

# West Calhoun Neighborhood Action Plan

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program

Date Adopted by the Policy Board:

Date Adopted by the City Council:

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## Participants

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Dan Motschenbacher, Vice Chair  
Barb Stevens, Secretary  
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### WEST CALHOUN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

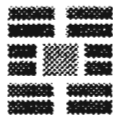
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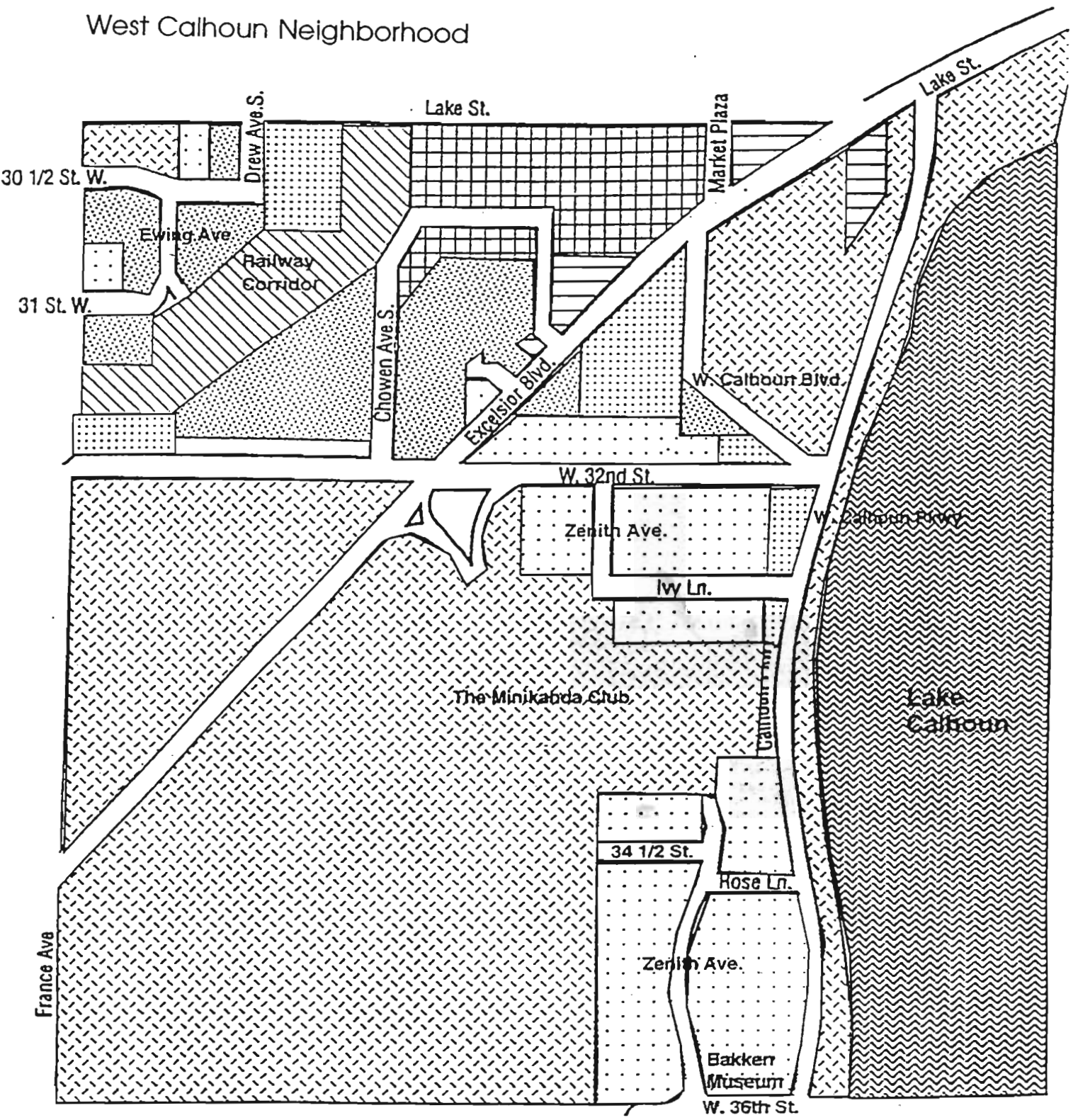
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# West Calhoun Neighborhood



