Rondo Land Bridge: What we’ve done and where we are going.

What is a land bridge?
Another example...
...same place, different view.
Another example...
...and another...
...and another.
Rondo Land Bridge:
How did we get to this point?
FSI’s Better Bridges for Stronger Communities
Better Bridges Bash
Victoria Street Bridge Party
Workshops
Results:
Land bridge a popular concept
Rondo Commemorative Plaza
The Bridges of Rondo

LEXINGTON PARKWAY
DIGNITY OF WORK

VICTORIA STREET
IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

DALE STREET
HOPE

WESTERN AVENUE
HOME OWNERSHIP

CHATSWORTH STREET
IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

GROTTO STREET
SOCIAL INTERACTION

MACKUBIN STREET
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

MARION STREET
RESPECT FOR SELF

RONDO
8 CORE VALUES
A Rondo Land Bridge
Rachel Burrand concept (excerpt)
Workshop recommendation (FSI, SPRC)
More formal and community-informed concept still to be determined

- Location
- Size
- Purposes / needs served
- Amenities
- Operations / financial structure
- Etc..
Key recent developments
Apology of Mayor Coleman and Commissioner Zelle in July 2015
Highways ruined Black communities, says Transportation chief

By Sarafina Wright
Contributing Writer

(Special from Washington Informer) — U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently said that the country's highway system had been purposely placed through Black neighborhoods, systematically destroying those communities and causing displacement.

During a lecture at the Center for American Progress recently, Foxx explained such decisions can be corrected by "connecting people to opportunities."

"I'd like to talk with you today about how transportation can help or hurt places," Foxx said. "And how the growing gaps between the wealthy, the poor, and the middle class have been exacerbated by our transportation system."

"Nothing in our built environment is accidental," he said. "To understand this point, we need to step back and understand how most things in our built environment are the product of intentional design."

Foxx explained that in the 1950s, President Dwight D. Eisenhower launched the nation's interstate highway program. The federal government funded up to 90 percent of project costs.

It started with eight miles in the middle of Kansas, eventually growing to "one of the most expansive and impressive road networks that the world has ever seen."

"As we all know, it has served as an engine for our economy for decades," Foxx said. "The highways were designed to get people from rural areas and suburbs into urban cores as fast as possible. Inevitably, the highways had to run through someone's backyard."

Foxx said this prompted protests known as "highway revolt" all over the country — no one wanted these thoroughfares running through their neighborhood, he said.

"We now know — overwhelmingly — that our urban freeways were routed through low-income neighborhoods," he said. "Instead of connecting us to.
US DOT proposed 2017 Budget
Visits from Dr. Mindy Fullilove

Solidarity
Visit from Liz Ogbru
US DOT “Every Place Counts Design Challenge” Workshop

- Occurs in July 2016
- Rondo Land Bridge a central topic
Research done Spring – Fall 2016
Looked specifically at three sites in metro region
Rondo is one
ULI TAP visits site: Mr. Giles and Mr. Anderson coordinate community welcome
Group representing Rondo Land Bridge concept is interviewed
  Mr. Anderson, Ms. Montgomery, Mr. Nix, Ms. Homans, and Mr. Christiansen

Announcement of Report: October 14, 2016
Release of ULI Report is the same day as the Rondo Commemorative Plaza groundbreaking:

October 14, 2016
Interest in freeways/highways is apparent in the larger culture.

Relation to public concerns about:

- racial justice
- equitable city/neighborhood development
- public health
- public space
- multi-modal connectivity
- greenspace
- economic development without gentrification

Highways are layered with multiple meanings and consequences.
National interest in changes to highways to address those multiple issues.
Example: Pittsburgh I-579 Cap
And again, Seattle.

Lid The I-5 Trench Downtown And Consider Building Housing Too

By Doug Trumm @dmtrumm On December 11, 2015
Rondo Land Bridge: What we are doing now

- Grant writing / fundraising
- Neighborhood small area plans
- City of Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan
- Support from City Council: Resolution and working with Councilmember Thao
- Working with MNDOT
- Working with USDOT
- Working with City of Saint Paul PED
- Continuing community conversations and education
Rondo Land Bridge:
What we are doing right now, con’t:

- Forming an organization: ReConnectRondo
- Visiting 2 – 3 sites nationally to meet with organizations who have been successful or are working on a similar project now
- Planning a RLB Party and Convening for Spring 2017
- Achieve consensus regarding community needs/benefits/concerns
- Aiming for an inclusive community process from the beginning
- Moving toward a specific design
Can we build a Rondo Land Bridge that will meet the needs of community members, the city and the region?
Your questions, suggestions, advice are always welcome.
Thank you!