



*“New programs for design emerge when design practice shifts its attention from formally solving perceived problems to identifying actions that support expressions of social life. These programs reveal and celebrate the new forms of urbanity emerging out of today’s political economy and its culture. Instead of mourning a lost urbanity, metropolitan urbanism opens up new territories for design consideration. It stakes out new methods of working and identifies new clients.”*

*Jacqueline Tatom  
Programs for Metropolitan Urbanism*

## Introduction

The project is a partnership between Hennepin County Community Works and Community Planning and Economic Development to analyze and examine placemaking strategies to better connect Greenway users with Lake Street destinations.

The group has collaborated with the Midtown Greenway Coalition, Lake Street Council, Council Member Alondra Cano Ward 9 and the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation through the 2015 Placemaking Residency. The group has identified four nodes along the Greenway to implement pilot intervention strategies as a way to examine what draws users out of the trench and into the neighborhoods. The pilot strategies are temporary and will be de-installed after a test period.

### Goals

- *Make the project area a more inviting place by fostering a sense of place and community.*
- *Improve the pedestrian and cyclist orientation of our community and increase walkability and bikeability*
- *Identify and evaluate potential development patterns and their impact on the public realm*
- *Improve economic vitality and quality of life*
- *Provide a tool for future policy making and neighborhood enhancement*
- *Demonstrate effective street design and placemaking strategies that will drive pedestrians and bicyclists from the Midtown Greenway to nearby commercial corridors and cultural designations, including Lake Street business districts*



# Nicollet Ave



Narrow Trail Space



Wall + Fence + Whale Mural



Vacant Bridge Deck



Un-welcoming



Jersey Barriers

## Nicollet Ave

### Existing Conditions

The node at Nicollet Ave was chosen as a key access to the many restaurants on Nicollet Avenue. This location is at a narrow segment of the Greenway, restricted by the rail trench and the access ramp. Nicollet comes to a dead end at the access point for the Greenway ramp, leaving a vacant bridge deck. Currently the Bridge is blocked to traffic and parking by a row of Jersey barriers and road closed signs. This node has existing murals adding interest and color to the space. Discussing several themes emerged as areas to impact.

### Narrow Trail Space

- The narrow space along the trail limits the size and placement of wayfinding interventions.
- The space at the trail widens a little under the bridge, this could be an opportunity for art.
- Thinking of ways to use small signs or painting on the trail itself as a way to create an identity without using much space.

### Wall + Fence + Mural

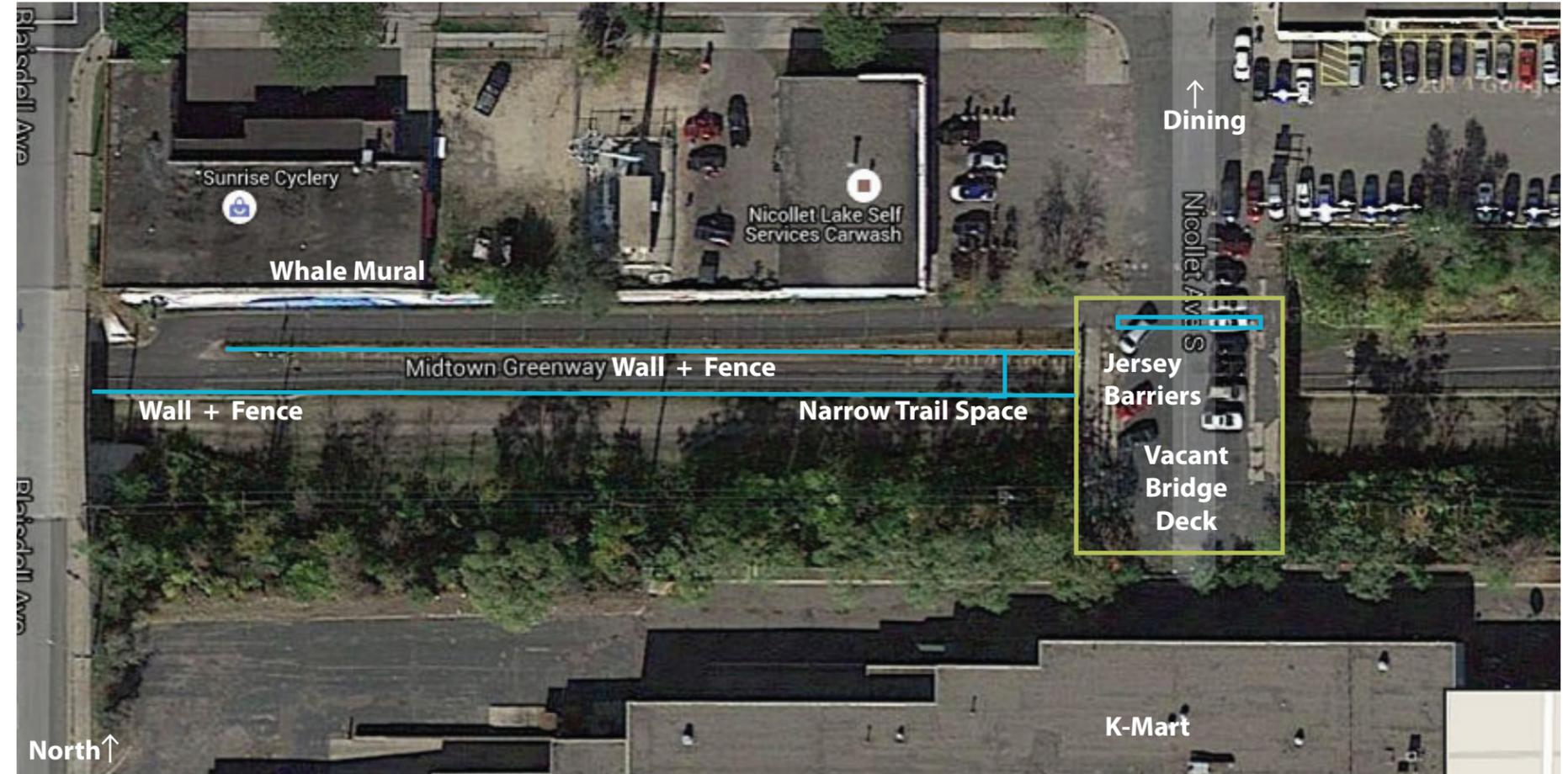
- The fence that encloses this narrow segment of the area offers an opportunity for an alternative signage strategy, an art installation.
- This node already has a notable mural. The mural is only a year old, however it is showing signs of age.

### Bridge Deck

- The vacated bridge deck provides a unique opportunity for a larger intervention. The intervention should consider activation strategies that are both visible from the trail, and welcoming when approaching from Nicollet Ave.
- Creating a vertical element on the bridge, breaking up the rhythm of bridges with a unique feature on the bridge deck like a sculpture or large sign.

### Jersey Barriers

- Currently the bridge deck is unwelcoming to people, with a row of Jersey Barriers, road closed signs, and unmanaged vegetation on the south end of the deck. There is an opportunity to remove barriers or to replace barriers with a more artful approach, one that welcomes activity not discourages it.



Nicollet Node Site Map



Nicollet Ave Node and Access Ramp

Nicollet Node Context Map

# Nicollet Ave

## Design Recommendations

### 1. Painted food icons on trail

- Proximity of icons increases the closer one gets to the entrance of the ramp
- Start the icons at Grand Ave bridge to the west, and at the 35W bridge to the east.

### 2. Chain link fence sign

- Utilize the chain link fences used on either side of the trail to create a temporary sign, by weaving or using fence chips.