Single Family

Green Space: Private & Public

Multi-Family: Owner Occupied

Water

Vacant/Lot for Sale

Multi-Family: Renter Occupied

Railway/Future Greenway

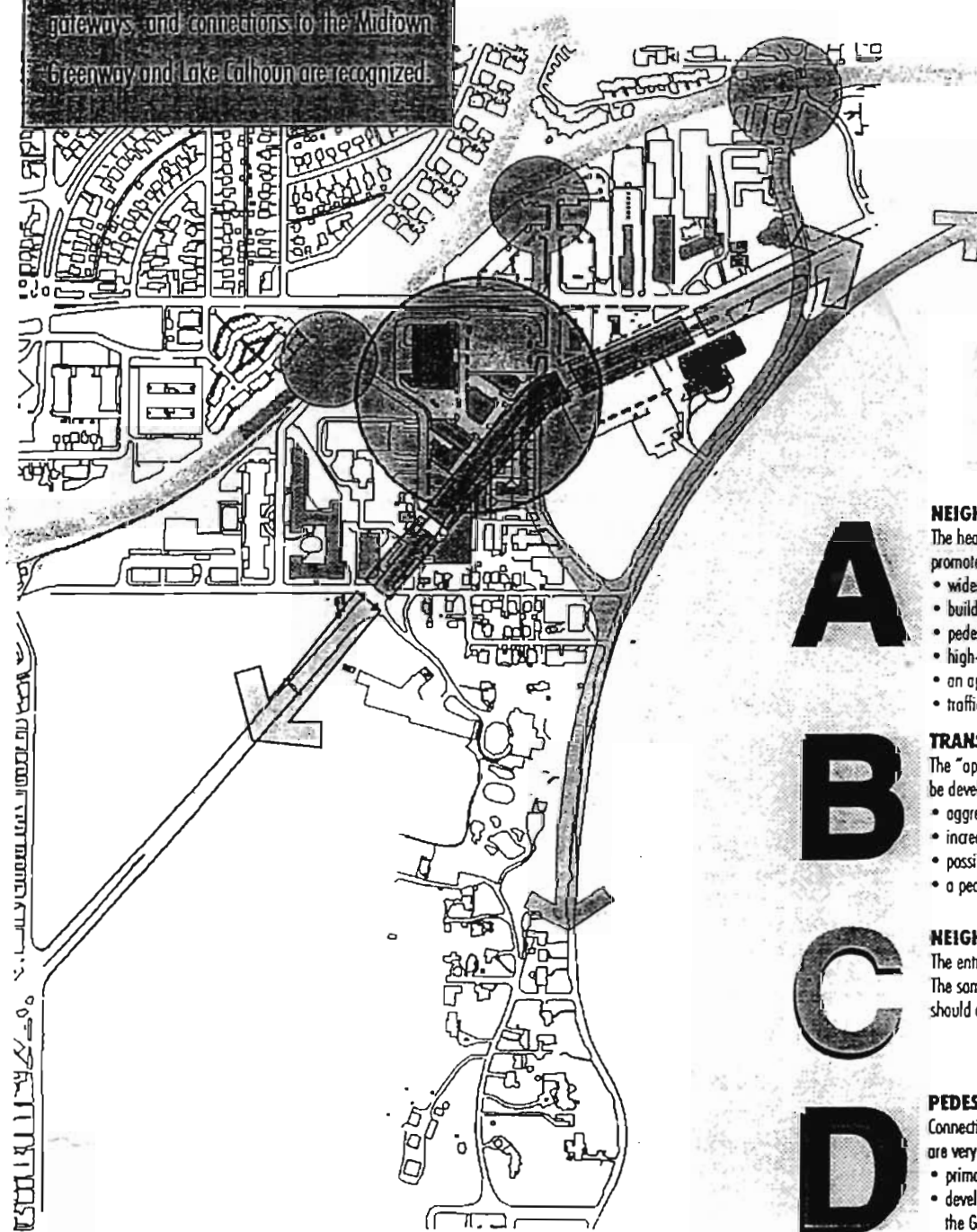
Commercial

## The Concept

The diagram below shows the concept for Excelsior Boulevard. Varying levels of intensity of streetscape elements are envisioned for the neighborhood center, transitions and gateways, and connections to the Midtown Greenway and Lake Calhoun are recognized.

In accordance with NRP guidelines, two neighborhood open houses were held, one at the early stages of the process and one near the end. The first open house provided the broader community with the opportunity to react to early ideas and shape the direction of the emerging design. The second open house presented more refined concepts and gave community members another chance to respond to design proposals.

The consultant team then consolidated the ideas and feedback into a conceptual approach for the Excelsior Boulevard corridor.



### NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The heart of a revitalized Excelsior Boulevard - promote the quality and character of the public realm:

- wider sidewalks
- buildings fronting on the streets
- pedestrian-scale lighting
- high-quality fencing and furnishings
- an appropriate planting approach
- traffic calming strategies.

### TRANSITION AREAS

The "approaches" to the Neighborhood Center should be developed as "transition areas:"

- aggressive use of boulevard planting
- increased density of pedestrian lighting
- possible center median plantings
- a pedestrian-friendly public realm

### NEIGHBORHOOD GATEWAYS

The entries into the neighborhood act as "gateways." The same elements that characterize areas A and B should occur here as well, but with much less intensity.

### PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONNECTIONS

Connections to the Midtown Greenway and Lake Calhoun are very important - the recommendations include:

- primary link at the proposed Dean Parkway ramp
- develop comfortable and gracious access points to the Greenway at the Market Plaza site and Calhoun Village

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# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) is a citywide program to allow Minneapolis neighborhoods to plan their own futures, and to provide them with the resources to carry out their plans. After three years of surveys, public meetings, and studies, the West Calhoun neighborhood NRP Steering Committee presents

this Action Plan. The Plan details West Calhoun's goals for improving itself, programs and policies to accomplish the goals, how much these programs will cost, and where the necessary funds can be found.

The Action Plan is intended not to change the community's character, but to unify it and improve its livability as a "village on a lake." Nine strategies

will contribute to this goal, including a new pedestrian-oriented streetscape on Excelsior Boulevard, new connections to the Midtown Greenway and Lake Calhoun, traffic calming, a new city gateway at France and Excelsior, and encouraging local businesses to form a shared services district.

The plan's guiding philosophy is to leverage the neighborhood's resources and maximize opportunities. West Calhoun will use NRP funds to participate in local projects, such as the Calhoun Commons development, when there is an opportunity to further community goals. The neighborhood will participate in regional projects that improve West Calhoun, such as the Chain of Lakes planning process and the Midtown Greenway. And the neighborhood will use NRP funds as "earnest money," to start new partnerships. The focus in all these efforts will be on identifying shared goals.

## Planning Process

The West Calhoun neighborhood has followed a careful, open and inclusive process to arrive at its Action Plan. The elected members of the West Calhoun NRP Steering Committee started with a survey to gauge the range of neighborhood issues, and decided early on that focusing on two main areas

could address the majority of the concerns that were raised: the Excelsior Boulevard corridor, which divides the neighborhood, and Lake Calhoun.

