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Ramsey County White Bear Avenue Corridor Study



White Bear Ave Corridor Study



Project Overview

Ramsey County is developing a community-driven vision for street improvements along White Bear Avenue between Suburban Avenue and Maryland Avenue in Saint Paul.

This corridor study will establish a community-driven vision for White Bear Avenue that improves safety, accessibility, and mobility for all users while aligning with planned transit investments, including the H Line and Bronze Line.

Through community engagement and technical analysis, the study will identify future corridor improvements and implementation strategies that support a safer, more connected, and more accessible White Bear Avenue.

The study will result in a preliminary corridor design that reflects community priorities and long-term transportation goals. This concept will provide the foundation for future project development, with Ramsey County anticipated to advance the corridor into final design and begin construction in 2029.

Engagement Approach

Provide Opportunities to Collaborate

We will prioritize engagement strategies that allow the community to meaningfully provide input which can shape corridor design.

Engage and Ensure a Representative Cross-Section of the Community

We will collect optional demographic information to help adjust engagement strategies and tools to reach a representative cross-section of the community.

Build Shared Understanding

We will listen, communicate clearly and keep the community engaged throughout the project.

Reduce Barriers to Engage with Creative Engagement and Shared Understanding

We will use creative engagement materials and methods to excite, motivate and effectively communicate with the community.

Timeline



Contact Us

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Learn More



Visit the study website to learn more and sign up for email updates:
ramseycountymn.gov/WhiteBearAveStudy

Demographic Questions

By answering who we are reaching through engagement, we can better adjust our approach to reach a broader audience. The information below remains anonymous.

1

What is your relationship to White Bear Avenue?

Live on or close by

Work on or close by

Visit for recreation, entertainment or cultural gatherings

Visit for shopping, goods, or services

Travel through this area

Other

2

What is your gender identity?

Female

Male

Non-binary

Other / Prefer not to say

3

What is your zip code?

55106

55119

Other

4

How would you describe your race and/or ethnicity?

American Indian; Native American

African American; African; Black

Mixed Race / Ethnicity

White/ Caucasian

Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian

Asian/Pacific American; Asian/Pacific Islander

Latino/a/x; Hispanic

Other

5

How did you hear about the study?

Postcard

Email

Project Flyer

Friends / Family

Neighborhood Group / Community Organization

Another Event

Other

"Moving On White Bear Avenue" Mad Lib

Below is a fill-in-the-blank sentence about White Bear Avenue. Use the cut-out words provided to tell your White Bear Avenue story. Can't find a word you need? Write in the word you feel fits best in the sentence!

Prompt: When I _____ on White Bear Avenue to get to _____ it makes me feel _____.
(transportation mode) *(location)* *(emotion)*

Example: When I walk on White Bear Avenue to get to school it makes me feel energized.

Your turn:

When I _____ on White Bear Avenue to get to _____ it makes me feel _____.

When I _____ on White Bear Avenue to get to _____ it makes me feel _____.

When I _____ on White Bear Avenue to get to _____ it makes me feel _____.

When I _____ on White Bear Avenue to get to _____ it makes me feel _____.

When I _____ on White Bear Avenue to get to _____ it makes me feel _____.

"Experiencing White Bear Avenue" Mad Lib

Below is a fill-in-the-blank sentence about White Bear Avenue. Use the cut-out words provided to tell your White Bear Avenue story. Can't find a word you need? Write in the word you feel fits best in the sentence!

Prompt: I think it would be good for the neighborhood if _____ could _____ on White Bear Avenue.
(group) *(action)*

Example: I think it would be good for the neighborhood if restaurants could have outdoor dining on White Bear Avenue.

Your turn:

I think it would be good for the neighborhood if _____ could _____ on White Bear Avenue.

I think it would be good for the neighborhood if _____ could _____ on White Bear Avenue.

I think it would be good for the neighborhood if _____ could _____ on White Bear Avenue.

I think it would be good for the neighborhood if _____ could _____ on White Bear Avenue.

