



Minnesota Walks: Looking through a Health Equity Lens

Minnesota Public Health Association

2016 Annual Conference

May 25, 2016

Blue Earth County

Population 64,013

Mankato 39,309

2010 census



Mankato

Mankato-North Mankato metropolitan area had a combined population of 94,149. *(2010 census)*

2008 Designated a Metropolitan Statistical Area

2013 Established the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO)



Policy Strategies

May 2008 Adopted a **Land Use Plan**, which included a focus on promotion and development of pedestrian corridors and connections

May 2013 Completed a **Safe Routes to School Plan** for six elementary schools

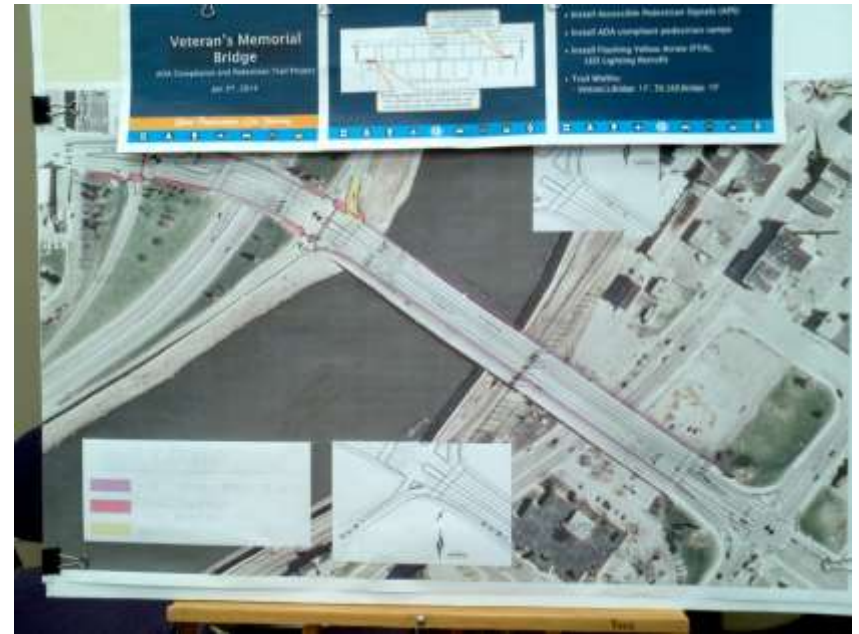
April 2015 Adopted a **Complete Streets Plan & Policy**



Community Engagement Approach

February 2015
Complete Streets
Plan & Policy
Open House





Complete Streets and Connectivity Open House

We need your input.

Thursday, 2.26.15
5:30-7:30 p.m.

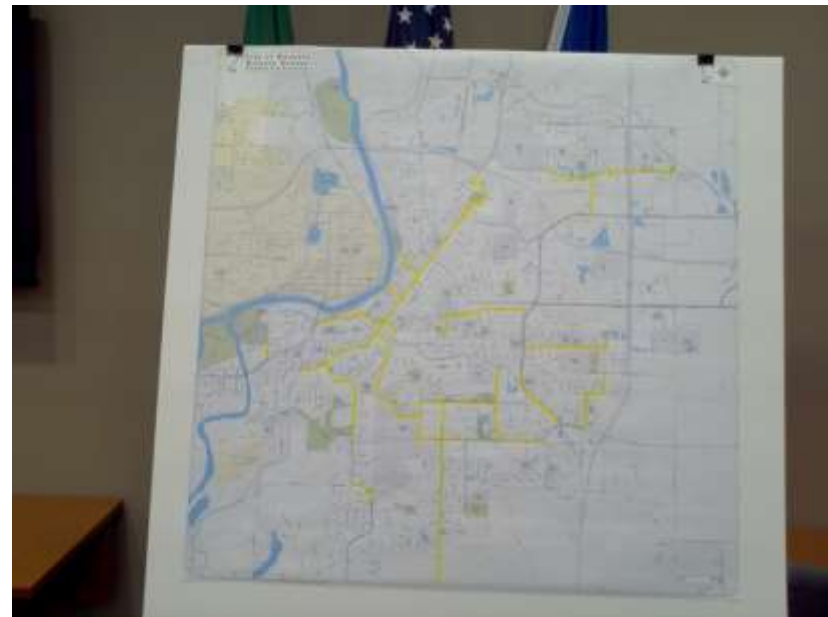
The City Center Partnership, Mankato's downtown organization, and the City of Mankato are seeking your input to improve City Center infrastructure and accessibility for all modes of travel (i.e. vehicular, pedestrian, public transportation and biking).

JOIN US!