In April 1997, the neighborhood convened a one day "idea" charrette which created a conceptual plan for Excelsior Boulevard and the area surrounding the long-vacant Market Plaza parcel. From this charrette came some fundamental ideas about this central area which supported later work, including this Plan.

These ideas included:

These ideas included:

- A "village-like" neighborhood center that integrates land uses and relates strongly to existing commercial and residential districts
- Pedestrian-friendly, balanced streets that connect the neighborhood, rather than divide it
- Strong connections to Lake Calhoun and to the new Midtown Greenway
- "Calmed" traffic along Excelsior Boulevard

Following the charrette, the NRP Steering Committee hired Close Landscape Architecture of Saint Paul to create a master plan for the Excelsior Boulevard corridor and the neighborhood center. Many of the detailed recommendations in this study are endorsed in this Action Plan.

## TIMELINE OF NRP PLAN DEVELOPMENT

April, 1996	NRP Participation Agreement, allowing work to begin on identifying issues and preparing a plan.
June 1996	Neighborhood meeting to elect NRP Steering Committee
August, 1996	Neighborhood Survey distributed
October, 1996	Neighborhood meeting, surveys returned
March, 1997	Vision Statement for the "Greater Corridors," taken from survey data
April, 1997	West Calhoun Corridor "idea" charrette, a one day design workshop
July 1997	Neighborhood meeting presenting charrette results
December, 1997	NRP "Early Access" funding request for \$25,000 to perform a corridor plan approved.
February, 1998	Close Landscape Architecture retained to perform corridor study
September, 1998	Neighborhood walking workshop, Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study Open House #1
February, 1999	Open House #2, approving Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study
April, 1999	Neighborhood Meeting ratifying NRP Action Plan

## Program Funding Overview

The West Calhoun NRP Action Plan includes the following projects, divided by area:

Strategy	Total Cost	NRP Funds	Partner Funds	Page #
1. Corridor Planning	\$25,000	\$25,000		11
2. City Gateway	\$29,700	\$10,000	\$19,700	12
3. Neighborhood Corridors	\$707,808	\$343,200	\$364,608	14
4. Village Center	\$560,550	\$138,800	\$421,750	16
5. Special Services District	N/A	N/A	N/A	18
6. Midtown Greenway Access	\$18,200	\$10,000	\$8,200	20
7. Pedestrian/Bicycle Access to Lake Calhoun	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	22
8. Lake Calhoun Environment Improvement	N/A	N/A	N/A	23
9. Secondary Corriors	\$10,000	\$10,000		24
10. Strategy Implementation	\$121,000	\$60,500	\$60,500	25
Total	\$1,487,258	\$605,000	\$882,258	

### MAJOR PARTNERS IN THE ACTION PLAN

Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association  
Excelsior Corridor Businesses and Residents  
Hennepin County  
Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority  
Lake Calhoun Executive Center  
Metro Transit  
Metropolitan Council  
Midtown Community Works  
Midtown Greenway Coalition  
Minneapolis Arts Commission  
Minneapolis Department of Public Works  
Minneapolis Forestry Department  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minikahda Club  
Muir Co. (Calhoun Commons)  
Northern States Power  
Twin Cities Tree Trust

## Criteria in Making Funding Decisions

Funding for the West Calhoun Neighborhood Action Plan has been allocated according to a few basic criteria, developed early in the NRP planning process and considered key to the success of the neighborhood's NRP participation:

- **Shared** Funds were allocated based on shared goals not only among neighborhood residents, but also in the larger community. This was done expressly so that the neighborhood could form partnerships with the business community, the city, county, and region, and other organizations.
- **Public** NRP dollars are spent in nearly every case on the public infrastructure that supports the neighborhood's quality of life: Lake Calhoun and the routes to and around it, the neighborhood's streets, sidewalks, and pedestrian amenities, and the green space that enlivens the neighborhood.
- **Targeted** In the first NRP funding cycle, money is concentrated in several areas identified as most important to neighborhood residents, rather than being spread out among every need that could receive money.
- **Timely** An effort was made to pick projects in which neighborhood efforts could take advantage of opportunities, such as already scheduled road work or existing planning efforts, to reach neighborhood goals at less cost than would ordinarily be required.
- **Leveraged** The West Calhoun NRP Steering Committee has made a concerted effort to use its NRP funds as a catalyst for financial participation by city agencies, other local and regional bodies, and the private sector.
- **Integrated** West Calhoun sees itself as an important part of the larger city and metropolitan community. The Action Plan, by focusing on corridors such as Excelsior Boulevard, Lake Calhoun Parkway and the Midtown Greenway, will strengthen regional connections and improve the community's quality of life.

Finally, all these criteria were weighed against the fundamental goal of building for the future. The final goal is to use the NRP process as a way to make lasting improvements in the neighborhood's quality of life.

# Neighborhood Profile

## Landscape, Land Use, Buildings and Infrastructure

West Calhoun is often described as a fragmented neighborhood. It is bordered by Lake Street and divided by Excelsior Boulevard, two busy highways. A third divider, the railroad right-of-way, will soon become the Midtown Greenway, a bicycle and pedestrian connection to the rest of the city. Large portions of the neighborhood are in institutional ownership: the Park Board, the Minikahda Club, and the railroad all own large parcels. The Minikahda Club and Lake Calhoun on the neighborhood borders keep West Calhoun separate from surrounding neighborhoods, and give it a village-like character of its own.

West Calhoun's housing stock is unusual among Minneapolis neighborhoods. Only about ten percent of the neighborhood's housing units are single family homes, and only about eight percent were built before 1940. About eighty percent of neighborhood residents are renters, and the vast majority of them live in large apartment buildings, including several high rises, built within the last few decades.

