

Grandview Webpage

December Update

Former Public Works Site

Planning for the redevelopment and re-use of the vacant site at 5146 Eden Avenue has begun. An exploration session on Dec. 4 kicked-off the three-month idea-gathering phase. This large-group event was well attended by more than 130 people. The session was led by the design consultants at [Confluence](#). Participants were given a brief history of the Grandview commercial district as well as the recent community planning processes. An aerial tour of the site was shown.

Three different interactive exercises were conducted to give each participant time to think about the future outcomes at the site and share with others at their small tables. The participants used descriptive words and wrote potential newspaper headlines to describe their goals for the site. Participants also identified strengths and weaknesses of the site. Ideas from each table were shared with the whole group.

The second half of the session focused on images of completed projects located throughout the country. Examples included both public and private buildings as well as large and small scale projects. Audience members were asked to 'score' each image using real-time touchpad devices. This input will help the design consultants understand the form and outcomes preferred for the site by the participants. With this background, the participants were then asked to identify opportunities and ideas for the site. These ideas were shared with the large group. The evening culminated with questions and answers from the audience. After the session concluded, staff and consultants discussed ideas one-on-one with participants.

A more complete summary of the Exploration Session [can be found here](#).

Additional Outreach for Public Works Site.

More ideas and suggestions are needed to shape this public/private project. If you and your neighbors have ideas to share, please contact us to schedule an Exploration Session. Sessions can be customized to be as brief as 15-minutes or up to 1-hour in length depending on the time available. Daytime and evening hours are available. Schedule an Exploration Session during the months of January and February by contacting Heather Branigin at 952-826-0403 or hbranigin@EdinaMN.gov.

An online forum on "Speak Up, Edina!" so anyone can contribute ideas and suggestions for this project. Visit www.SpeakUpEdina.org to submit your ideas and suggestions.

School District Bus Garage

School District 273 continues to explore facility needs throughout Edina, including the aging bus shed and service garage at 5220 Eden Ave. A \$125 million dollar referendum is anticipated to be put in front of voters in May 2015. This month, school administrators presented a Concept Plan that would include improvements to all school buildings and several athletic fields. The Concept Plan also includes funding for two projects that may influence activity in the Grandview District and Former Public Works Site:

- An up-to-date transportation facility (i.e. larger bus garage) to allow the district to meet the needs of the next generation of Edina schoolchildren. The cost of the new facility would be offset by the sale of the existing site.
- A new 70,000-square-foot Multi-Purpose Activity Center (EMAC) that could include three to five gymnasiums, multiple large group activity spaces, an indoor walking track and fitness center. While the Activity Center would be primarily intended for students, it is anticipated to be available for community-based program needs including evening and weekend use by community groups and organizations. Estimated cost is \$25 million to \$30 million.

The School Board is anticipated to consider this Concept Plan and consider calling for a special election (i.e. referendum) at its January 2015 meeting. A summary of the proposed referendum can be found here: <http://www.edinaschools.org/domain/973>

A video overview of the preliminary Concept Plan can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0prfXtXwIY&feature=youtu.be>. The discussion of the Activity Center and Bus Garage occurs from 30:33 to 35:15.

Highway 100 "Lid"

The concept of creating green space above metro-area highways continues to slowly build traction among various governmental agencies and groups. See a recent article from the *Star Tribune* here: <http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/283528111.html>

The City's October 2014 request to Hennepin County TOD fund for a \$100,000 grant to help study this concept in the Grandview district was not selected. Staff will continue to explore ways to give this concept additional study in 2015.