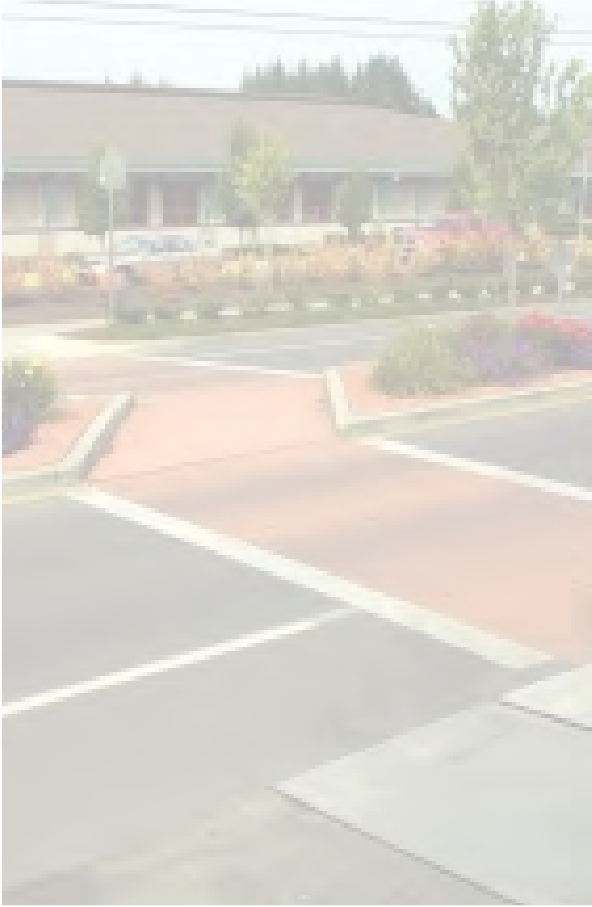


CORRIDOR VISION



CHAPTER 4

INTRODUCTION

As noted in Chapter 1, a great deal of previous planning has occurred in the Bottineau Corridor over the past 25 years, much of which has been a foundation for this study. However, conditions along the corridor and key stakeholders continue to change. Furthermore, the Bottineau Corridor is made up of multiple jurisdictions, including five cities, two park districts, two watershed management areas, the state's largest county, the regional government, and the transit authority. In addition, there are numerous other stakeholders, including residents, employers, employees, students, institutions, and visitors, to name but a few. With so many stakeholders, it is important to have a corridor vision that articulates shared goals in a common language and can serve as a guide for decision making.

When the Bottineau LRT is operational, it will be one corridor in a regional system of transit corridors. Therefore, it will be important to make sure that continued investment in the Bottineau Corridor not only builds upon the Corridor's strengths but also enhances its unique position in the regional market. The aligning of investments, public or private, can be best achieved with a clear, actionable corridor vision.

Although a corridor vision helps inform future land use planning in and around individual station areas, it is important to note that the corridor vision is NOT a vision for specific station areas. Additional research and visioning will still need to occur in future transit planning studies when alignments and station areas are fully ratified and approved. As a result, the corridor vision presented here should be considered a starting point and not an end point. In other words, the corridor vision should be flexible enough to be revised and improved as new and better information is collected and analyzed along the corridor and within station areas.

The Bottineau Corridor Vision (DRAFT)

The Bottineau Corridor is the premier growth corridor of northwest Hennepin County because people, neighborhoods, and communities of the corridor are connected to one another and to living-wage jobs, educational opportunities, and important destinations throughout the region via all types of transit. The diverse richness of existing neighborhoods and communities are celebrated, sustained, and enhanced through the renewal of buildings and businesses and the strategic preservation of community-identified assets. Employment centers and neighborhoods are inviting, safe places that are made up of a variety of housing types, services and amenities for all ages, incomes, household types, cultures, and abilities. Visitors are attracted to the corridor for its year-round parks, active living, inclusive places, and multicultural opportunities.

VISIONING PROCESS

The corridor vision was created through a multi-step process. The first step in the process was a visioning workshop held on November 14, 2012. The workshop included members of several existing Bottineau Corridor committees, including the Land Use Committee, the Advise, Review, Communicate Committee (ARCC), the Policy Advisory Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Committee. Also invited to the workshop were representatives of the Corridors of Opportunity Community Engagement Team and the community engagement grantees working along the Bottineau Corridor. Members of these existing committees and community groups represented a broad spectrum of stakeholders along the Corridor, including elected and appointed officials, city and agency staff, residents, community leaders, and businesses.

There were a total of 29 participants in the visioning workshop. Participants were led through a facilitated visioning exercise in which they were first asked to consider what similarities the Bottineau Corridor shared with other transit corridors in the region and then what was unique about the Bottineau Corridor. Finally, the participants were asked to write down what their vision would be for the corridor 25 years into the future should all planning and engagement efforts move forward as designed. Meeting notes from the workshop are included in Appendix D.

The consultant team then analyzed the 29 individual vision statements for common themes and synthesized them into a vision statement. The vision statement was then sent to the workshop participants approximately one week later in the form of an on-line survey in which participants were asked questions about the vision statement and prompted for comments. Nearly 90% of the workshop participants took the time to review the vision statement and respond via web survey.

A refined vision statement was then presented to the Bottineau Corridor Land Use Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee at one of their regularly scheduled meetings. A third draft of the vision statement was then presented to members of the Policy Advisory Committee via web survey for their input before inclusion in this report.

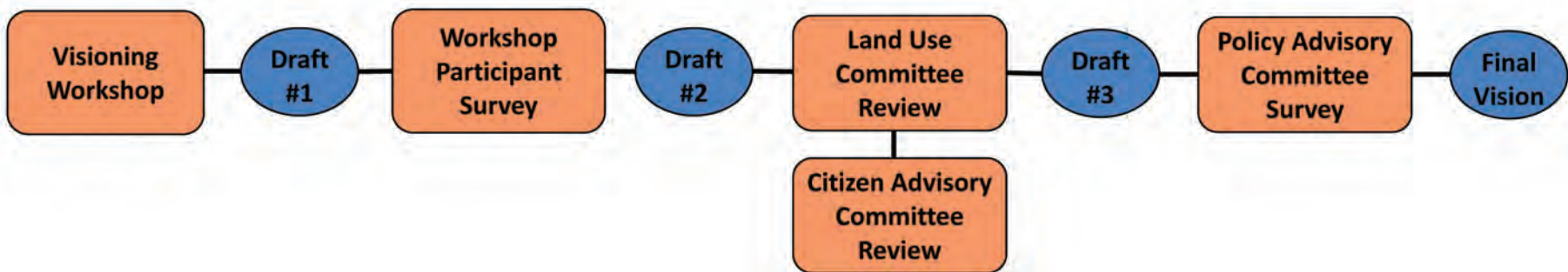


Figure 4.1 - Visioning Process Diagram

The Bottineau Corridor vision was created through a multi-step process with input from numerous stakeholders. Strategies for input included a workshop, web survey, and committee meetings.