### 3. Barricades

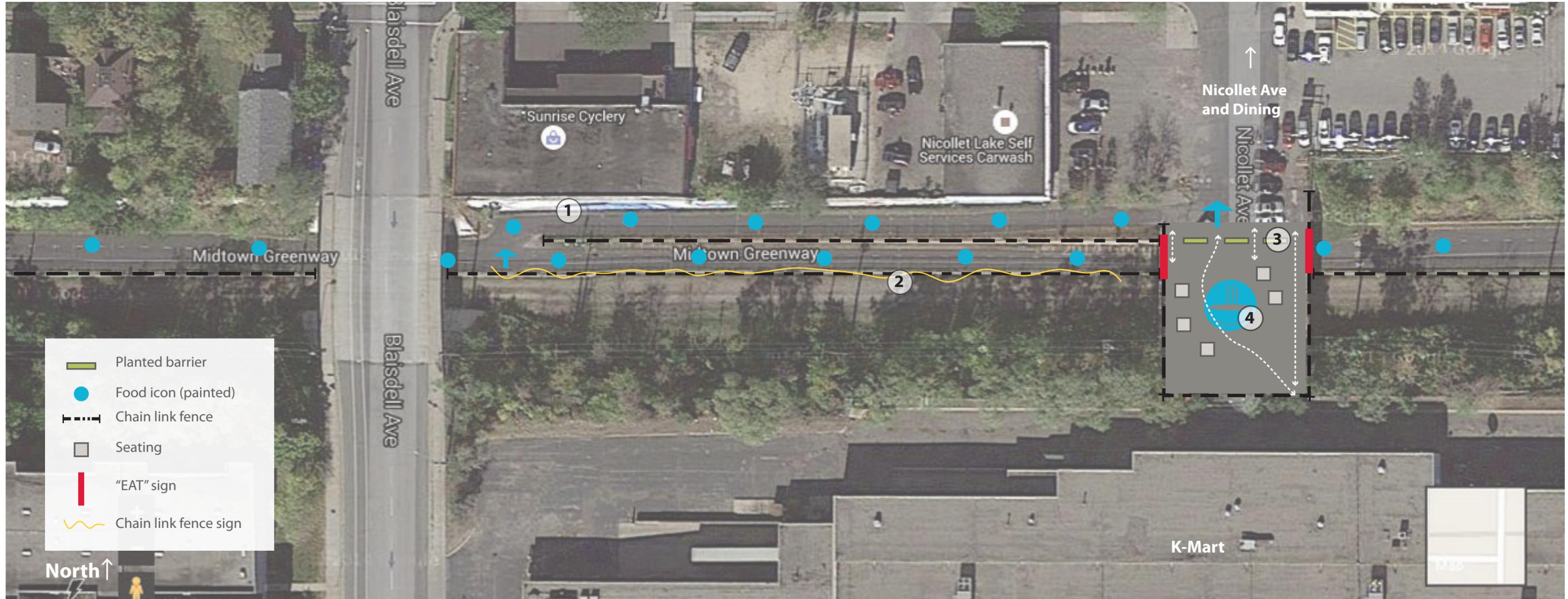
- Replace the Jersey barriers with spaced out planted barriers
- Create a gateway, by removing some of the Jersey barriers and add paint or vinyl adhesive appliques to the remaining barriers.
- Manage vegetation on South side of deck

### 4. Bridge deck

- Add a large "EAT" sign on both sides of bridge
- Large version of the painted icons in the center
- Add additional seating elements
- Place a giant bowl of noodles as an art piece seen from the trail

### Vandalism Monitoring

- Throughout the pilot program an ongoing vandalism monitoring will occur. Not only for maintenance purposes but as part of the pilot program to determine which aspects receive the most/least amount of vandalism



# Nicollet Ave

## Design Recommendations

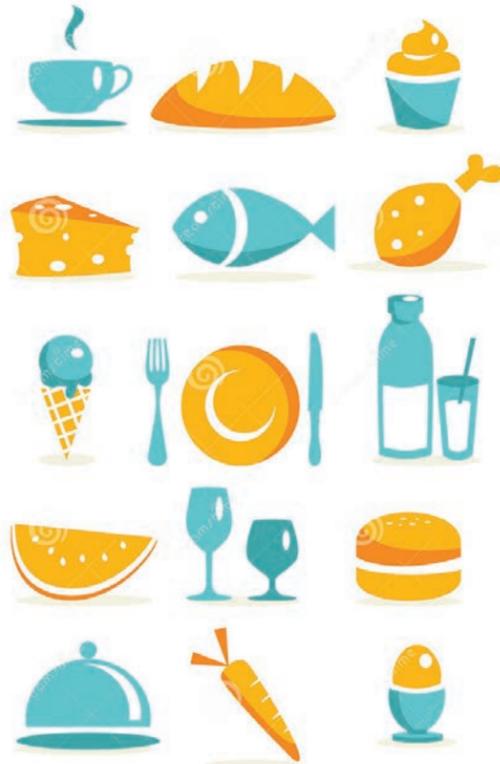
### Painted food icons on trail

- Proximity of icons increases the closer one gets to the entrance of the ramp
- Use the center line paint as a reference for spacing. Closest spacing 2 dashes apart. Farthest spacing 10-12 dashes apart.
- Start the icons at Grand Ave bridge to the west, and at the 35W bridge to the east.

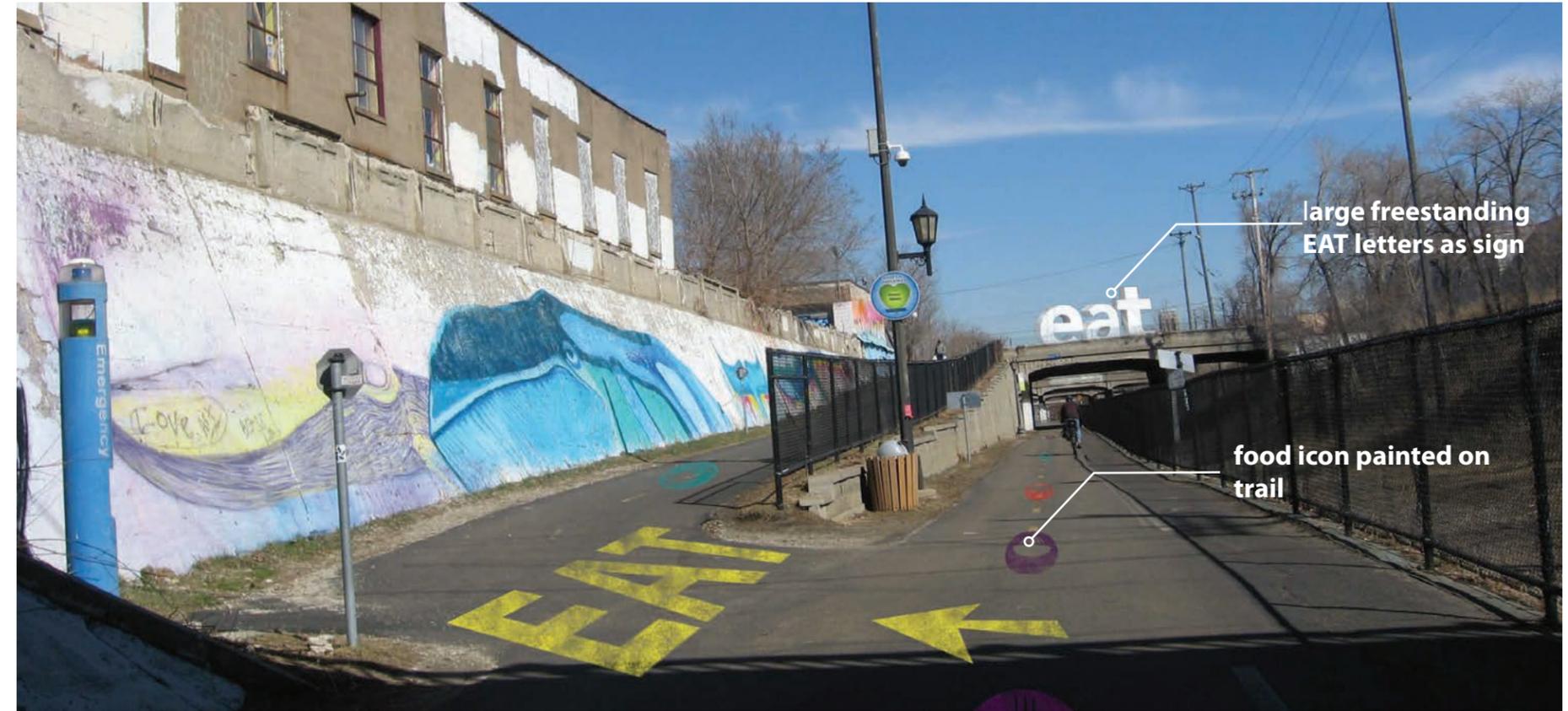
Options for icon stencil styles



**A** Color blocks with cutouts



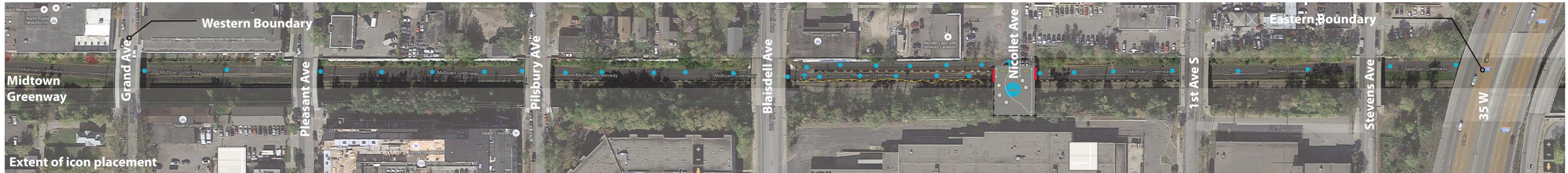
**B** Food outlines



large freestanding EAT letters as sign

food icon painted on trail

Potential Future Condition



Extent of icon placement

Site Diagram

# Nicollet Ave

## Design Recommendations

### Chain link fence sign

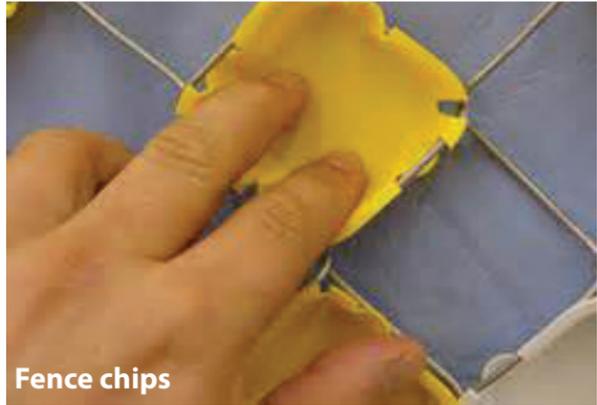
- Utilize the chain link fences used on either side of the trail to create a temporary sign, by weaving or using fence chips.



