

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

Presented to Saint Paul Planning Commission by  
Marvin Anderson, Lars Christiansen, and Melvin Giles.  
September 30, 2016

# 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

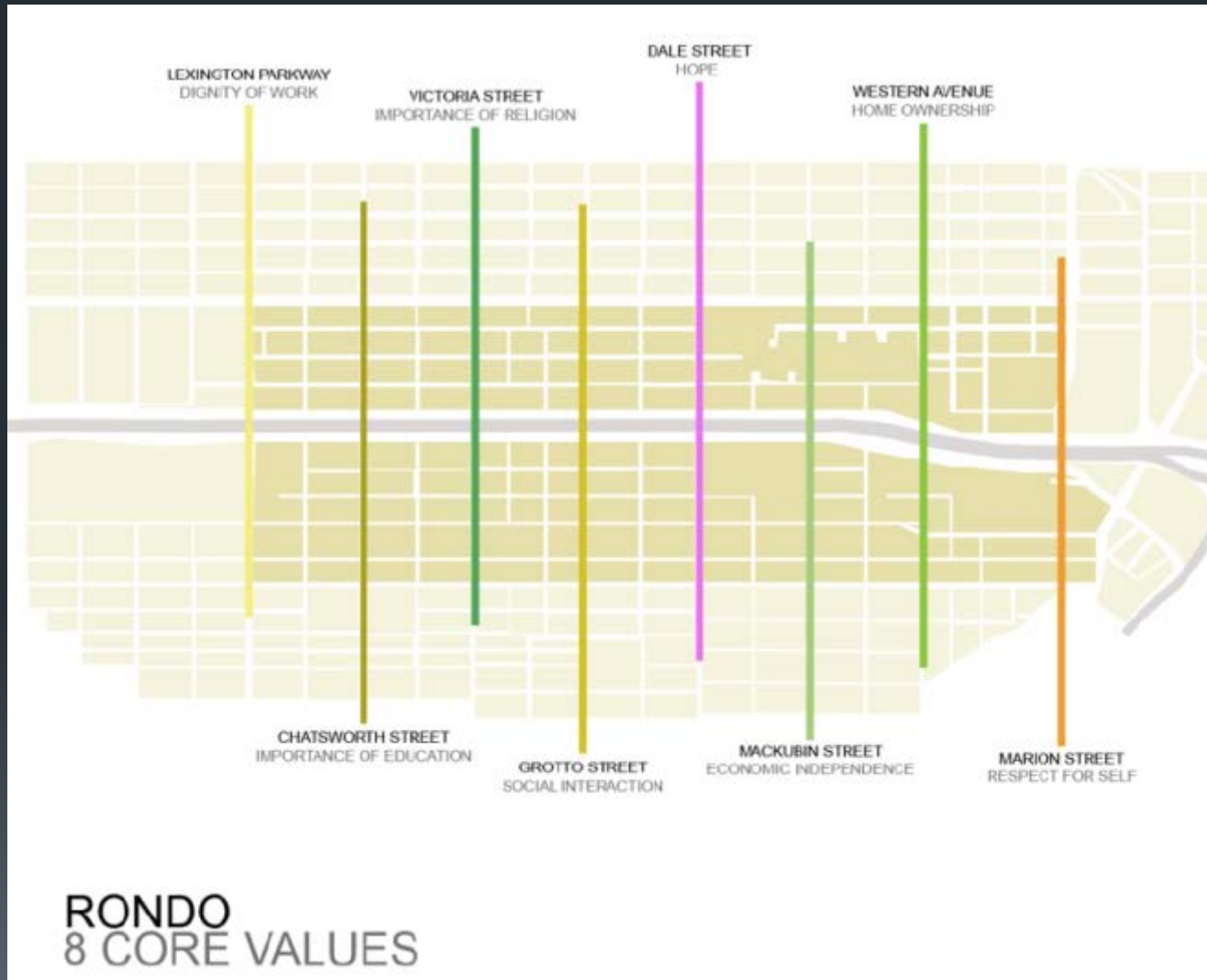


# Rondo Commemorative Plaza





# The Bridges of Rondo



# Dale Street Bridge



# A Rondo Land Bridge

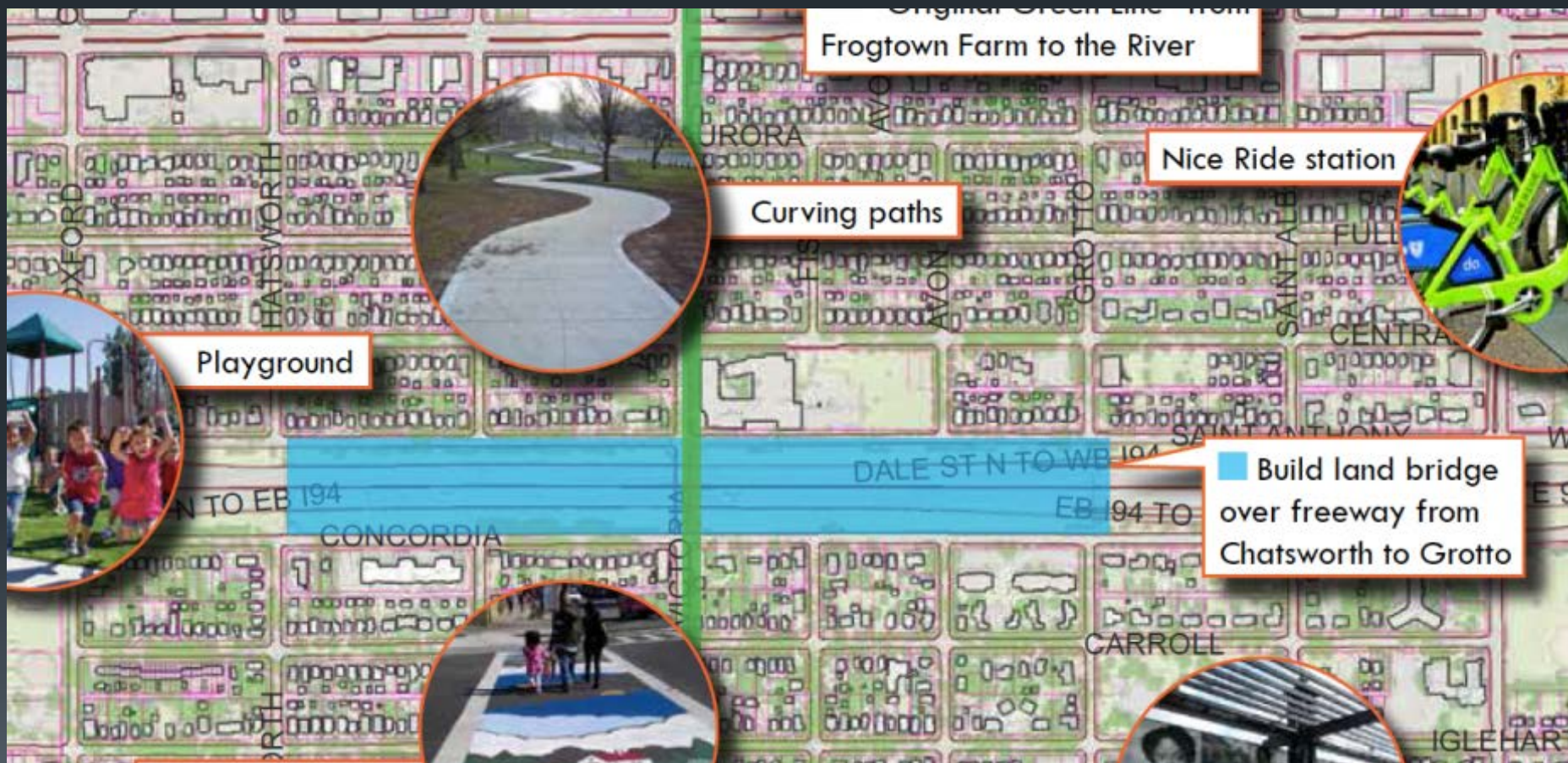




# Rachel Burrand concept (excerpt)



# 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



# US DOT Secretary Foxx

## Highways ruined Black communities, says Transportation chief

11th April 2016 · 0 Comments

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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."



