Golden Valley Road pedestrian safety at Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute

The Golden Valley station area for the planned Bottineau light rail transit corridor is located at a nexus of bike trails and hiking trails connecting Theodore Wirth Parkway, Theodore Wirth Regional Park and Golf Course, Sochacki Park, and the Bassett Creek Regional Trail. This future station area overlaps parts of the city of Golden Valley and north Minneapolis, and brings many opportunities for active living.

A bus stop on Golden Valley Road near the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute provides access for employees and for people with injuries and disabilities who may be receiving services there. Courage Kenny, city of Golden Valley and Northside Residents Redevelopment Council were consulted on the scope and goals of the project.

What we learned

- The need for comfortable and safe walking and biking was identified as a health equity strategy by community members and stakeholders during station area planning.
- North Minneapolis residents travel Golden Valley Road to access the shopping center at Highway 100 for groceries and other amenities.
- At the Courage Kenny crossing, a Hennepin County pre-project study found that cars only stopped for pedestrians 30 percent of the time.

Demonstrating results

For the demonstration project, temporary safety improvements were installed at this bus stop pedestrian crossing including pavement markings and delineators, to evaluate possible long-term safety investments.

- In a survey of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute employees, 70 percent reported that cars were more likely to stop for people using the crosswalk after the improvements. Sixty percent reported they felt more comfortable crossing but there is still a need for cars to drive slower at this crossing.

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.
- Hennepin County Transportation staff observed the demonstration project resulted in meaningful improvements to pedestrian safety and a permanent installation of a concrete pedestrian refuge island was approved for 2019 construction.
- The Courage Kenny pedestrian crossing connects to the Bassett Creek Regional Trail. Bottineau Community Works included this trail in a 2018 study of infrastructure improvements in station areas and is providing 60 percent design concepts for the trail.

### Golden Valley Road station area community profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Half-mile station area</th>
<th>Minneapolis</th>
<th>Golden Valley</th>
<th>Hennepin County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2010)</td>
<td>2,351</td>
<td>382,578</td>
<td>20,371</td>
<td>1,152,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 18 years</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons over 65 years</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero car households</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in poverty</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life expectancy by zip code: 83 years; Hennepin County: 81 years. (retrieved 10/9/18 RWJF USABLEEP)

### Contact

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