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Planned Area Improvements

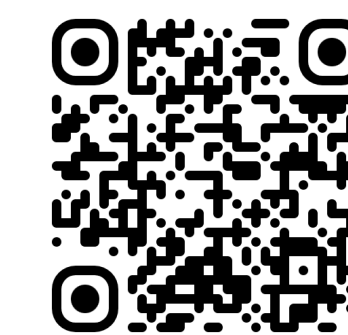
In addition to the White Bear Avenue Corridor Study, there are other planned improvements on and near White Bear Avenue in the coming years. Together, these projects will improve safety and access for all users throughout the neighborhood for years to come.

This map shows active and upcoming projects in the area, as well as the agency which is leading the effort.

H Line

Metro Transit Project:

2025-2026 Planning
2026-2027 Engineering
2028-2029 Construction



Bronze Line

Metro Transit Project:

2026-2029 Design Advancement
2026-2027 Environmental
2029-2032 Construction



T District Amendment Areas

City of Saint Paul:

The City of Saint Paul is developing updates to the land use and zoning plans for the White Bear Avenue and Maryland Avenue area ahead of future transit improvements.

2026-2027 Staff Develops & Advances Recommendations



Existing Conditions: Traffic & Speeds

Traffic Analysis

Data on White Bear Avenue traffic patterns points to key areas for safety improvements.

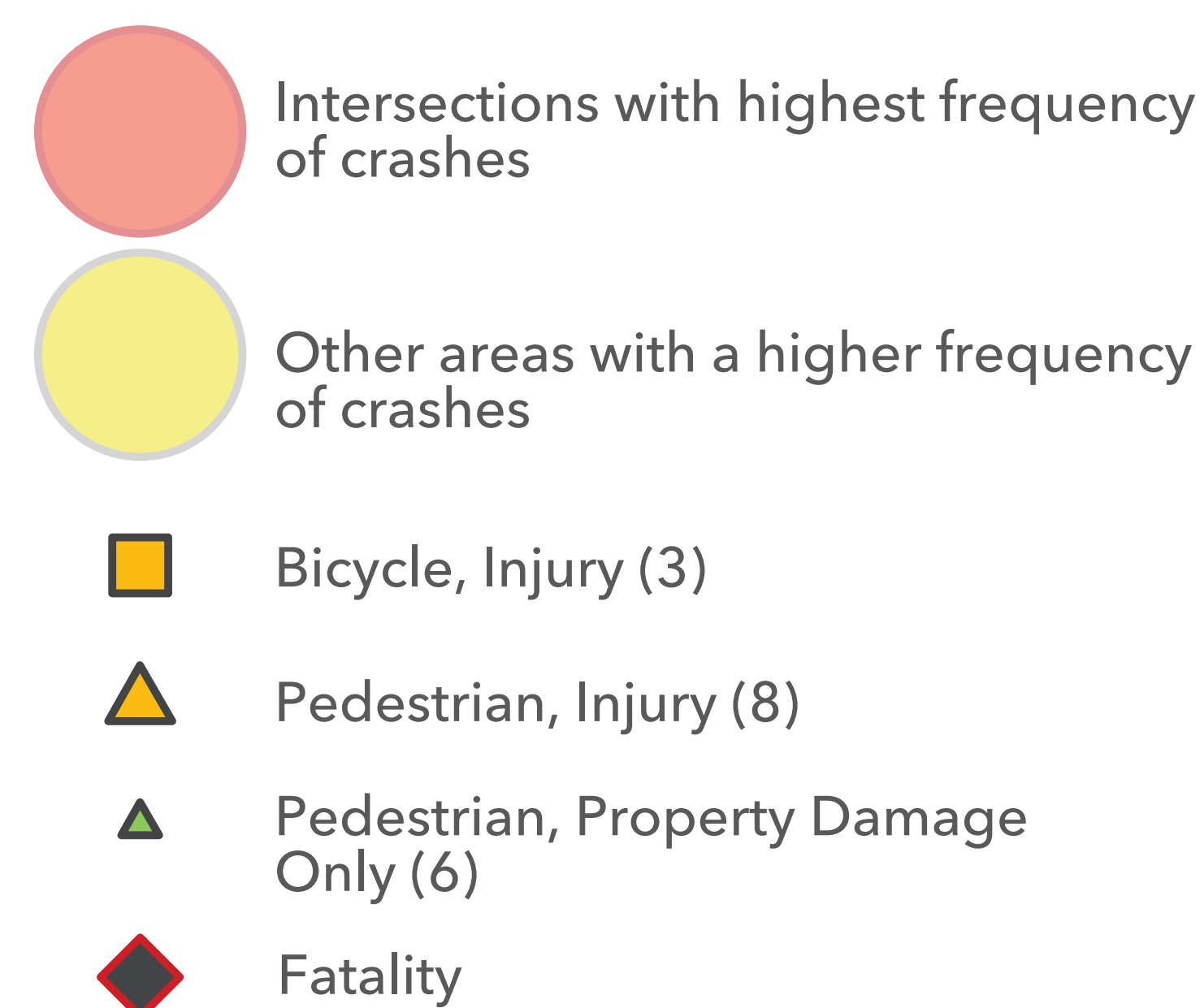
- At the busiest point of White Bear Ave, south of Old Hudson Rd, 21,600 cars pass through per day on average.
- The corridor experiences the most traffic during the evening weekday peak hour (4:15-5:15pm).
- There is congestion around the I-94 interchange as it interacts with White Bear Avenue.
- There have been 17 reported crashes involving people walking and biking from 2021-2025.
- Most crashes have occurred at:
 - Minnehaha Avenue (42)
 - Maryland Avenue (41)
 - 7th Street (38)
 - Old Hudson Road (36)