Fence chips



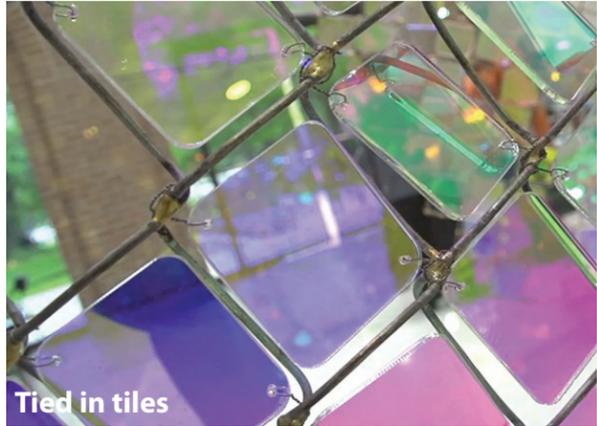
Weaving text



Fence chips



Plastic cups



Tied in tiles



Weaving designs



fence chips as destination marker, and as direction

Potential Future Condition

# Nicollet Ave

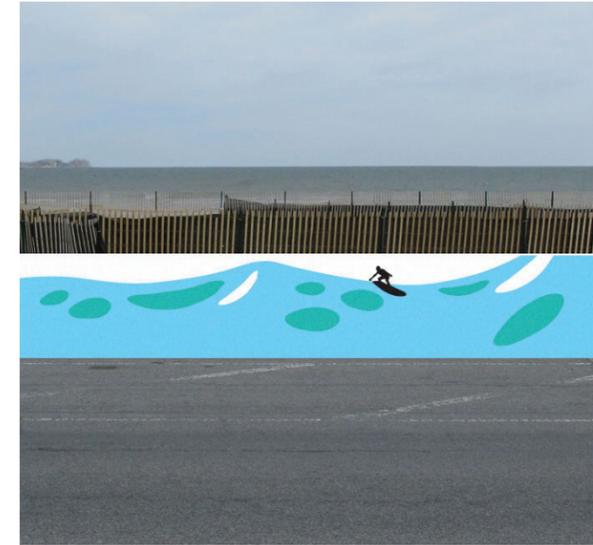
## Design Recommendations

### Barricades

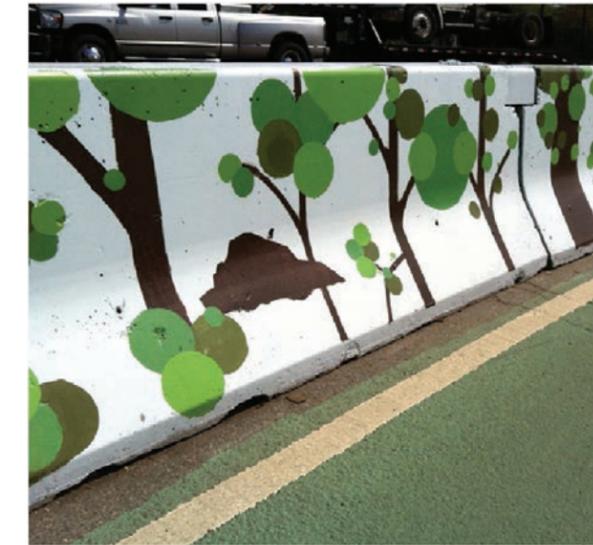
- Replace the Jersey barriers with spaced out planted barriers
- Create a gateway, by removing some of the Jersey barriers and add paint to the remaining barriers.
- Manage vegetation on South side of deck



Existing Conditions



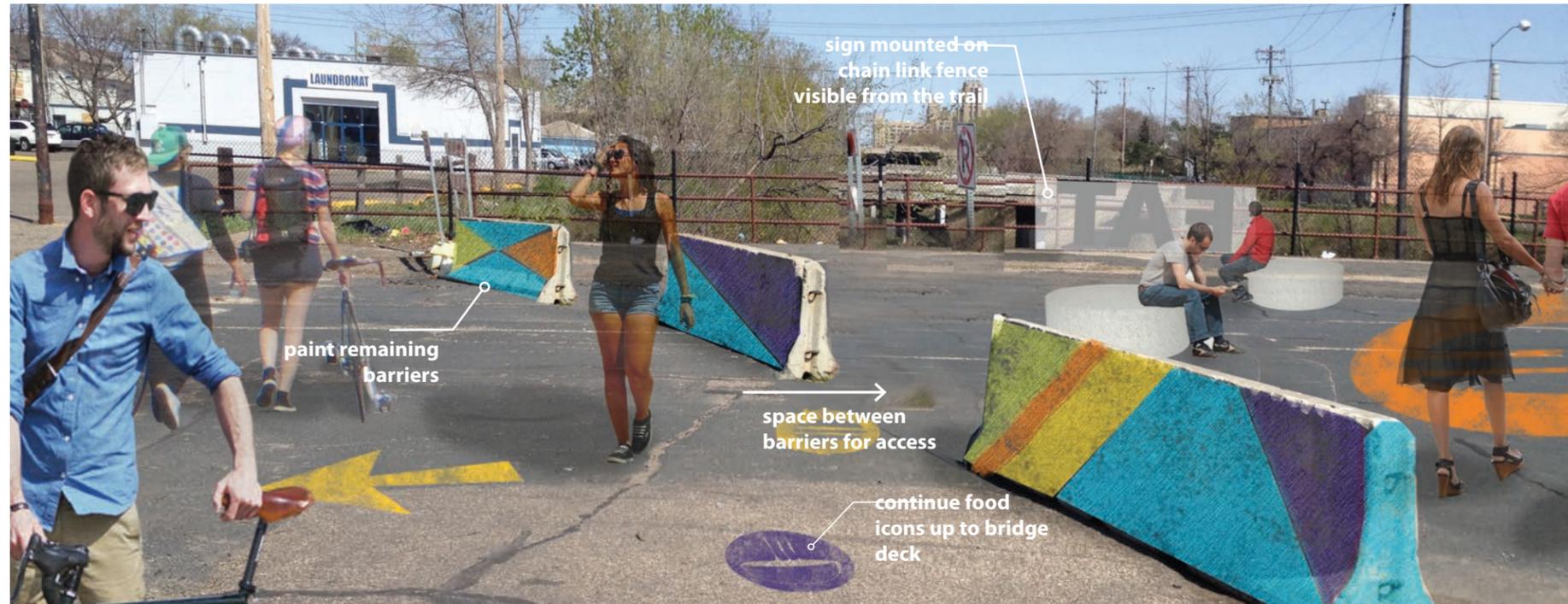
Painted Barriers



Painted Barriers



Large Planters



Potential Future Condition



Potential Future Condition

# Nicollet Ave

## Design Recommendations

### Bridge deck

- Add a large "EAT" sign
- Large version of the painted icons in the center
- Add additional seating elements
- Place a giant bowl of noodles as an art piece seen from the trail



Sign Precedents



Potential Future Condition

# Cepro



Table and chairs



View towards Greenway



Ramp intersection



Current vegetation



View from Greenway

## Cepro

### Existing Conditions

The Cepro site was chosen for its proximity to the Midtown Global Market, the significant neighborhood interest, and its large geography. This node is a sloping park space adjacent to the Greenway with access ramps and stair to the East and the West. This property is owned and maintained by Hennepin County. There are existing sidewalks, a few tables and chairs, and some swinging benches on the top of a hill overlooking the Greenway, all in good condition. Discussing several themes emerged as areas to impact.

### Community Engagement

- There has already been community input and the turn out for the community engagement activities has been very good. The neighborhood would like to see something else happen here, and are ready to use the space more. Ideas include adding
  - More access to food
  - Arts and entertainment
  - Organized fields/game space
  - Bathrooms and drinking fountains
  - Information signs
  - Greenspace

### Maintenance

- The perception of the Cepro node is mixed, it is a nice green space, but at the same time there some security concerns. The maintenance of the vegetation on the site is mostly unmowed, adding to the perception of the site begin unwelcoming.