## Demographics

1990 Census information, although out of date, illustrate the basic demographics of the neighborhoods. West Calhoun at that time was home to about 1,930 residents. Due to the relatively small amount of family housing in the neighborhood, West Calhoun's residents tend to live in small households (an average of 1.54 people) that rarely include children; only four percent of residents were under the age of 18 in 1990, and three quarters of households were non-family. About twelve percent of residents were college students.

Due again to the large amount of non-family housing, mobility among West Calhoun

neighborhood residents is extremely high. In 1990, fully three quarters of residents had been living in the neighborhood for less than five years.

However, West Calhoun renters are comparatively wealthy, well educated, and many are involved in the community. About half the adult neighborhood residents had a college degree in 1990, and only four percent had not graduated from high school. Almost eighty percent worked in relatively well-paid managerial, professional, technical, sales, or administrative support positions. Only about three percent of households fell below the poverty line.

Nevertheless, there are important differences between West Calhoun renters and the minority of neighborhood residents who own their homes. The median household income of neighborhood renters was about \$30,000 in 1990; while much higher than the city average for renters (\$21,000,) it was far lower than the median household income of neighborhood homeowners: nearly \$80,000.

The vast majority of neighborhood residents are white, and non-Hispanic. Only about three percent of residents in 1990 were Black, about four percent Asian/Pacific, and virtually none were Native Americans. About two percent identified themselves as Hispanic.

In 1990, about 65 percent of workers in West Calhoun drove alone to work, about 8 percent carpooled, and about 17 percent rode the bus. The remaining 10 percent walked, biked, or worked at home. While these numbers show that most neighborhood residents drive to work, about one quarter - a relatively high number - use other means.

# Action Plan

## Goals and Objectives

### NEIGHBORHOOD CORRIDORS

Important corridors in the West Calhoun neighborhood include Excelsior Boulevard, Lake Street, the Midtown Greenway, and Lake Calhoun Parkway. Of these, Excelsior Boulevard bisects the neighborhood and is the most significant.

*Strengthen the pedestrian character of Excelsior Boulevard, and improve the safety, convenience, and attractiveness of the neighborhood's pedestrian system.*

- Treat pedestrian crossings to improve safety and visibility.
- Provide and improve pedestrian infrastructure, such as bus stops, benches, etc.
- Provide pedestrian-scale lighting along Excelsior and in the village center.

*Establish a pedestrian-scale "village center" in the commercial area along Excelsior between Abbott Avenue and Market Plaza.*

- Make connections with the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood's commercial areas along the north side of Lake Street.

*Improve the balance of movement along Excelsior and in the neighborhood center*

- Make strong bicycle and pedestrian connections to the Midtown Greenway.
- Increase compliance with traffic regulations and with posted speeds.
- Use appropriate traffic calming techniques to reduce automobile speed and volume throughout the neighborhood's secondary corridors.

*Improve attractiveness of the Excelsior Boulevard corridor*

- Improve landscaping and upkeep along the corridors.

- Limit visual clutter by landscaping, moving or eliminating billboards and power lines along Excelsior and in the neighborhood center.
- Promote wherever possible the use of art in the neighborhood, especially in neighborhood corridors and in the village center.
- Provide green space along corridors wherever possible.

*Treat entrances to the city and neighborhood as gateways, with special markers and more defined landscaping.*

### LAKE CALHOUN

*Improve neighborhood access to Lake Calhoun*

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connections within the neighborhood between Lake Calhoun, the Village Center, and the Midtown Greenway.
- Improve pedestrian connections at Lake Calhoun Parkway.

*Improve the environment of the Lake Calhoun area*

- Improve water quality and stabilize the shoreline of the lake.
- Improve the pedestrian experience around the lake by calming traffic.

## Organization of the Plan

The West Calhoun Action Plan includes ten strategies that will be pursued over the next five years. Each strategy relates to one or more of the goals and objectives that the neighborhood has identified. Each includes a description of what will be done, how much it is expected to cost, who will perform it, what partnerships can be made to help complete it, and what time period it will be accomplished in.

### STRATEGY 1. CORRIDOR PLANNING

This strategy formally allocates the Early Access money already spent on the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study, completed in 1999.

### STRATEGY 2. CITY GATEWAY

Establish a clear and welcoming entrance to the city at the intersection of Excelsior Boulevard and France Avenue.

### STRATEGY 3. NEIGHBORHOOD CORRIDORS

Implement the recommendations in the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study, a series of pedestrian, landscaping and transit improvements east and west of the village center, from France Avenue to Dean Parkway. They will make Excelsior into a more unifying pedestrian street, and less of a neighborhood divider.

### STRATEGY 4. VILLAGE CENTER

Capitalize on the construction of the Calhoun Commons development to implement the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study recommendations for the "village center" between Abbott Avenue and Market Plaza. These pedestrian improvements will create a stronger sense of place and attraction in the center of the neighborhood.

### STRATEGY 5. SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Assist neighborhood businesses in establishing a special services district, which will allow improvements, maintenance, snow removal, etc. to be shared across the business district. Include the businesses across Lake Street in the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood.

### STRATEGY 6. MIDTOWN GREENWAY ACCESS

Provide a neighborhood access point to the new Midtown Greenway on the County Rail Authority land by 31st Street. Use improvements such as paving, lighting, street furniture and bike racks to establish this location as community public space.

### STRATEGY 7. PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE ACCESS TO LAKE CALHOUN

Improve access to Lake Calhoun from the neighborhood center along Excelsior Boulevard and from neighborhood residential streets.

### STRATEGY 8. LAKE CALHOUN AREA ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Participate in regional efforts to improve water quality, environmental health, and pedestrian experience of Lake Calhoun and surrounding park land.