Traffic counts were collected in May 2026 for 17 hours (5 a.m. - 10 p.m.) at 11 intersections on a Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. Speeds were collected across 5/13/26 - 5/19/26 at York Avenue and 4th Street. Crash data includes all reported crashes between 2021-2025.

Speed Data Analysis

One challenge with the design of White Bear Avenue today is that it allows people to drive too fast, which creates a high risk for crashes.

- At York Avenue, 58% of drivers exceeded the speed limit (30 miles per hour)
- At 4th Street, 84-93% of drivers exceeded the speed limit (30 miles per hour)



Corridor Context

The White Bear Avenue Corridor Study builds on years of existing community planning and local policy.

Relevant Policies

See how past policy informs this study.

Ramsey County's All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan, 2025

Ramsey County policy supports projects to improve roadway safety, prioritize transit-supportive investments, and enhance network connectivity, equity, and accessibility.

Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, 2024

The city's plan identifies White Bear Avenue from Suburban to Wilson as a future bikeway; County's plan shows White Bear Avenue from Suburban to Old Hudson Road as a future bikeway.

The City of Saint Paul Transportation Safety Action Plan, 2024

White Bear Avenue has been identified as one of the high-injury network (HIN) corridors.

4 to 3 Conversion Plan, 2020

White Bear Avenue was identified as one of the candidate corridors for a 4 to 3 lane conversion and recommended for further study to better evaluate existing and future needs.

The Harding High School and Nokomis Montessori Safe Routes to School Plan, 2023

White Bear Avenue is identified as a major barrier for students and the plan recommends improvements to make crossings safer and reduce vehicle speeds.

Gold Line Station Area Plans, 2015 (amended 2019)

The plan identifies White Bear Avenue as an auto-oriented, commercial corridor with barriers to walking and biking, particularly near the I-94 interchange.

Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan, 2019

White Bear Avenue is identified as a high-volume arterial corridor where many of the plan's priority safety treatments apply.

Saint Paul District 1 Community Plan, 2004

White Bear Avenue is identified as a key commercial and transportation corridor, and continues to support the vision and goals from the White Bear Avenue Small Area Plan.

Greater East Side (District 2) Plan, 2009

Identified as a primary business corridor and redevelopment focus areas within District 2 with multiple recommendations for corridor transportation improvement.

