Bottineau Corridor demonstration projects
Connecting Crystal Community Center

Health equity strategies at the Bass Lake Road station area

The Bass Lake Road station area of the planned Bottineau light rail transit line is a gateway to the city of Crystal’s many amenities: a bustling commercial district at Bass Lake Road and West Broadway and the future improvements at Becker Park adjacent to the station. During station area planning these health equity strategies were identified:

- Support additional infrastructure that encourages physical activity.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian connections on major streets.
- Close sidewalk gaps and improve pedestrian crosswalks in key locations.
- Create an environment where people feel more comfortable walking and biking to, from, and around the LRT station and to more distant destinations.

Crystal walk audit

Just south of the Bass Lake Road station area is the city of Crystal’s well attended community amenities of the Aquatic Center and Community Center. Hennepin County staff led community members, city officials and community center staff on a walk audit from Becker Park to the Crystal Community Center to identify opportunities to improve connections between these key destinations. They evaluated their walk experience to help inform county bike and pedestrian planners of current conditions. Following this experience, Hennepin County bike and pedestrian planners will collect data next summer to evaluate potential crossing improvements at Douglas Drive and Fairview Avenue to better connect residents with the community center.

Bike repair station, bike rack, and hoop sign

Supporting additional bicycle infrastructure at the Crystal Community Center led to the permanent installation of a bike rack, bike repair station and a hoop sign. The city of Crystal has 27 parks as well as numerous ball fields, courts, playgrounds, trails and activity areas. Installed at a prominent location next to the Community Center entrance, a hoop sign with a map of the city of Crystal’s major parks helps bicyclists and pedestrians navigate their way to

Bike and pedestrian demonstration projects

Making it easier for residents to get to future Bottineau LRT (METRO Blue Line extension stations by walking, biking, and rolling is one focus of the Hennepin County Bottineau Community Works program.

Bottineau Community Works staff worked with Bottineau Corridor city and community partners to implement bicycle and pedestrian demonstration projects in five future station areas, including one in each city. These projects demonstrate health equity strategies identified in the Bottineau station area plans.

Funding support came from the Center for Prevention, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.
Becker Park and beyond. A permanent curb cut was installed by the city of Crystal to support pedestrian and bicycle crossing next to these improvements.

**Bottineau Community Works consideration of bike and pedestrian improvements on Douglas Dr.**

Douglas Drive next to Becker Park was selected for 60 percent design in the Bottineau Community Works Infrastructure project. This concept will span from the park to West Broadway towards the community center and will also include a stretch of Bass Lake Road to the east of the future station area.

### Bass Lake Road station area community profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Half-mile station area</th>
<th>Crystal</th>
<th>Hennepin County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>22,151</td>
<td>1,152,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 18 years</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons over 65 years</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons of color</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero car households</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in poverty</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life expectancy at station zip code: 78 years; Hennepin County: 81 years. 

[US Census 2010](https://www.census.gov) retrieved 10/10/18 RWJF [USEEPI](https://www.useepi.org)

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