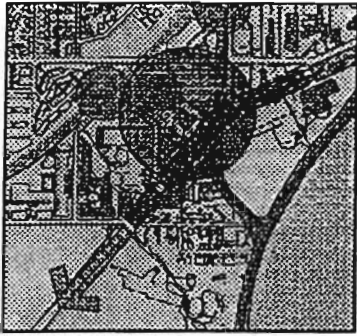
### STRATEGY 9. SECONDARY CORRIDORS

Slow traffic, increase compliance with traffic laws, and improve the pedestrian experience on neighborhood streets such as 32nd Street, 36th Street, and Zenith Avenue using traffic calming and intersection redesign.

### STRATEGY 10. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Work with public staff and independent planners and project managers to raise money for the plan and coordinate implementation.

# Strategy 1. Corridor Planning



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

*Strengthen the pedestrian character of Excelsior Boulevard, and improve the safety, convenience, and attractiveness of the pedestrian system in the neighborhood center.*

*Improve the balance of movement along Excelsior and in the neighborhood center*

*Improve the attractiveness of the Excelsior Boulevard corridor*

*Treat entrances to the city and neighborhood as gateways, with special markers and more defined landscaping*

## DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

The West Calhoun Neighborhood will retain a planning and design consultant to prepare a plan for Excelsior Boulevard and other major corridors. The plan will address the neighborhood's goals, which include greater visual cohesion, attractiveness, control of automobile traffic, and greater pedestrian and bicycle orientation. This will result in a corridor that connects the neighborhood, instead of dividing it.

## Participants

West Calhoun NRP  
Planning Consultant  
Calhoun Commons/Muir Co.  
Minikahda Club  
Other Corridor Businesses  
Corridor Residents  
Minneapolis Planning Department

## Contract Administration

Minneapolis Planning Department

## Total Cost

\$25,000

## NRP Funds Allocated

\$25,000 (Early Access)

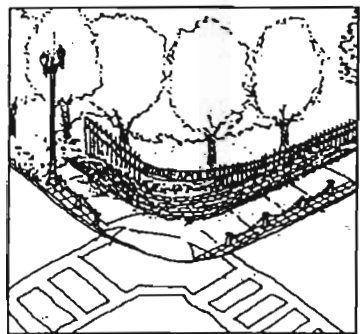
## Other Funds Allocated

\$0

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Strategy 1 Implementation: 1998

Strategy 1 was accomplished using \$25,000 of Early Access Funds. The Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study was approved in a February 9, 1999 public meeting.



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### *Improve attractiveness of the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor*

- Treat entrances to the city and neighborhood as gateways, with special markers and more defined landscaping.
- Treat pedestrian crossings to improve safety and visibility
- Provide pedestrian-scale lighting

### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

West Calhoun includes the important Excelsior Boulevard gateway into the city of Minneapolis, between the redeveloping suburban center of Saint Louis Park and the historic vitality of Uptown. The Excelsior corridor, with its enclosing greenery opening up at the top of the hill to look over the West Calhoun village center, is one of the most dramatic entrances to Minneapolis and a real opportunity for a city gateway. The neighborhood vision calls for a clear and welcoming transition at the France Avenue border with Saint Louis Park, which will lead into the Excelsior Boulevard corridor in West Calhoun..

The West Calhoun Neighborhood will work with the Minneapolis Arts Commission and the City Department of Public Works to establish an appropriate gateway. The gateway will include:

- An appropriate entrance sign, possibly in ironwork as illustrated,
- Landscaping, including limestone walls and ornamental iron fences,
- Pedestrian improvements to the Excelsior and France intersection similar to those that are called for throughout the plan: a red chip sealcoat for visibility, pedestrian striping, and sidewalks with a concrete accent band behind the curb.

Details on this strategy can be found in the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study.

**COST ESTIMATES**

<b>Potential Improvements</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>NRP Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Potential Sources</b>
France Ave Gateway Sign	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	Gateway Project
Intersection Improvements	\$21,000	\$7,300	\$13,700	Gateway Project, City
Landscaping	\$1,000	-	\$1,000	Gateway Project
Planning and Design (10%)	\$2,700	\$2,700	-	

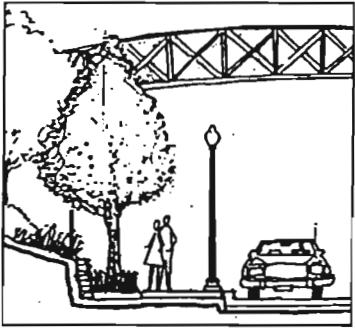
**Participants** West Calhoun NRP  
 Minneapolis Arts Commission "Gateway Project"  
 Department of Public Works  
 City of Saint Louis Park  
 Minikahda Oaks community  
 Minikahda Club

**Contract Administration** Department of Public Works

**Total Cost** \$29,700  
**NRP Funds Allocated** \$10,000  
**Other Funds Allocated** \$19,700  
**Percentage of Funds from Other Sources** 66%

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE** Strategy 2 Implementation: 2000

## Strategy 3. Neighborhood Corridors



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

*Strengthen the pedestrian character of Excelsior Boulevard, and improve the safety, convenience, and attractiveness of the neighborhood's pedestrian system.*

- Treat pedestrian crossings to improve safety and visibility
- Provide and improve pedestrian infrastructure, such as bollards, bus stops, benches, etc.
- Provide pedestrian-scale lighting along Excelsior and in the village center.

*Improve the attractiveness of the Excelsior Boulevard corridor*

- Improve landscaping and upkeep along the corridors.
- Limit visual clutter by landscaping, moving or eliminating billboards and power lines along Excelsior and in the neighborhood center.
- Promote wherever possible the use of art in the neighborhood, especially in neighborhood corridors and in the village center.
- Provide green space along corridors wherever possible.



### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

Changing the focus of the main corridors that bisect West Calhoun is central to the goal of strengthening the village-like feel of the neighborhood. These corridors, especially the Excelsior Boulevard corridor, need to become less divisive and more of a center of neighborhood life. To accomplish this, Excelsior must become a street that protects and welcomes pedestrians and bicycles.

Strategy 1, accomplished through Early Access funds, resulted in the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study. This study details how Excelsior can be a more unifying neighborhood street and is the basis for this strategy.

West Calhoun will work with the City and County and local business and property owners to implement the streetscape proposals in the Corridor Study. Potential streetscape elements include: planting street trees, providing pedestrian and transit improvements, providing pedestrian lighting, providing artwork, widening sidewalks, installing retaining walls, and landscaping the corridor.

This strategy will focus on improvements to Excelsior Boulevard from France Avenue to Abbott Avenue, and from Market Plaza to Dean Parkway.

**COST ESTIMATES**

<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>NRP Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Potential Sources</b>
Sidewalks and Crosswalks	\$123,108	\$53,000	\$70,108	Property owners
Retaining Walls	\$57,000	\$25,000	\$32,000	Property owners
Fencing	\$211,000	\$111,000	\$100,000	Property owners
Lighting	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	Property owners
Landscaping	\$160,500	\$70,500	\$90,000	Tree Trust, Forestry
Transit stops/shelters	\$25,000	\$2,500	\$22,500	Metro Transit
Planning & Design	\$31,200	\$31,200	-	

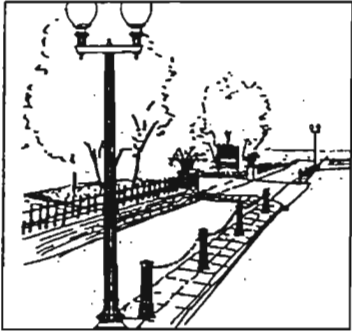
**Participants**

- Minikahda Club
- Lake Calhoun Executive Center
- Other Neighborhood Businesses
- Twin Cities Tree Trust
- Metro Transit
- Midtown Community Works
- West Calhoun NRP
- City of Minneapolis
- Department of Public Works
- Minneapolis Forestry Department
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

**Contract Administration** Department of Public Works

<b>Total Cost</b>	\$707,808
<b>NRP Funds Allocated</b>	\$343,200
<b>Other Funds Allocated</b>	\$364,608
<b>Percentage of Funds from Other Sources</b>	52%

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE** Strategy 3 Implementation: 1999 - 2000

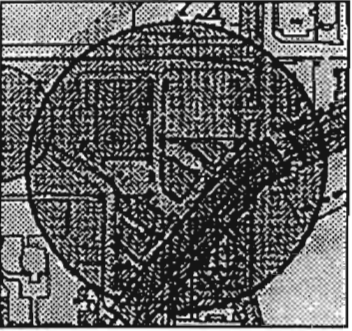


### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

*Establish a pedestrian-scale "village center" in the commercial area along Excelsior between Abbott Avenue and Market Plaza.*

*Strengthen the pedestrian character of Excelsior Boulevard, and improve the safety, convenience, and attractiveness of the pedestrian system in the neighborhood center.*

- Treat pedestrian crossings to improve safety and visibility
- Provide and improve pedestrian infrastructure, such as bollards, bus stops, benches, vending machines, etc.
- Provide pedestrian-scale lighting
- Improve the attractiveness of the Excelsior Boulevard corridor
- Improve or limit the visual impact of billboards and power lines along Excelsior and in the neighborhood center.



### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

The most important part of the Excelsior Boulevard corridor in West Calhoun is the section roughly from Abbott Avenue to Market Plaza, the "village center" of the neighborhood. The development of Calhoun Commons in the long-vacant parcel of land on this section of Excelsior is an opportunity to implement many of the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study recommendations for making the corridor a better unifying street, and this part of the corridor a center for the whole neighborhood.

West Calhoun will work with the City and County, local business and property owners, and Northern States Power to implement the proposals for the village center found in the Corridor Study. Potential streetscape elements include: burying power lines, planting street trees, improving intersections for pedestrians, providing transit improvements, providing pedestrian lighting, providing artwork, widening sidewalks, installing retaining walls, and landscaping the corridor.

**COST ESTIMATES**

<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>NRP Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Potential Sources</b>
Sidewalks and Crosswalks	\$48,500	\$20,000	\$28,500	Property owners
Retaining Walls	\$94,050	\$20,000	\$74,050	Property owners
Fencing	\$102,700	\$10,700	\$92,000	Property owners
Lighting	\$105,000	\$35,000	\$70,000	Property owners
Landscaping	\$8,200	\$4,000	\$4,200	Property owners
Power Line Burial	\$176,000	\$35,000	\$141,000	NSP, Muir Co., City
Transit stops/shelters	\$13,500	\$1,500	\$12,000	Metro Transit
Planning & Design	\$12,600	\$12,600	-	

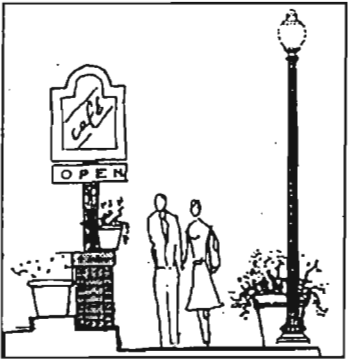
Participants  
Muir Co./Calhoun Commons  
Other Neighborhood Businesses  
Metro Transit  
Northern States Power  
West Calhoun NRP  
City of Minneapolis  
Department of Public Works  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Contract Administration      Department of Public Works

Total Cost	\$560,550
NRP Funds Allocated	\$138,800
Other Funds Allocated	\$421,750
Percentage of Funds from Other Sources	75%

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE      Strategy 4 Implementation: 1999 - 2000

# Strategy 5. Special Services District



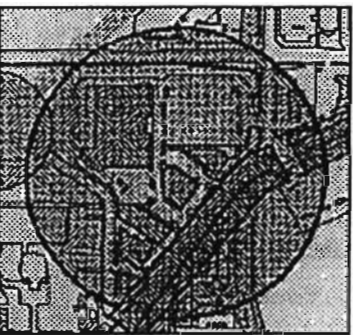
## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Make connections with the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood's commercial areas along the north side of Lake Street.

## DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

The West Calhoun Neighborhood Council will encourage and assist the businesses in the neighborhood center area to set up a special services district to clear snow and litter, maintain and possibly extend pedestrian infrastructure, and plan special marketing events. The businesses across Lake Street in the Cedar-Isles-Dean neighborhood, including the Calhoun Village development, should be encouraged to join. Provision of pedestrian infrastructure and other streetscape elements should be coordinated across the business district and the neighborhood, according to the principles of public space and pedestrian orientation found in the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study.

This strategy does not require a funding allocation.



Participants            Calhoun Commons  
                              Other Neighborhood Businesses  
                              Calhoun Village  
                              West Calhoun Neighborhood Council  
                              Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association

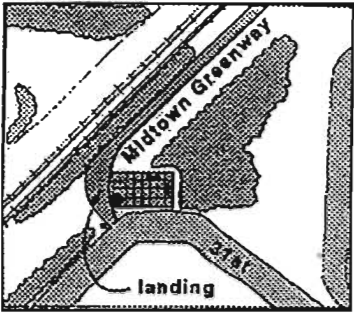
Contract Administration    N/A

Total Cost                \$0.00

NRP Funds Allocated      \$0.00

Other Funds Allocated     \$0.00

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE    Strategy 5 Implementation: 2000



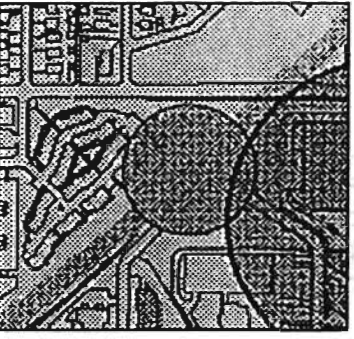
**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

*Improve the balance of movement along Excelsior and in the neighborhood center.*

- Make strong pedestrian and bicycle connections to the Midtown Greenway.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connections within the neighborhood to Lake Calhoun and the Midtown Greenway, and between these two destinations.

**DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY**

The Midtown Greenway, which will begin first phase construction along the railroad right-of-way through the neighborhood in 1999, is an opportunity for West Calhoun to make new connections to the surrounding area. West Calhoun's main link to the Greenway will be at its intersection with the Grand Rounds system and Lake Calhoun, at Dean Parkway. However, another Greenway access point at 31st Street on land belonging to the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) will strengthen the connection, and establish an important piece of neighborhood public space. This is the site of a proposed LRT station in the 29th street alignment, and would become a crucial transit station in the event LRT or express buses begin operation in the Greenway.



West Calhoun NRP will work with Hennepin County, the HCRRA, Midtown Community Works, the Midtown Greenway and other stakeholders to create a public access point to the Midtown Greenway at 31st St. The access point will include such improvements as paving, benches, lighting, and bicycle racks.

**COST ESTIMATES**

<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>NRP Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Potential Sources</b>
Pedestrian & Bicycle Elements	\$5,000	-	\$5,000	County, State, Fed.
Paving	\$1,500	-	\$1,500	County, State, Fed.
Lighting	\$10,000	\$8,300	\$1,700	County, State, Fed.
Planning & Design	\$1,700	\$1,700	-	

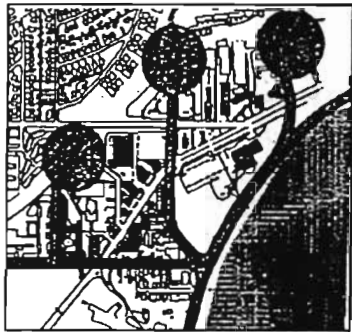
Participants    West Calhoun NRP  
                  Hennepin County  
                  Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority  
                  Midtown Community Works  
                  Midtown Greenway Coalition  
                  Department of Public Works

Contract Administration    Department of Public Works

                  Total Cost    \$18,200  
                  NRP Funds Allocated    \$10,000  
                  Other Funds Allocated    \$8,200  
                  Percentage of Funds  
                  from Other Sources    55%

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**                    Strategy 6 Implementation: 1999 - 2000

## Strategy 7. Pedestrian /Bicycle Access to Lake Calhoun



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### *Improve neighborhood access to Lake Calhoun*

- Improve pedestrian and bicycle connections within the neighborhood between Lake Calhoun, the Village Center, and the Midtown Greenway.
- Treat pedestrian crossings to improve safety and visibility
- Improve pedestrian connections surrounding the lake

### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

Lake Calhoun is the West Calhoun neighborhood's primary asset, and it is important for the long term vitality of the neighborhood that connections to the lake be improved.

West Calhoun NRP will work with appropriate agencies to create a plan to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to Lake Calhoun from the neighborhood center on Excelsior and from the neighborhood's residential areas.

Physical improvements to be made will be identified in the design process, but may include pavement, striping, signage, or other improvements.