FOXX

"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."

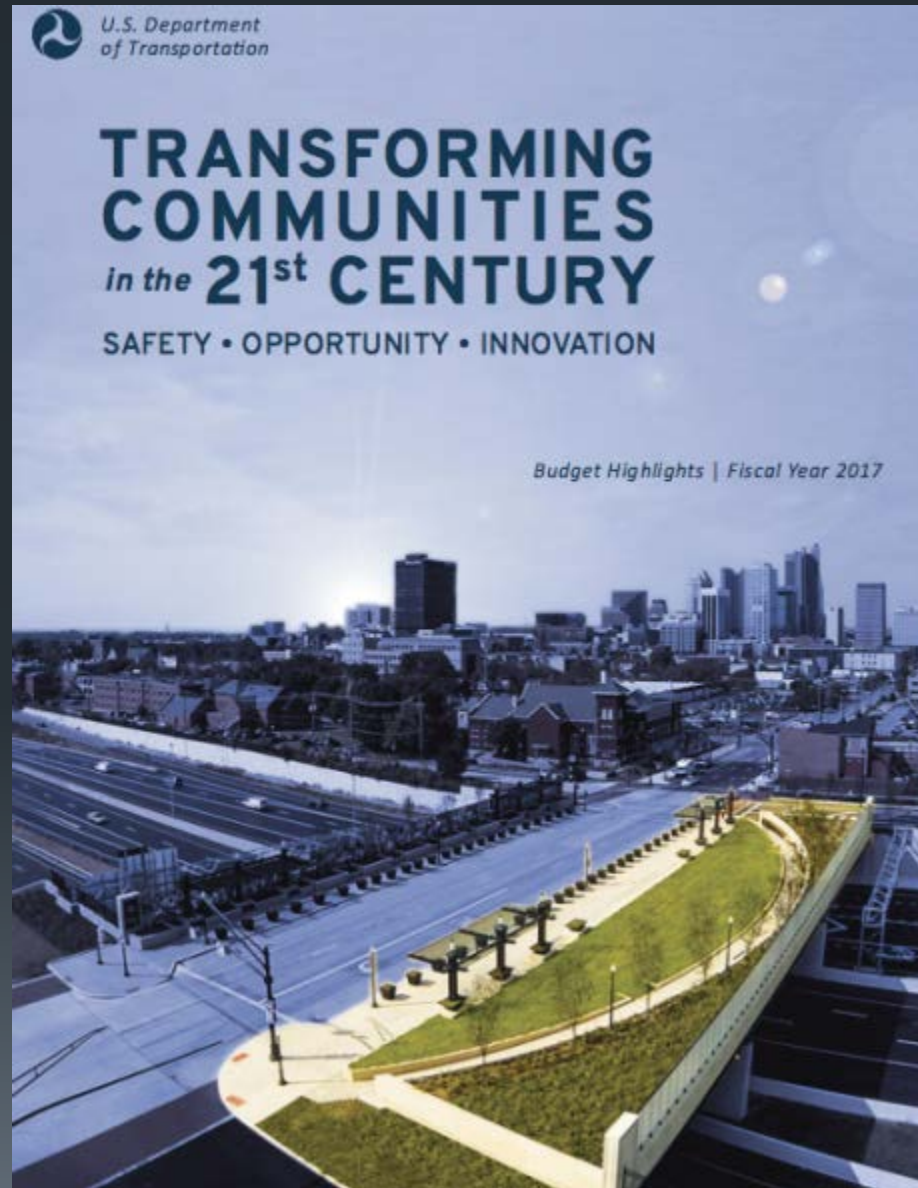
"As we all know, it has served as an engine for our economy for decades," Foxx said. "The highways were designed to get people from rural areas and suburbs into urban cores as fast as possible. Inevitably, the highways had to run through someone's backyard."