### Areas to rest

- The natural stage and the paved areas adjacent to the Greenway present an opportunity to provide a variety of seating options. Seating should be combined with shade strategies.

### Amenities

- This node has a strong foundation and adding a few amenities would make it even better. Ideas include adding:
  - A bike pump/repair station
  - Chalk art to the blank concrete
  - Additional trash cans

### Global Market

- Nearby the global market provides an opportunity for collaboration and programming



Cepro Node Site Map



Cepro Node Context Map



## Cepro

### Design Recommendations

#### 1. Play Feature

- Use existing topography to create a nature play area

#### 2-4. Seating Elements & Shade

- Create more opportunities to sit
- Utilize portable lounge chairs on ledge near the Greenway, a rare opportunity for people watching
- A seating area on top of the Western hill, mimicking the swinging benches on the Eastern Hill
- Install shade structures to provide protection in this exposed area

#### 5. Vegetation Management

- Continue working on plans for the landscape restoration project
- Create and implement an ongoing maintenance plan for the park

#### 6. Active Recreation Fields

- Mark off recreation field, for non-traditional recreation opportunity
- Badminton, Gaga Ball, Bags, Volleyball, or Bocce Ball could fit in the current space

#### 7. Bike Repair/Pump Station

- Install a bike repair and pump station (Fixit station)

#### 8. Sidewalk Painting

- Adding painted on directional signage to the sidewalk next to the trail
- Also an opportunity to expand the lounge seating area

#### 9. Light/Security

- A light installation projected onto the windowless section of the building on the Western edge of the node

#### 10. Wayfinding Package

- A series of signs and painted stairs to direct people to the amenities on E. Lake Street

#### Vandalism Monitoring

- Throughout the pilot program an ongoing vandalism monitoring will occur. Not only for maintenance purposes but as part of the pilot program to determine which aspects receive the most/least amount of vandalism

### Wayfinding Package

- A series of signs and painted stairs to direct people to the amenities on E. Lake Street
- Burma shave style signs leading users off the bike ramp down 10th Ave to E. Lake St.
- Painted icons and steps leading users up the steps and onto 10th ave to E Lake St.



painting up the stairs

Potential Future Condition



sign series on ramp

Potential Future Condition



Potential Sign Phrasing



painted icons on landings

signs series along 10th ave

continuing stair paint scheme on top of stair

Potential Future Condition

Vegetation Management

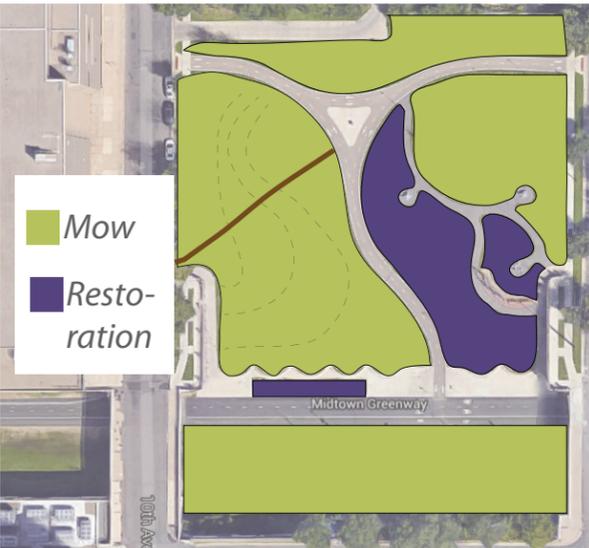
- Continue working on plans for the landscape restoration project
- Create and implement an ongoing maintenance plan for the vegetation



Potential Future Condition



Existing Condition



Maintenance Plan



Potential Future Condition

# Cepro

## Design Recommendations

### Seating Elements

- Create more opportunities to sit
- Utilize portable, temporary, lounge chairs on ledge near the Greenway, a rare opportunity for people watching
- Possibility for a community engagement building the loungers
- A seating area on top of the Western hill, mimicking the swinging benches on the Eastern Hill
- Also an opportunity to expand the lounge seating area across the Greenway

### Shade

- Install temporary shade structures, or plant trees to provide protection in this exposed area

### Sidewalk Painting

- Adding painted on directional signage to the sidewalk next to the trail



Seating Precedents



Potential Future ConditionS

# Cepro

## Design Recommendations

### Bike Repair/Pump Station

- Install a bike repair and pump station



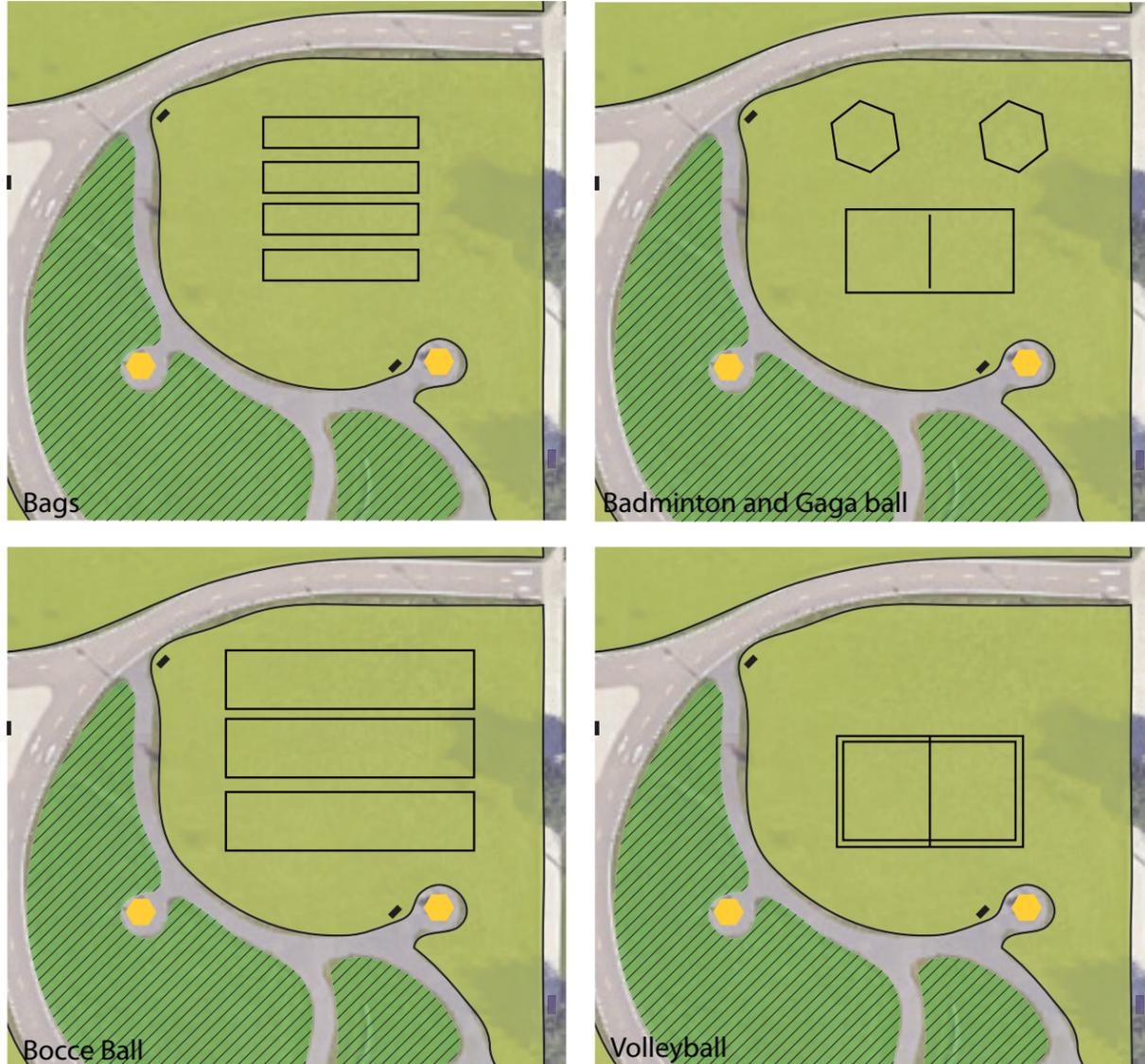
Fixit Station Precedents



Potential Future Condition

### Active Recreation Fields

- Mark off recreation field, for non-traditional recreation opportunity
- Field markings could change for a variety of games, and layouts
- Badminton, Gaga Ball, Bags, Volleyball, or Bocce Ball could fit in the current space



