges.

After the mobile tour a workshop was held at McKnight Foundation with architect and urban designer Ken Greenberg and TOD and Real Estate Specialist Marilee Utter—both of whom are experts on collaborative planning, design and transit oriented development. The team provided national TOD best practices highlighting critical components that require collaboration for clearly defined overall outcomes and success. The workshop included discussions around tools, market conditions and policies requiring aligned decision-making and implementation to overcome conflicts and maximize opportunities. A brief reception and networking opportunity ended the evening.

The mobile tour and workshop were specifically targeted for policy leaders in Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Edina and Eden Prairie. Participants included mayors, city council and planning commission members, Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council commissioners.

Policy leaders will have a key role in implementing transit oriented development along the Southwest LRT Corridor. These local decisions will have significant regional impacts and provide unprecedented opportunities for years to come. Getting ahead of the game is critical and the mobile tour and workshop was provided as a stepping stone to strategically align goals and implementation strategies along the corridor.