Health equity in the Robbinsdale station area

The Robbinsdale station area for the planned Bottineau light rail transit line is located adjacent to a vibrant downtown business district where both businesses and residents have an appreciation for biking and walking. The need for bike parking near the planned Robbinsdale LRT station was identified as a priority by community members and local businesses during the county-led station area planning process. Hennepin County surveyed Robbinsdale residents, finding:

- Safe routes to downtown Robbinsdale, along with conveniently located bike racks were the top choices for what would make residents more likely to bike downtown.
- 40 percent of the residents surveyed reported that they ride their bike a few times per month for recreation and 32 percent ride a few times per month to business within downtown Robbinsdale.

This demonstration project followed a multi-pronged approach to encourage biking to the downtown business district:

- An on-street bike corral
- A unique community street design
- A bike repair clinic

**On-street bike rack**

Bikes and cars often compete for space on the street, especially in busy commercial areas. With the support of the popular biking destination, the Wicked Wort Brewing Company, an on-street bike rack was installed directly next to their business on Hubbard Avenue in 2017.

Over the winter the on-street bike rack was removed for snow plowing and Hennepin County staff presented to the Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce on participation results and Bike Friendly Communities. Then in 2018, the city of Robbinsdale worked with Metro Transit to install the bike rack in the Transit Center parking lot one block to the south on Hubbard Avenue.

A 3-D street art design with the Robbinsdale Bird Town theme, was painted under the bike rack by a local artist, Shawn McCann, to elevate the visibility of biking as a viable option downtown.

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**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.
Bike repair clinic

Venture North, a social enterprise project of Redeemer Center for Life, set up a bike repair clinic during the annual Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Daze. Located next to the bike rack in the Metro Transit parking lot, this free service provided 45 community members with:

- Bike safety tune-ups like inflating tires, fixing flat tires, tightening and oiling chains, etc.
- Bike repair lessons including how-to fix a flat
- Basic safe riding techniques

Bottineau Community Works Hubbard Avenue bike lane consideration

Hubbard Avenue bike boulevard concept was selected for 60 percent design in the Bottineau Community Works Infrastructure project. This concept will span from 42nd Avenue to 36th Avenue next to the station area building on the testing and surveys related to the on-street bike rack.

Robbinsdale station area plan community profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Half-mile station area</th>
<th>Robbinsdale</th>
<th>Hennepin County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>3,984</td>
<td>13,953</td>
<td>1,152,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 18 years</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons over 65 years</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minority</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero car households</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living in poverty</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Life expectancy at station zip code: 75 years; Hennepin County: 81 years. Retrieved 10/10/18 RWJF USALEEP

Contact

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