Field Layout Options



Potential Future Condition

# Cepro

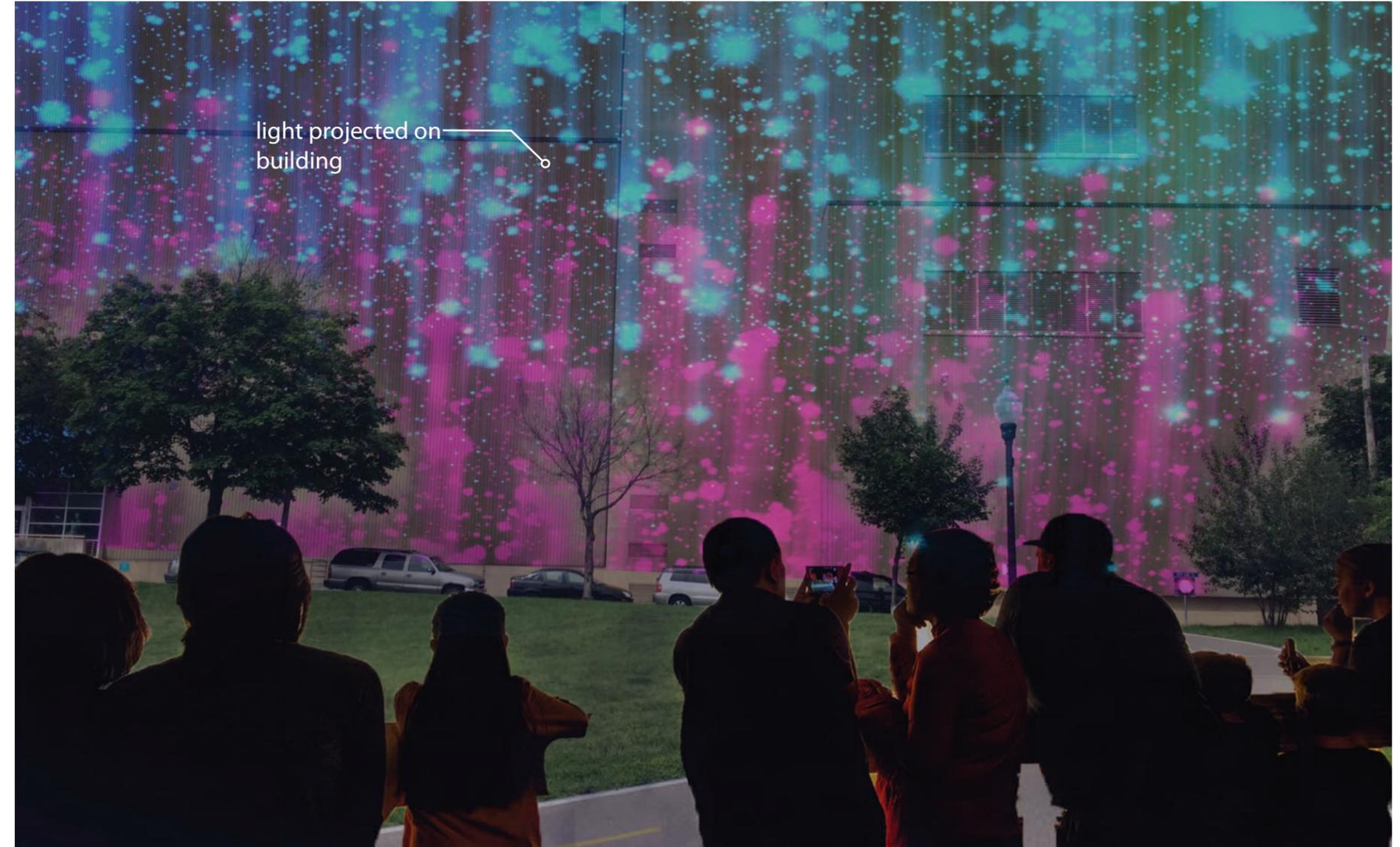
## Design Recommendations

### Light/Security

- A light installation projected onto the windowless section of the building on the Western edge of the node



Precedents



Potential Future Condition

# Cepro

## Design Recommendations

### Play Feature

- Use existing topography to create a nature play area

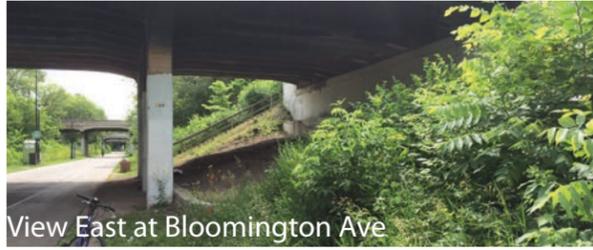


Precedents



Potential Future Condition

# Bloomington Ave



View East at Bloomington Ave



Bottom of Stairs



Top of Stairs from Bridge



Top of Stairs from E 29th St



E 29th St and Bloomington Ave Intersection

## Bloomington Ave

### Existing Conditions

The node at Bloomington Ave is a narrow segment of the Greenway. This part of the Greenway is characterized by a rhythm of bridges crossing overhead at each block. At the Bloomington Ave intersection there is a flight of stairs with a curb to wheel a bike up to street level. Two blocks to the East and West ramps connect users to street level. Discussing several themes emerged as areas to impact.

### Multiple Access/Departure Points

- There are 3 opportunities to exit/enter the Greenway within a 5 block area, an opportunity to create a series of signs

### The Bloomington Bridge

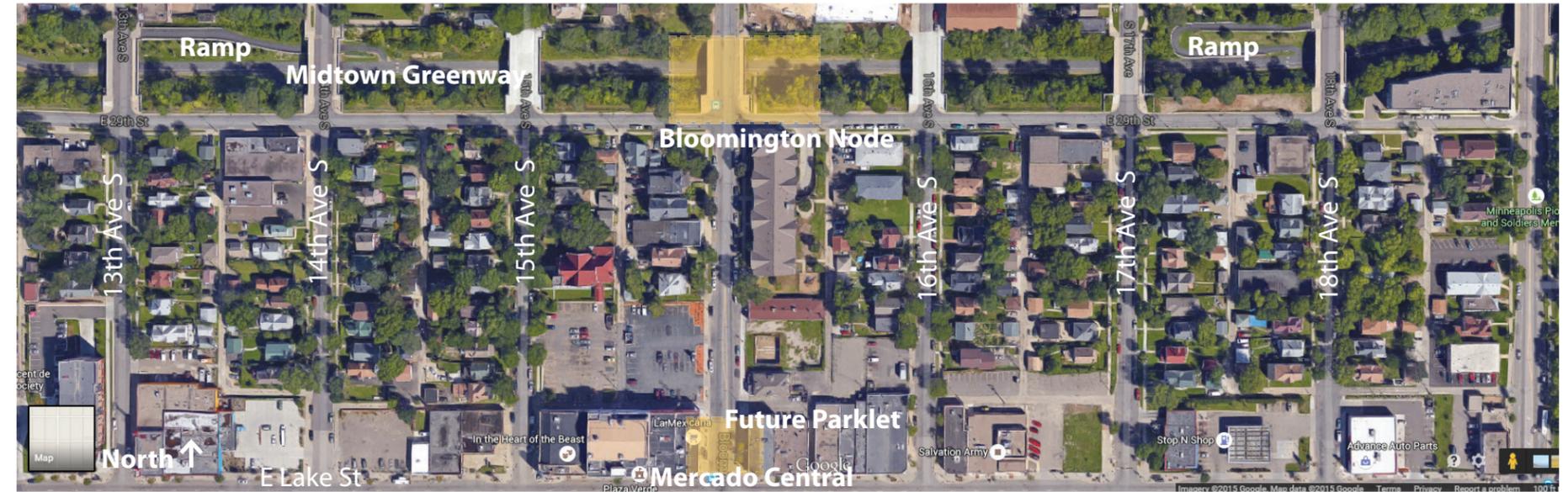
- The headers are blank, a noticeable unused area above the vegetation line
- There is unused space on the bridge deck near the sidewalk
- There is a narrow landing at the top of the stairs.

### The Hillside

- Currently the vegetation is overgrown making the stairs hidden from view.