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



# Visit from Liz Ogbu





# US DOT “Every Place Counts Design Challenge” Workshop

- Occurs in July 2016
- Rondo Land Bridge a central topic

# MNDOT Urban Land Institute Technical Advisory Panel

- 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: ConnectOakland

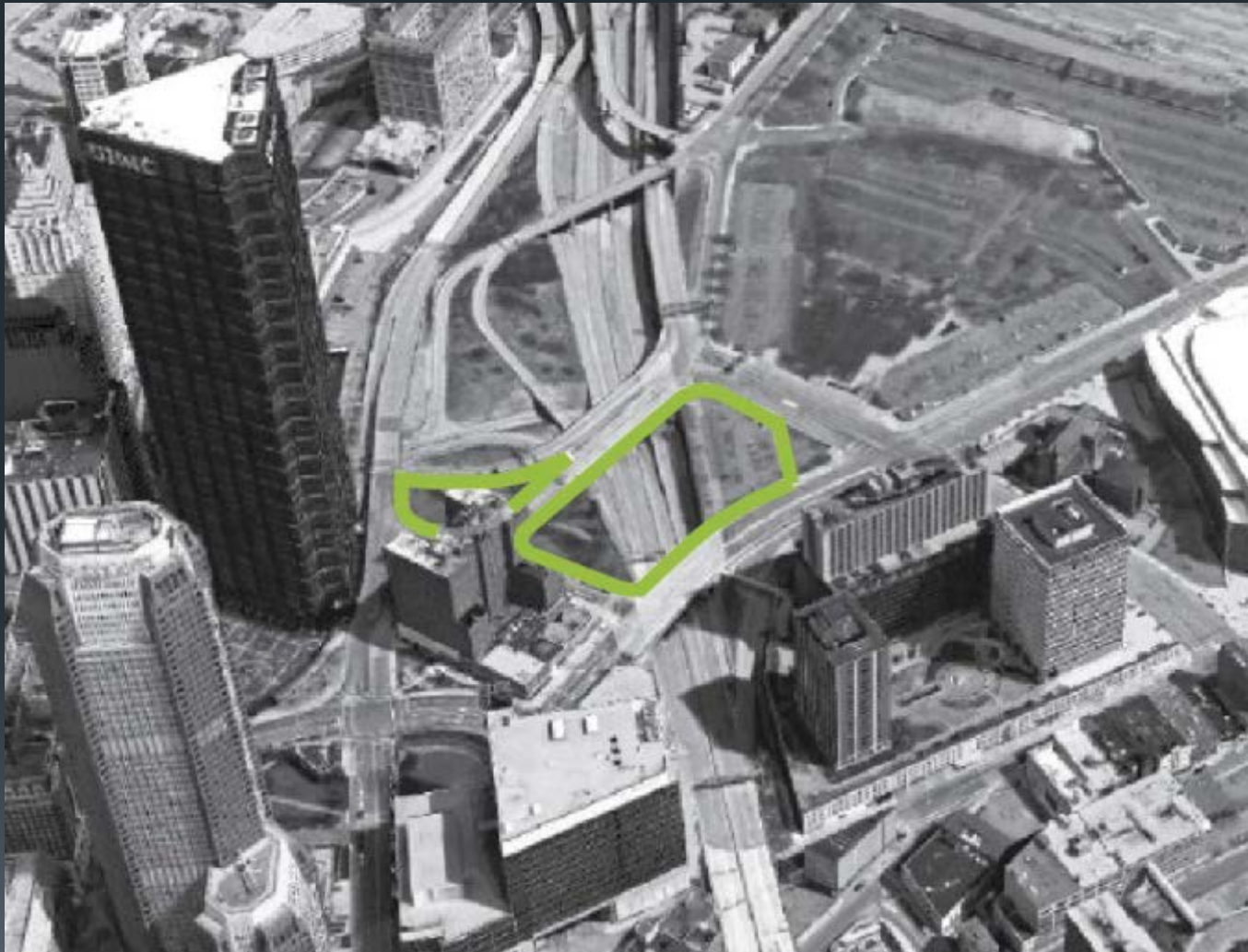


PROPOSED CONNECTIONS:





# Example: Pittsburgh I-579 Cap



# And again, Seattle.

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

By Doug Trumm [@dmtrummm](#) 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!