The White Bear Avenue Small Area Plan, 2001

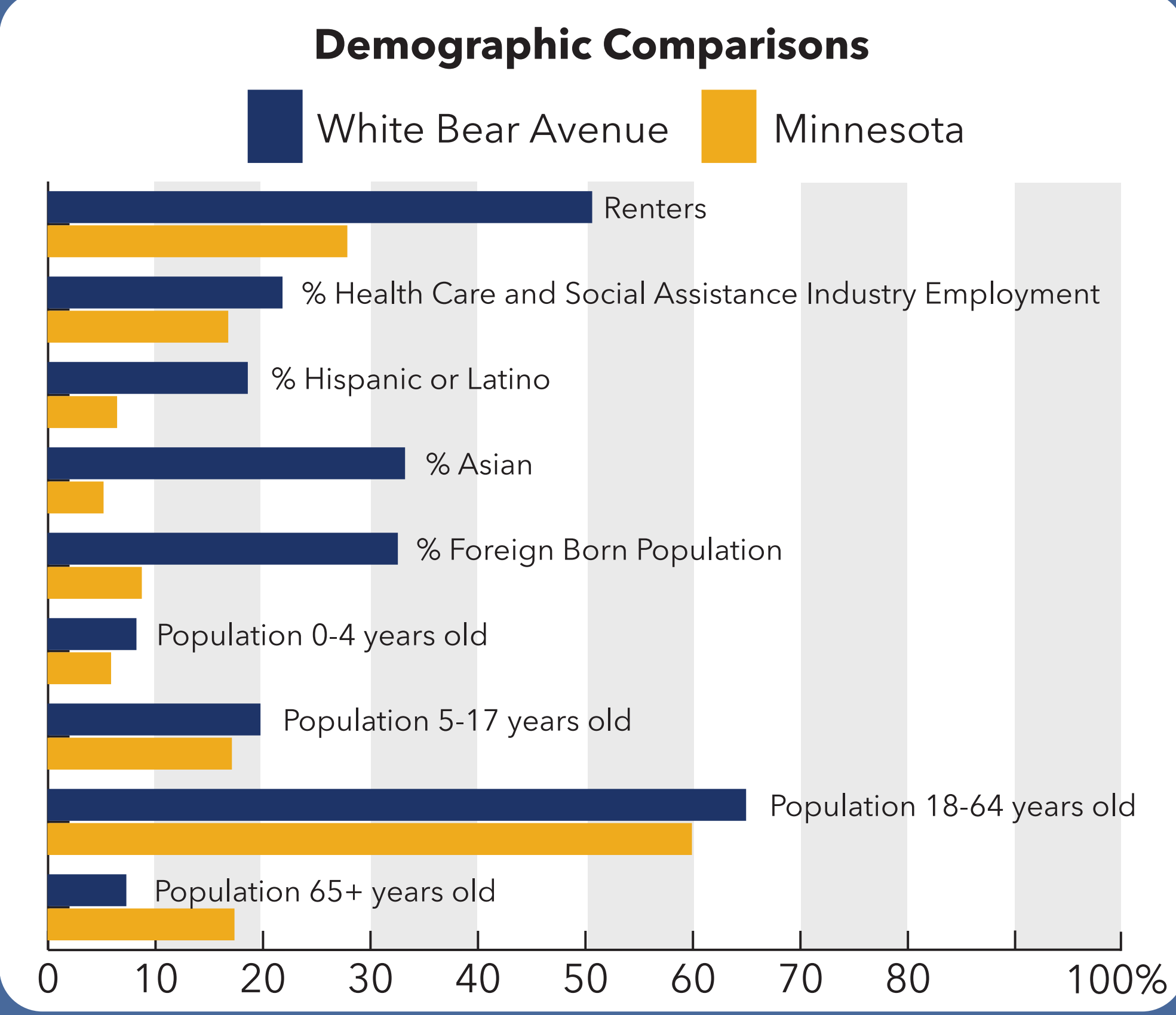
Establishes a long-term vision for improving White Bear Avenue between I-94 and Larpenteur Avenue.

Ramsey County Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan, 2025

The County's plan shows White Bear Avenue from Suburban to Old Hudson Road as a future bikeway.

Community Context

White Bear Avenue is a primary commercial and residential corridor in the East Side of Saint Paul. It serves as a key connection to businesses, schools, parks and other important community destinations. This study seeks to reflect the unique character and community identity of the East Side.



How could White Bear Avenue reflect the East Side community?