The Complete Streets and Connectivity Open House will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26 in the Mankato Room of the Intergovernmental Center. A brief overview of each initiative will begin at 6:00 p.m., after which you will be encouraged to offer your feedback at individual stations throughout the room until 7:30 p.m.

citycenter
Mankato's Downtown Organization

The City Center Partnership is a community organization working to support economic and community revitalization in City Center, Mankato.



Goals

- Walking is important
- Walking should be easier
- It is harder for some people to walk
- Minnesota is on track to improve walking

Making healthy easier.

Process Strategies

Bike & Pedestrian Counts



Project Strategy: Monks Avenue

January 2015 City Calendar:

“Monks Avenue Project Public Hearing”

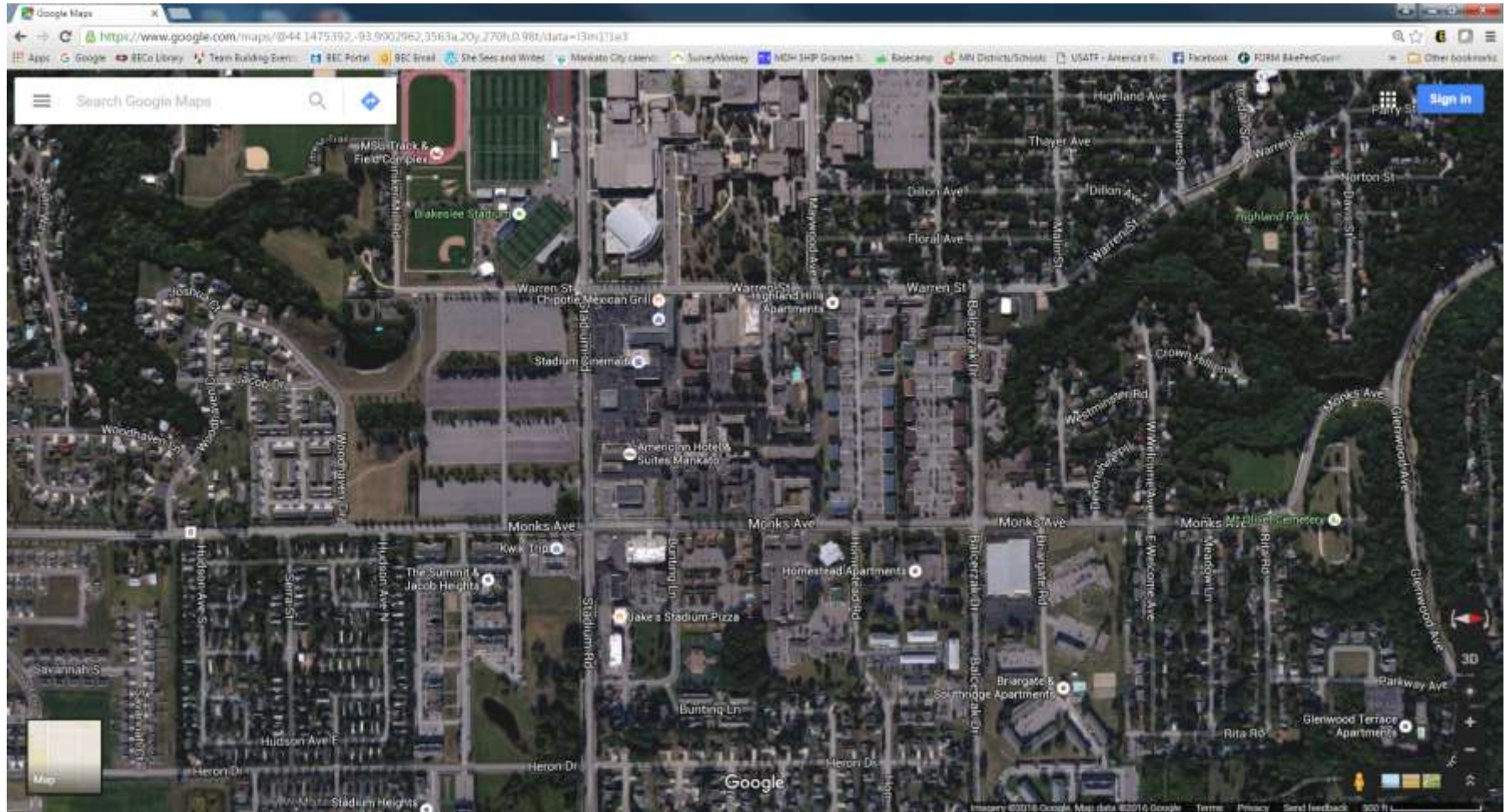
- I utilize Monks Avenue daily and I have some concerns
- What is the Monks Avenue Project?
- I missed this public hearing; how could I avoid that in the future?
- If I have input, how can I submit it?

Project Strategy: Monks Avenue

Peaked our interest because:

- Surrounded by student housing next to MN State University, Mankato
- The growing college-age population living in close proximity to campus is more likely to actively commute and also represents some of our low-income population
- Already slated for construction!!

