New Recreational Bridge Over Mississippi River

Feasibility Study and Concept Design
Location

Located in Above the Falls Regional Park.

Aligned with the Great Northern Greenway.
Why Explore a New Bridge

• Been in plans for at least 25 years. Noted in MPRB, City, County plans.
• Millions of dollars already spent along corridor already.
• Connect Northside residents to the River!
• BNSF has expressed no desire for a trail on their bridge. Planning and negotiations may take several years or more.
• Existing BNSF bridge is 140 years old. Requires major retrofitting and safety measures (train and trail on same bridge).
• Non-vehicular means less stress. Lowry, Broadway, Plymouth have fast-moving vehicles that contribute to higher stress levels and less healthy air quality.
• New bridge will be specifically designed for humans.
• Being led by the MPRB, and a landscape architect, it allows for a river crossing more aligned with the characteristics of a park, not just a transportation conduit.
• Makes a 5-mile riverfront trail loop when coupled with regional trails and the Stone Arch Bridge, completely separate from traffic.
The Project Basics

The project will:

1. **By the end of November:**
   Determine feasibility of a new non-vehicular bridge over the Mississippi River, aligned with the Great Northern Greenway.

2. **By Mid 2024:**
   Develop a concept plan for the new bridge and its connections to existing and planning bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
The Design Team

West 8 – Philadelphia
• Project lead
• Landscape architecture
• Creativity
• Understands designing for community

sbp – New York City
• Bridge architecture
• Structural engineering
• Ability to match uniqueness to budget

Barr Engineering – Twin Cities
• Permitting and geotechnical
• River knowledge

TC^2 – Twin Cities
• Community engagement
• Developing connections

Project Budget: $300,000
## Schedule

**Task 1: Feasibility**  
Review and Summary Report, Anticipated Duration 2-3 months

**Task 2: Schematic Design, Anticipated Duration 3 months**

**Task 3: Concept Refinement, Anticipated Duration 4 weeks**

**Task 4: Engagement Support, Ongoing**

About a 30-week project

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*West 8 Led* is responsible for the feasibility review and summary report with an anticipated duration of 2-3 months. The project is expected to span about 30 weeks.
Agency Engagement

The design team will be talking with several agencies and stakeholders:

- Minneapolis Parks Foundation
- Hennepin County
- City of Minneapolis
- Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
- BNSF Railways
- Continental Cement Company
- Aggregate Industries
- National Park Service
- US Coast Guard
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- MN DNR
- MN SHPO
- MPCA
- Other neighboring businesses
Community Engagement

Groups we’ve reached out to so far:

- Hawthorn Neighborhood Council
- Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
- Jordan Area Community Council
- Sheridan Neighborhood Organization
- Bottineau Neighborhood Association
- Great Northern Greenway Task Force

Who else should we be talking to?
Are there any events or gatherings we should attend?

Take the Visioning Survey:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/mississippibridge
Project Contacts

MPRB Project Manager
Tyler Pederson tpederson@minneapolisparks.org

TC^2 Project Manager
Trey Joiner tjoiner@transportationcollaborative.com

Project Webpage:
www.minneapolisparks.org/MississippiBridge