Above the Falls Feasibility
engagement summary - fall 2023

What engagement has occurred?

The idea of a connection over the Mississippi River has been in discussion for at least 25 years, and has been noted in Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County plans. A proposed bridge would be in the Above the Falls Regional Park and look to provide greater and more equitable connectivity to regional trails, amenities, open space, and retail corridors.

The success of the Above the Falls Feasibility Study is highly dependent on integrating the community’s voice in the process. Early engagement focused on Community Visioning. During this phase, the community and stakeholders were introduced to the project, identified critical community themes, and discussed their vision and priorities for the non-vehicular bridge.

Five Public Events
October 5th, 9th, 10th, & November 27th, 2023

Online Survey
Online
September - November

Intercept Survey
In-person
October

Goals

1. Make it comfortable for people walking, biking, and rolling
2. Create spaces for people to gather
3. Celebrate the history and culture of communities on both sides of the river
4. Promote connections to the environment and river
5. Consider the impact of past city planning decisions and environmental injustices

“Connecting Northeast and North Minneapolis would be a transformational walking and biking connection.”

“An artful bridge that is safe, accessible to all, and merges the history of the area with the natural environment.”

“Would love to see this be a start to rectify the wrongs of I-94 cutting off north side from the river.”
Who have we heard from?

- 245 survey responses
- 62% of respondents live within the nearby project area
- 79% of survey respondents identify as White or Caucasian

What are your priorities the design team should consider for the site?

- Environment
- Art
- Gathering
- Accessibility
- Biking
- Walking

How would you like to engage with your community?

- Pop Up
- Community Events
- Open Houses
- Site Tours
- Other

What neighborhood groups or stakeholders should we be talking with?

- Active Transportation
- Neighborhood Associations
- Local Businesses
- Local Schools
- Artists and Art Orgs
- Residents
- Other
The project team conducted two days of brief intercept surveys with people near the site to ask what their vision for the bridge would look like. The team met a number of walkers and bikers using the bridge during the morning and afternoon, feedback from those surveys are summarized below.

41 survey responses

What is your vision for the bridge?

- Walking
- Biking
- Connection
- Art
- Safety
- Gathering
- Other

“Any connection between parts of the city that have been walled off from others is a step in the right direction.”

“It would be good to see a bridge that was in harmony with the environment.”

“High visibility, easy to find and use, iconic, and a place to stop and enjoy the river.”

“Accessible, walkable, bikeable, rollable.”

“Music, food vendors, kids activities, learning and river tours.”

Contact and More Info

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