Bloomington Node Site Map



Bloomington Node Context Map

# Bloomington Ave

## Design Recommendations

### 1. Vegetation Management

- Create a vegetation maintenance regime, in order to make stair access visible

### 2. Bike Rack

- Provide bike parking at the base of the stairs, to encourage users up and out the trench without having to haul their bike up the slope

### 3. Series of Signs

- Utilize the repetition of bridges in this segment of the Greenway to install Burma-Shave inspired signs

### 4-5. Orientation Sign

- Create a unique sign at the top of the stairs to orient people to E. Lake St
- Paint the Bridge header

### 6. Slide

- Install an embankment slide next to the stairs

### Parklet

- Install a parklet on Bloomington Avenue outside Mercado Central

### Vandalism Monitoring

- Throughout the pilot program an ongoing vandalism monitoring will occur. Not only for maintenance purposes but as part of the pilot program to determine which aspects receive the most/least amount of vandalism



# Bloomington Ave

## Design Recommendations

### Bike Rack

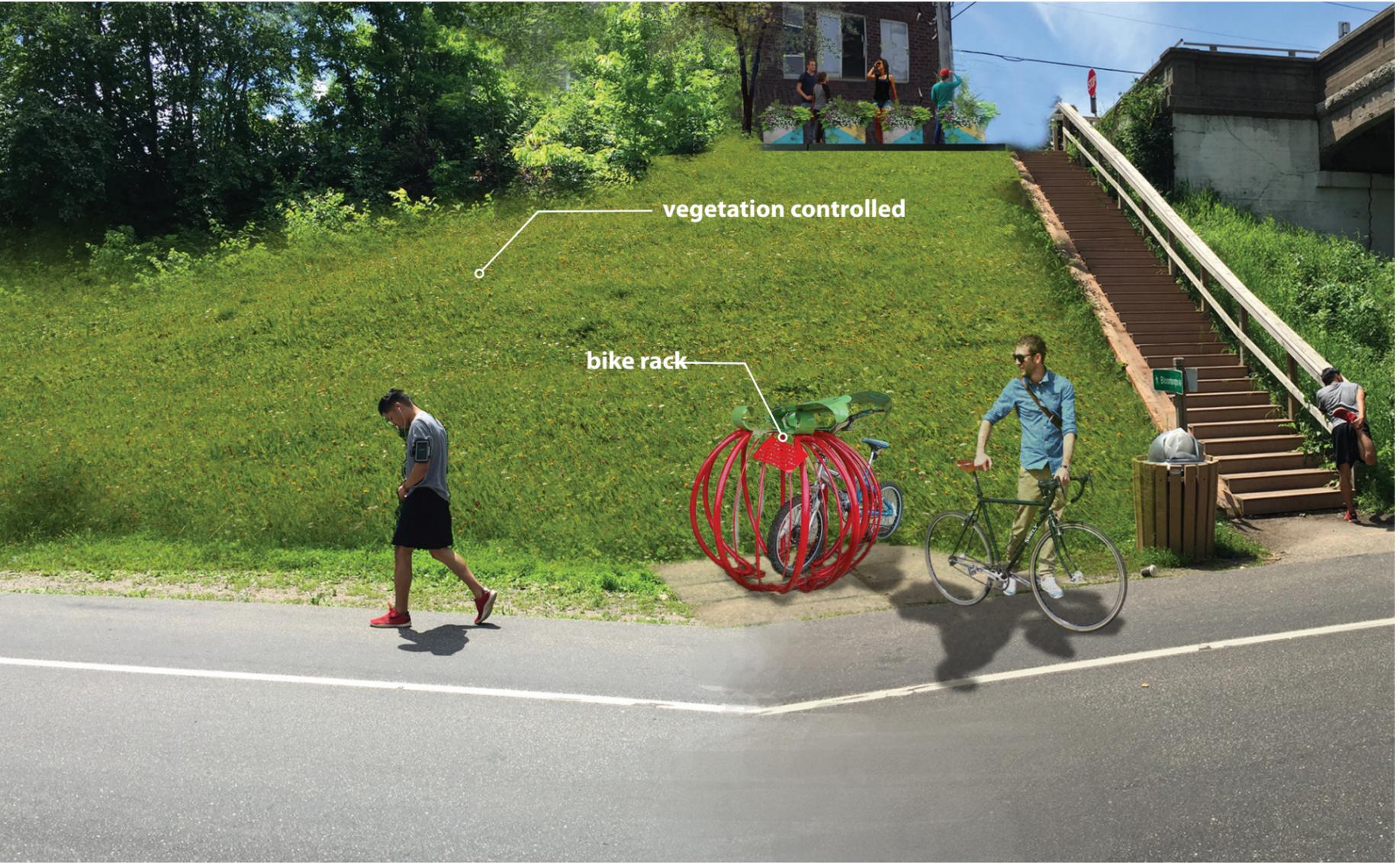
- Provide temporary bike parking at the base of the stairs, to encourage users up and out the trench without having to haul their bike up the slope
- Create a food inspired bike rack, possibly a taco

### Vegetation Management

- Create a vegetation maintenance regime, in order to make stair access visible



Bike Rack Precedents



Potential Future Condition

# Bloomington Ave

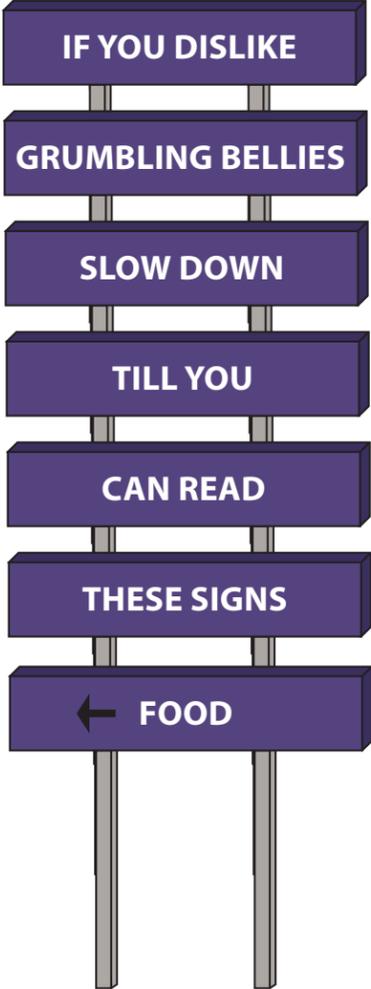
## Design Recommendations

### Series of Signs

- Utilize the repetition of bridges in this segment of the Greenway to install Burma-Shave inspired signs



Potential Future Condition



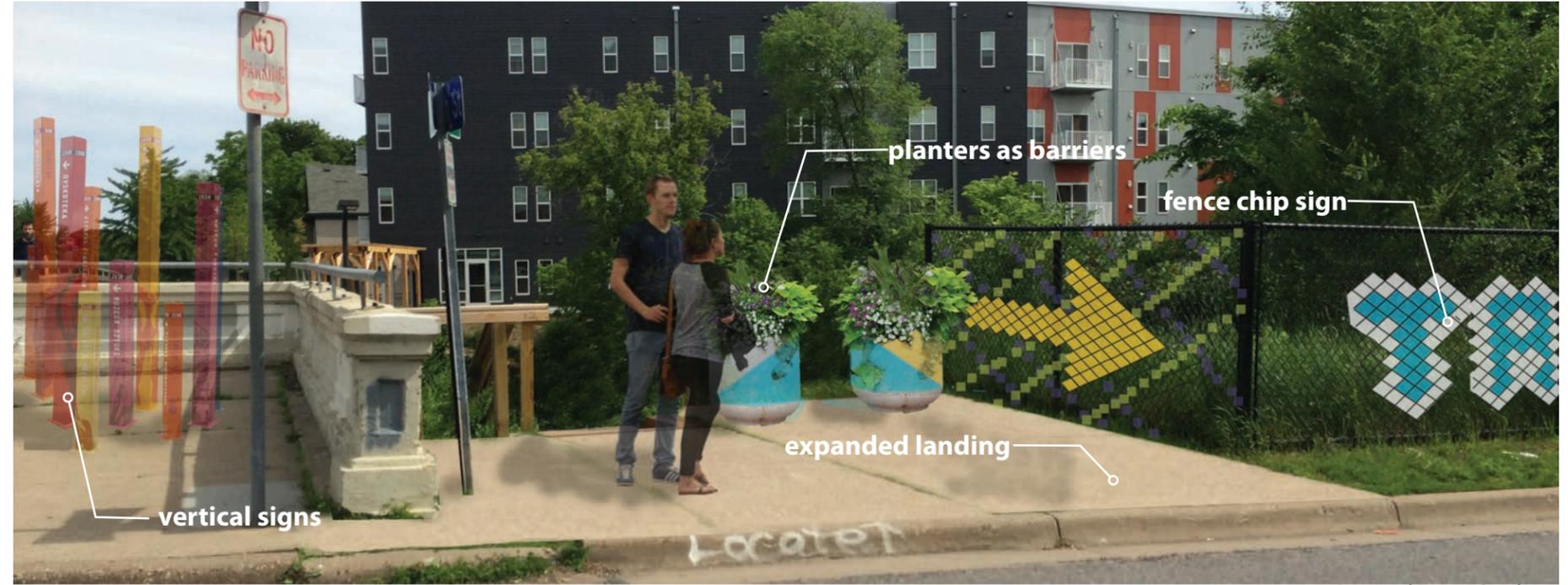
Potential Sign Phrasing

# Bloomington Ave

## Design Recommendations

### Orientation Sign

- Create a unique sign at the top of the stairs to orient people to E. Lake St
- Paint the Bridge header