### Participants

West Calhoun NRP  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Minneapolis Public Works Department  
City of Minneapolis  
Hennepin County  
Metropolitan Council  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

### Contract Administration

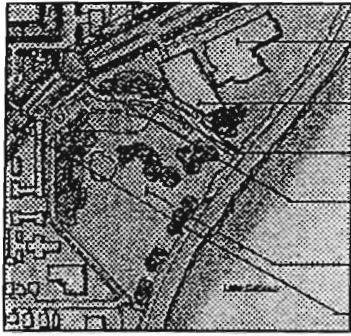
Minneapolis Public Works Department

Total Cost	\$15,000
NRP Funds Allocated	\$7,500
Other Funds Allocated	\$7,500
Percentage of Funds from Other Sources	50%

### IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Strategy 7 Implementation: 2000

## Strategy 8. Lake Calhoun Area Environment Improvement



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### *Improve the Environment of the Lake Calhoun Area*

- Improve water quality and stabilize the shoreline of the lake.
- Improve the pedestrian experience around the lake by calming traffic.

### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

The West Calhoun Neighborhood Council will participate in local and regional efforts to improve the environment in Lake Calhoun and the surrounding park area. This may include efforts to improve water quality and environmental health, planning for the repaving of Lake Calhoun Parkway, and planning for better pedestrian access across the Parkway to the Lake paths. The values behind the Excelsior Boulevard Corridor Study, such as traffic calming and pedestrian orientation, should also be honored in the Lake Calhoun Parkway corridor.

### Participants

West Calhoun Neighborhood Council  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Surrounding neighborhoods  
Metropolitan Council  
MN Pollution Control Agency

### Contract Administration

N/A

### Total Cost

\$0.00

### NRP Funds Allocated

\$0.00

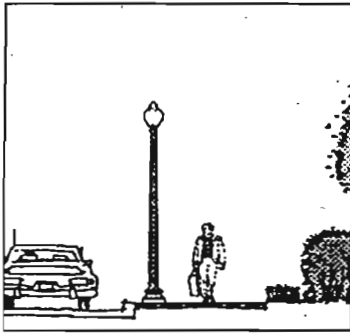
### Other Funds Allocated

\$0.00

### IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Strategy 8 Implementation: 1999 - 2004

## Strategy 9. Secondary Corridors



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Increase compliance with traffic regulations and with posted speed limits.
- Use appropriate traffic calming techniques to reduce automobile speed and volume throughout the neighborhood.

### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

West Calhoun NRP will:

- Identify traffic problems to be addressed on neighborhood streets, including 32nd Street, 36th Street, and Zenith Avenue,
- Work with Minneapolis Public Works Department to design a plan that will reduce traffic effects on neighborhood residents, including traffic calming or intersection redesign,
- Implement the plan.

### Participants

West Calhoun NRP  
Minneapolis Public Works Department  
Bakken Library  
Minneapolis Park Board  
Local residents and property owners

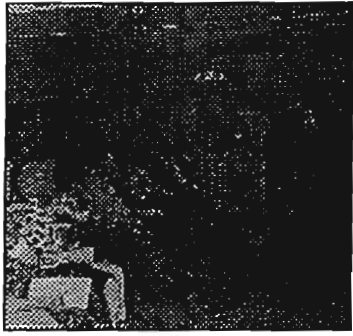
### Contract Administration

Minneapolis Public Works Department

Total Cost	\$10,000
NRP Funds Allocated	\$10,000
Other Funds Allocated	\$0
Percentage of Funds from Other Sources	0%

**IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE** Strategy 9 Implementation: 2000

## Strategy 10. Strategy Implementation



### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

#### DESCRIPTION OF STRATEGY

Due to the nature of the strategies in the Action Plan, which focus on infrastructure improvements rather than ongoing programs, West Calhoun NRP sees no need to hire staff. At the same time, the neighborhood wants to achieve much more than is possible with available NRP funds. For these reasons, NRP will rely on public staff, planning consultants, project managers, and other professional assistance to implement the Action Plan.

West Calhoun NRP will hire and oversee professional consultants for the following tasks:

- Project guidance and implementation,
- Coordination with other participants in Action Plan strategies,
- Communication with neighborhood residents
- Fundraising and grant writing to raise the necessary resources for carrying out the Plan.

Participants	West Calhoun NRP Professional Consultants
Contract Administration	Neighborhood Revitalization Program
Total Cost	\$121,000
NRP Funds Allocated	\$60,500
Other Funds Allocated	\$60,500
Percentage of Funds from Other Sources	50%

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE      Strategy 9 Implementation: 1999 - 2004

**West Calhoun NRP Action Plan**

**FUNDING ALLOCATION TIMELINE**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Corridor Planning	\$25,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$25,000
2. City Gateway	-	-	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000
3. Neighborhood Corridors	-	\$343,200	-	-	-	-	\$343,200
4. Village Center	-	\$138,800	-	-	-	-	\$138,800
5. Special Services District	n/a						n/a
6. Midtown Greenway Access	-	\$10,000	-	-	-	-	\$10,000
7. Pedestrian/Bicycle Access to Lake Calhoun	-	-	\$7,500	-	-	-	\$7,500
8. Lake Calhoun Area Environment Improvement	n/a						n/a
9. Secondary Corridors	-	-	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000
10 Strategy Implementation	-	\$60,500	-	-	-	-	\$60,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$552,500</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>				<b>\$605,000</b>

**CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Contract Administrator</b>
1. Corridor Planning	Minneapolis Planning Department
2. City Gateway	Minneapolis Department of Public Works
3. Neighborhood Corridors	Minneapolis Department of Public Works
4. Village Center	Minneapolis Department of Public Works
5 Special Services District	N/A
6. Midtown Greenway Access	Minneapolis Department of Public Works
7. Pedestrian/Bicycle Access to Lake Calhoun	Minneapolis Department of Public Works
8. Lake Calhoun Area Environment	N/A
9. Secondary Corridors	Minneapolis Department of Public Works
10. Strategy Implementation	Neighborhood Revitalization Program