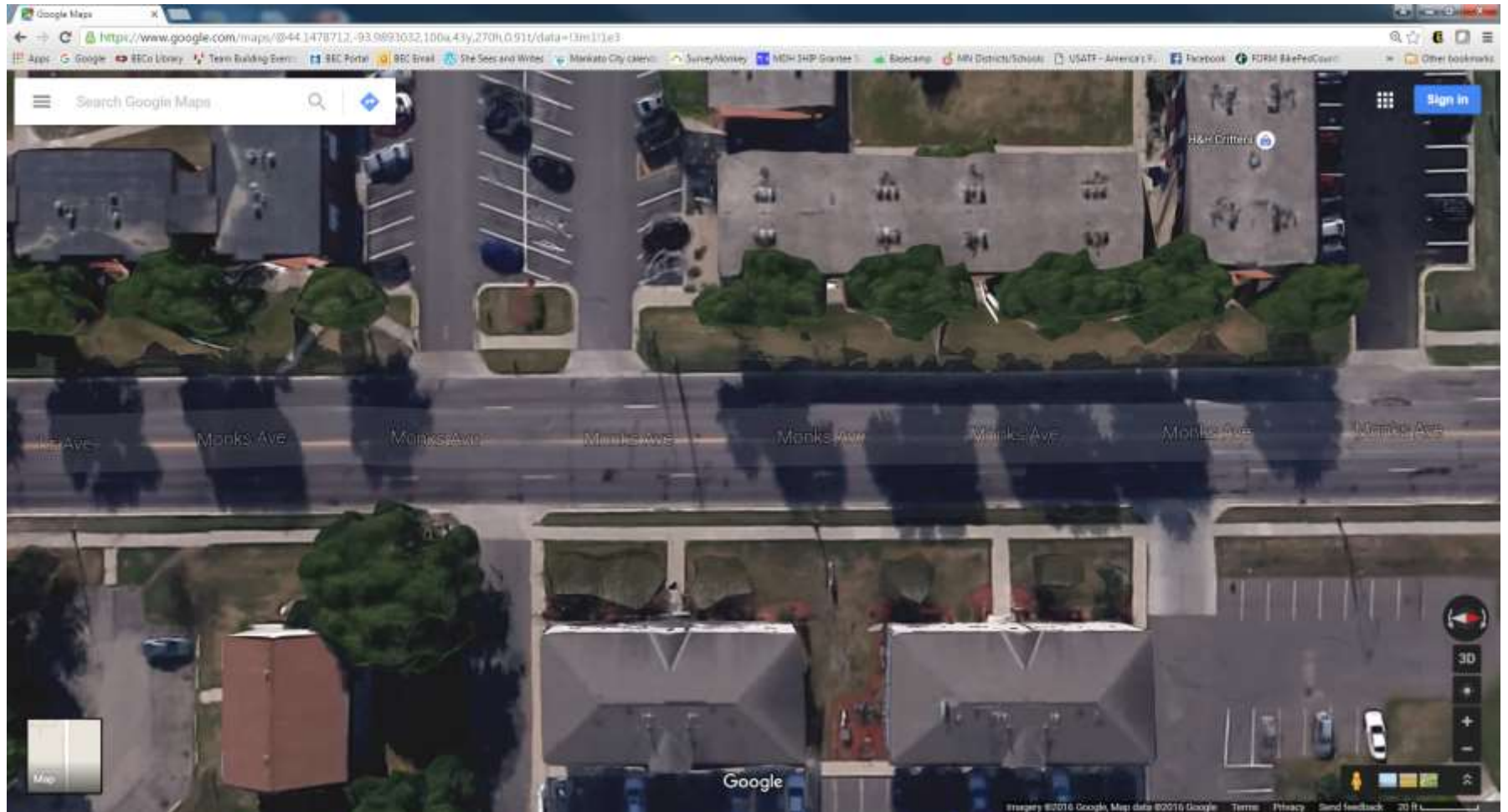
Project Strategy: Monks Avenue



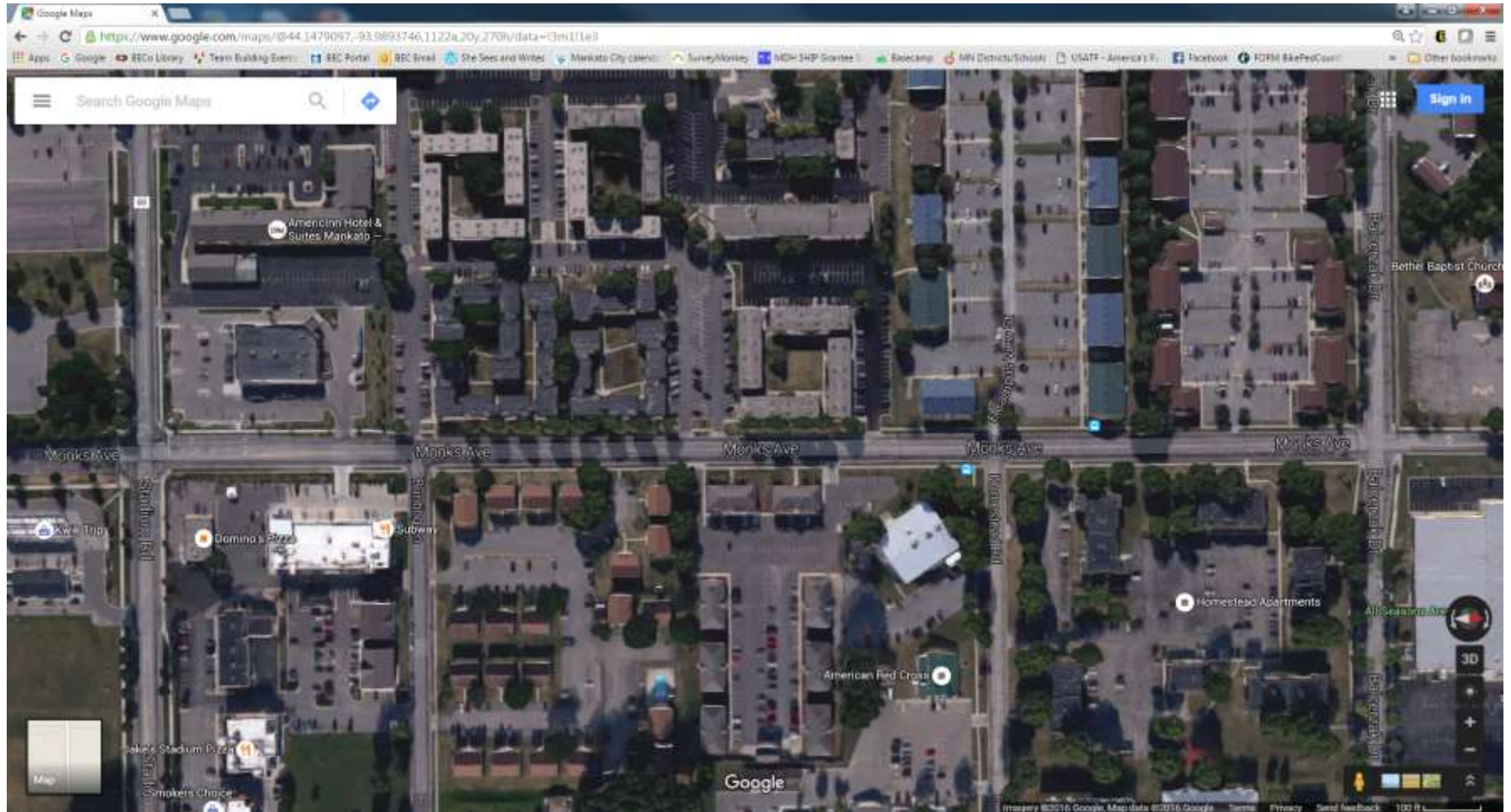
Project Strategy: Monks Avenue

- Requested project details from MAPO:
 - Utility work to be completed
 - 4 lane to 3 lane road diet planned
 - Pedestrian connectivity improved through complete sidewalks
 - Bike lanes to be installed
- Property owners along the construction route were notified of the Public Hearing

Project Strategy: Monks Avenue



Project Strategy: Monks Avenue



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Project Strategy: Monks Avenue

- Contacted the Assistant City Engineer
 - Applauded the project goals
 - Expressed “Design for All” concerns regarding pedestrian traffic crossing Monks Avenue
 - Offered to collect data (ped counts) if they would consider adding mid-block crosswalks
 - Connected with the property manager of the apartments to alert them to our efforts and solicit input

Project Strategy: Monks Avenue



Project Strategy: Monks Avenue

Data collected:

- Six mornings during January 2015
 - Temps ranged 13 - 41
- Total of 25.5 hours
- 1,915 pedestrians crossing mid-block
- Average 75 crossings per hour
- 70% of crossings westbound (toward campus)

Requested consideration of at least 1 mid-block crossing

Project Strategy: Monks Avenue

Result:

- 3 mid-block crosswalks were engineered into the construction project
- Also included pedestrian signage

Measuring Success



Improved Safety
Improved Accessibility

More walking
Healthier people



Partnership Strategies





Thoughts? Questions?

Kristen Friedrichs, MA

507.304.4411

Kristen.Friedrichs@BlueEarthCountyMN.gov

Blue Earth County Public Health

Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

www.BlueEarthCountyMN.gov/bewell