Potential Future Condition



Sign Precedents



Potential Future Condition

# Bloomington Ave

## Design Recommendations

### Slide

- Install a temporary embankment slide next to the stairs



Existing Conditions



Sydney, AU

Embankment Slide



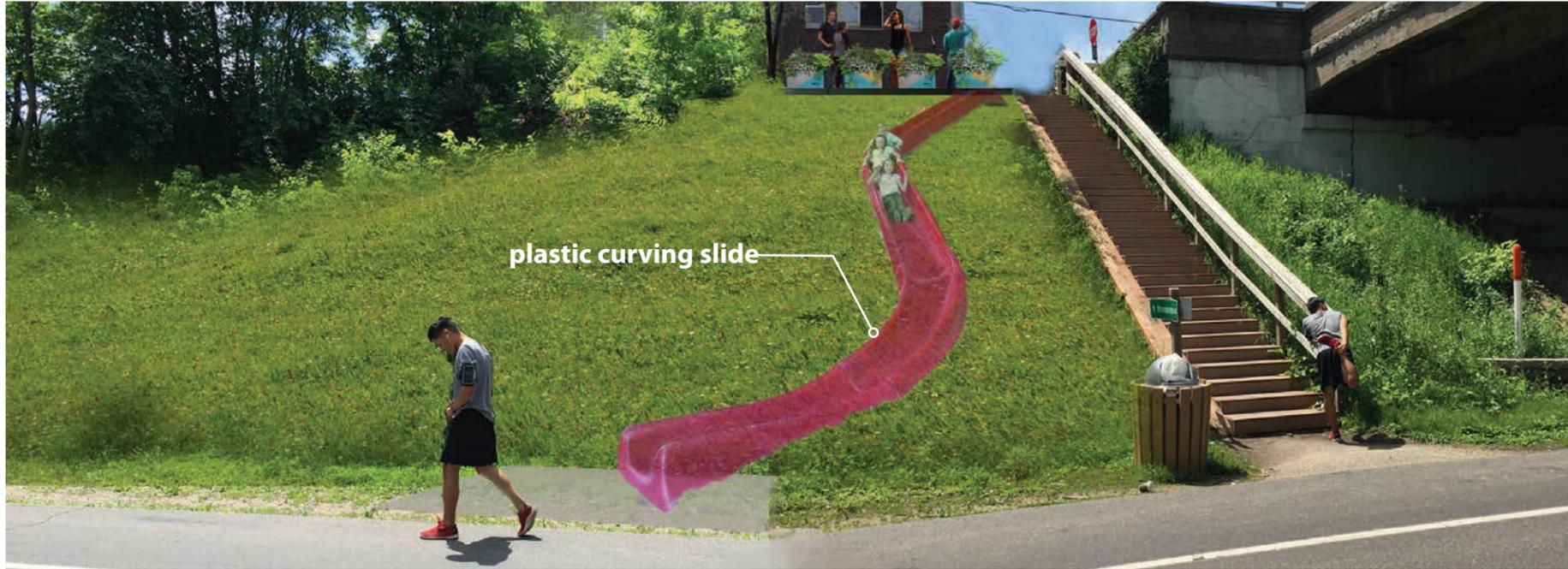
Davis, CA

Embankment Slide



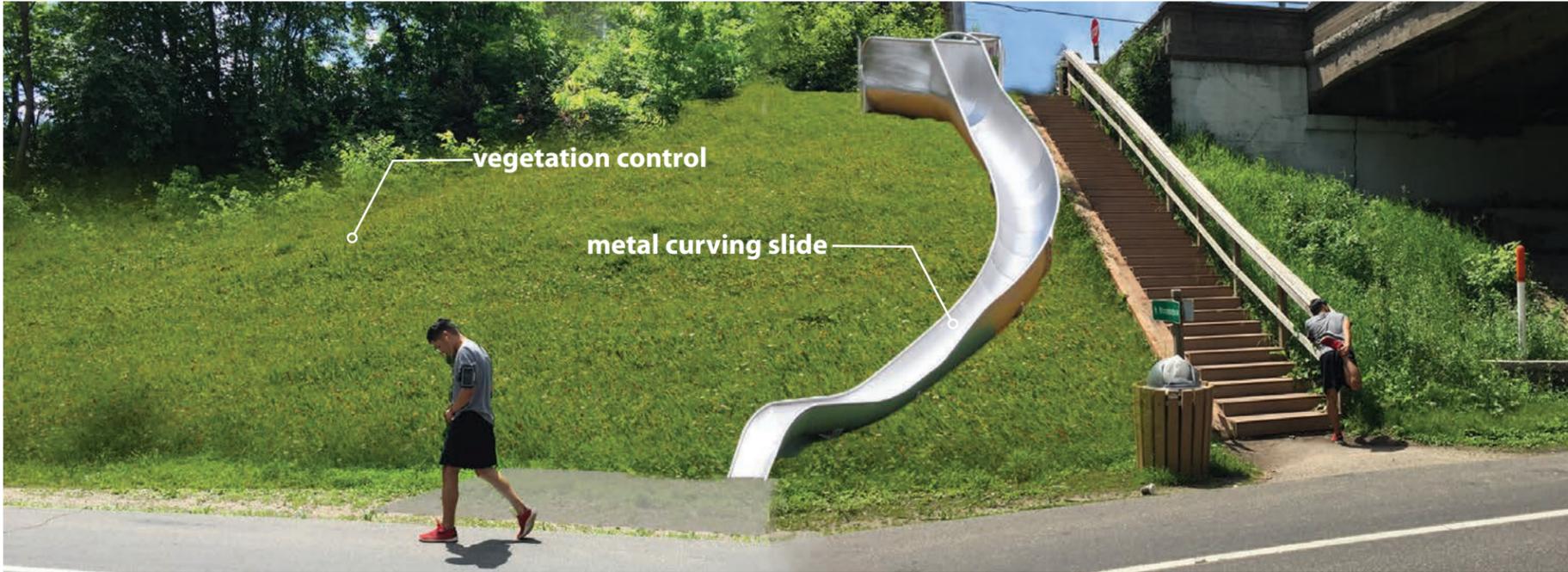
Dorset, UK

Embankment Slide



plastic curving slide

Potential Future Condition



vegetation control

metal curving slide

Potential Future Condition

# Bloomington Ave

## Design Recommendations

### Parklet

- Install a parklet on Bloomington Avenue outside Mercado Central



Existing Conditions



Potential Future Condition

# 26th Ave South



Crossing at 26th Ave S Looking West



26th Ave Eastern Edge



26th Ave Eastern Edge



Minnehaha Ave Intersection



Buffered Bike Lane

## 26th Ave South

### Existing Conditions

The node at 26th Ave South was chosen for its proximity to schools, and retail. The Greenway crossing is at street level. Challenges include a railroad crossing and a busy road. There is a buffered bike lane on 26th Ave. On 26th Ave and E. Lake St are traffic islands that become turn lanes. Discussing several themes emerged as areas of impact.

#### Area "A"

- The intersection of 26th Ave and the Greenway
- Faded trail crossing paint on the roadway
- On the Eastern side of the crossing an area of low vegetation widens, providing a place to pull off the Greenway
- Crossing is next to a rail crossing so there can be no installation of additional lights

#### Area "B"

- The intersection of Minnehaha Ave and the Greenway
- This area is an alternative departure point from the Greenway, this road does not have a buffered bike lane.
- This crossing has a push button crosswalk

warning light system

#### Area "C"

- E. Lake St between 26th Ave and Snelling Ave
- Is next to a large parking lot for box retail stores, at the entrance to the parking lots there is unused space on the curb extensions.
- On E Lake St there are raised traffic islands



26th Ave S Nodes A & B Site Map



26th Ave S Node C Site Map



26th Ave S Node Context Map

# 26th Ave South

## Design Recommendations

### Multiple Locations Approach

- A series of small interventions that link 26th Ave, Minnehaha Ave, and Lake St.

### 1-2. Activated Islands

- Applying paint to the center islands on the road, both raised and marked off
- Where space allows place low planters on the traffic islands

### 3. Marking the Bike Lane

- Paint the buffered bike lane green to mark that there is in fact a buffered bike lane on 26th Ave

### 4-5. 26th Ave

- Adding seating
- Incorporating the same planters as used on the traffic islands
- Providing a creative sign to orient people to E. Lake St
- Adding a bike repair/pump station (Fixit Station)
- Utilize the fence space and install a fence chip sign directing people to E. Lake Street

### Vandalism Monitoring

- Throughout the pilot program an ongoing vandalism monitoring will occur. Not only for maintenance purposes but as part of the pilot program to determine which aspects receive the most/least amount of vandalism

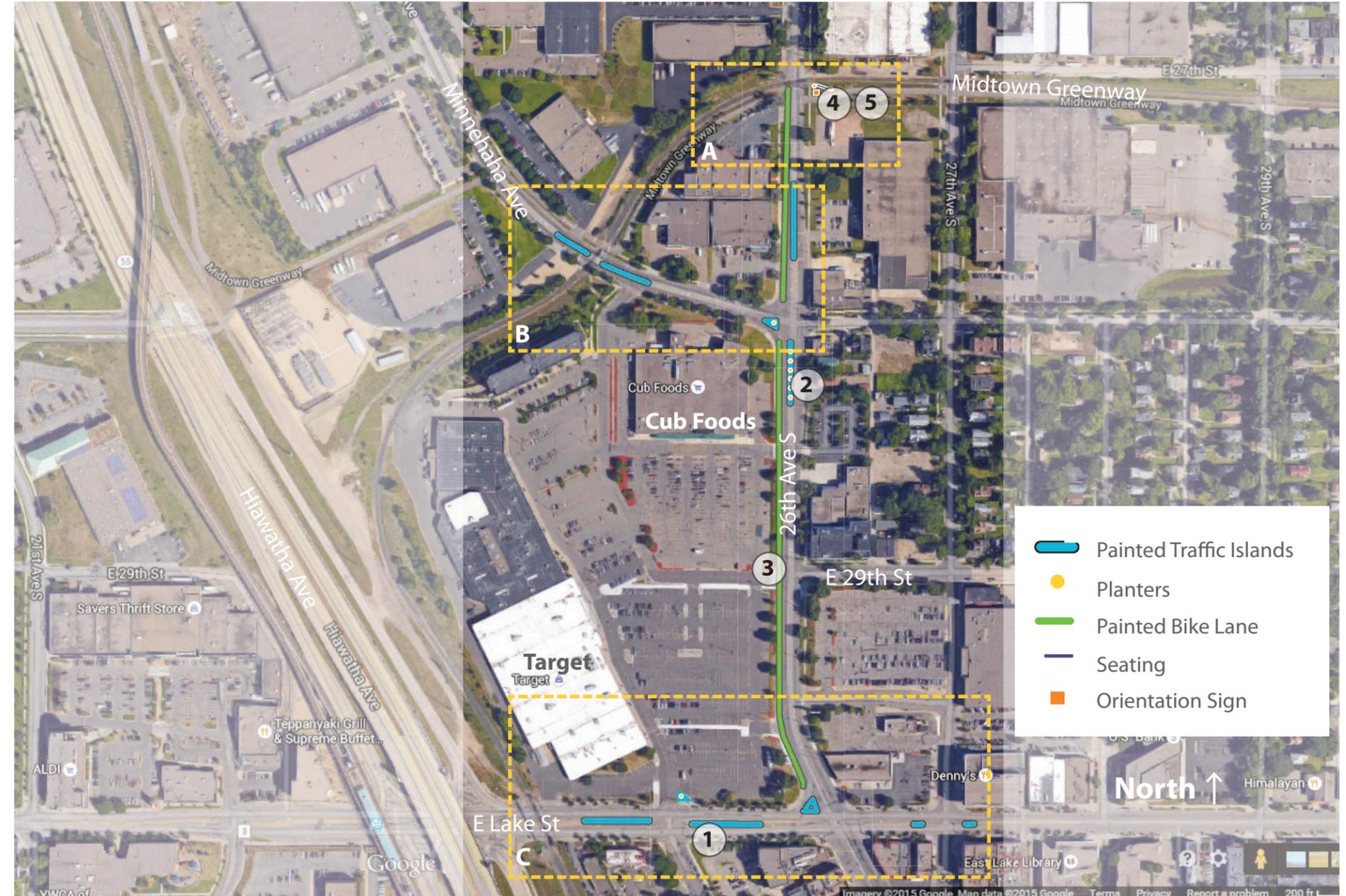
Area A



Area B



Area C



# 26th Ave South

## Design Recommendations

### Activated Islands

- Applying paint to the center islands on the road, both raised and marked off
- Where space allows place low planters on the traffic islands



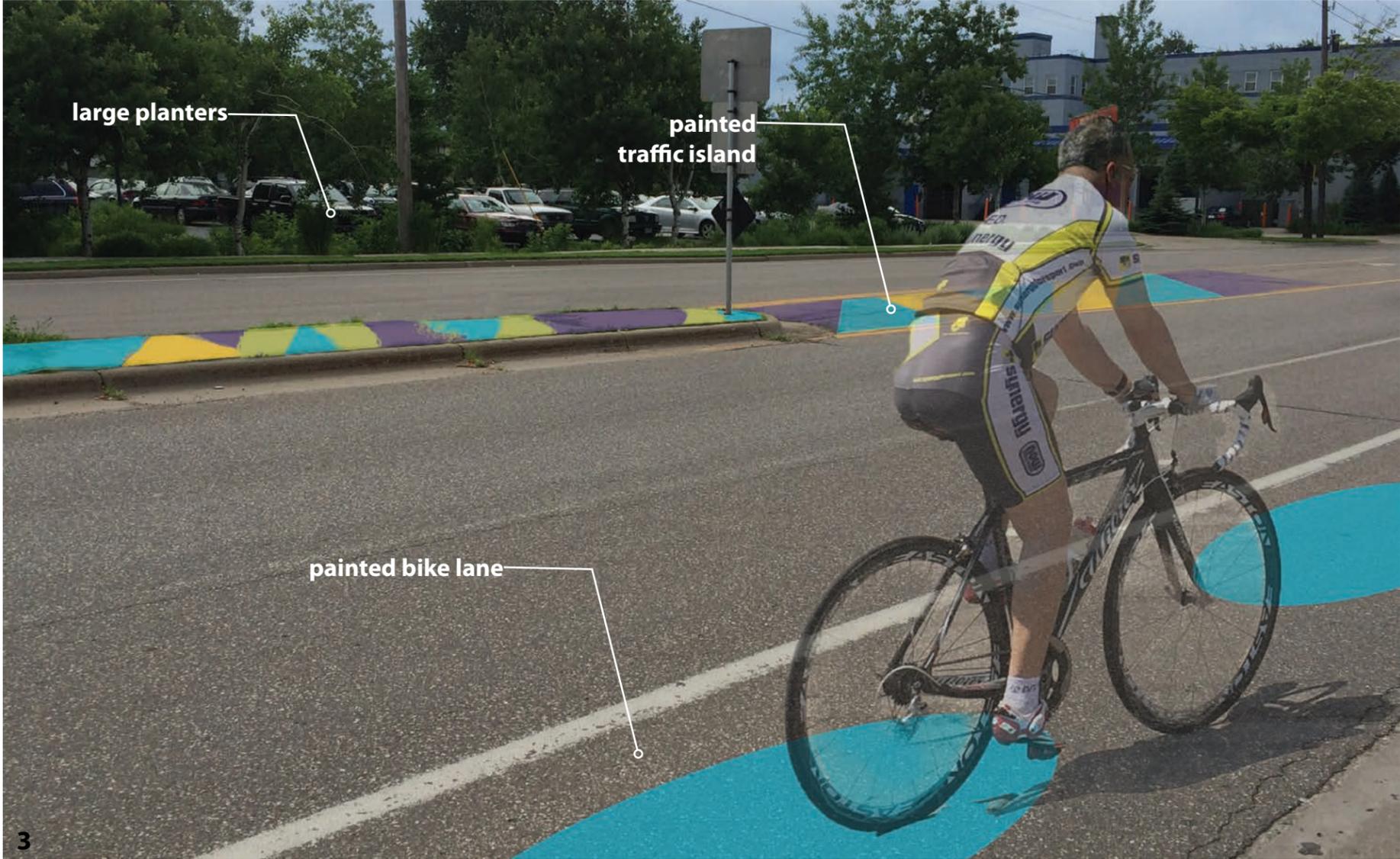
Image Locations



Potential Future Condition



Potential Future Condition



Potential Future Condition

# 26th Ave South

## Design Recommendations

### Marking the Bike Lane

- Paint the buffered bike lane green to mark that there is in fact a buffered bike lane on 26th Ave



Painted Bike Lane Precedents



Potential Future Condition

# 26th Ave South

## Design Recommendations

### 26th Ave

- Adding seating
- Incorporating the same planters as used on the traffic islands
- Providing a creative sign to direct people to the amenities on E. Lake St
- Adding a bike repair/pump station (Fixit station)
- Utilize the fence space and install a fence chip sign directing people to E. Lake Street



Image Location



Existing Condition



fixit station

Potential Future Condition



orientation sign

bench and planters

Potential Future Condition

**Long Range Planning Division**

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**Minneapolis**

Community Planning and  
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