



BUILD A BRIDGE TO BETTER



**BUILD A BRIDGE
THAT MAKES
MINNESOTA SHINE
BRIGHTER**



February 02, 2021

Minnesota is the best and worse



- Affordability
 - Economy
 - Education & health
 - Quality of life
 - Safety
- Ranked 4th worst place for African Americans
 - Home ownership—25% of black vs 76% of white
 - Epicenter of racial injustice
 - Ongoing racial tensions—killing of:
 - Jamar Clark (2015)
 - Philando Castile (2016)
 - George Floyd (2020)



BUILD A BRIDGE
BETWEEN YESTERDAY,
TODAY AND TOMORROW



BUILD A BRIDGE TO BETTER

Rondo was once **the place for African Americans**

- 80% of Saint Paul's African American population
- Vibrant culture
- Flourishing middle class
- Busting with business



That changed with the I-94 construction (1956-1968)

Loss - 700 homes 300 Business

- **Home Ownership** - 48% decline
- **Population** - 61% decline
- **Intergenerational wealth** - \$35m
- **Education** - \$35m = 4800 college degrees
- **A wealth gap** - \$157m from home equity alone



Wrong is Wrong

- Rondo was literally split in half
- 700 African American owned homes were destroyed
- 300 African American businesses were destroyed
- \$270 million home ownership equity gap in Rondo*

* Rondo Past Prosperity Study



My story of Rondo



Something must be done

Today, Rondo ranks negatively in 18 of 18 equity measures, including:

- Financial security
- Homeownership
- Food security
- Education security
- Environmental health
- Energy security



Something has been done, but more must be done

- Long-awaited apologies
- Rondo Healing Ceremony & Reconciliation event
- Creation of ReConnect Rondo
- Numerous Technical Studies & Research

“Today we acknowledge the sins of our past...” We regret the stain of racism that allowed so callous a decision as the one that led to families being dragged from their homes...”

—, Chris Coleman, former Saint Paul Mayor

“An era when the Minnesota Highway Department built an interstate through the heart of the RONDO Community...” We would never, we could never, build that kind of atrocity today.”

—Charles Zelle, former Commissioner of Transportation, MnDOT



BUILD A BRIDGE
THAT SHOWS US
A BETTER WAY



BUILD A BRIDGE TO BETTER

ReConnect Rondo is leading a restorative movement

- **Mission:** Lead the effort to revitalize the Rondo community with a land bridge that reconnects Rondo and reignites a vibrant African American cultural enterprise district in Saint Paul
- **Plan:** Connect Minnesota leaders, equity organizations and the Rondo community to ensure a better, brighter and more equitable future



The idea is big

- Minnesota's first cultural enterprise district connected by a community land bridge



Yes, the land bridge is a big undertaking

- Length 2,600-3,200 lin. ft.
- Total capital cost up to \$458.9 million
- Total O&M cost up to \$6.9 million annually



Economic opportunities are considerable



New housing

468 - 576 housing units in Rondo



Growing community

1000+ new residents



New jobs

1,304 - 1,872 new permanent and construction related jobs



Retail & Office

87,750 - 108,000 square feet



Nonprofit & Institutional

29,250 - 36,000 square feet



Increased city revenue

approximately \$3.8 million - \$4.2 million annually

We can be inspired by other projects

Land bridges



Freeway Cap, Duluth, MN

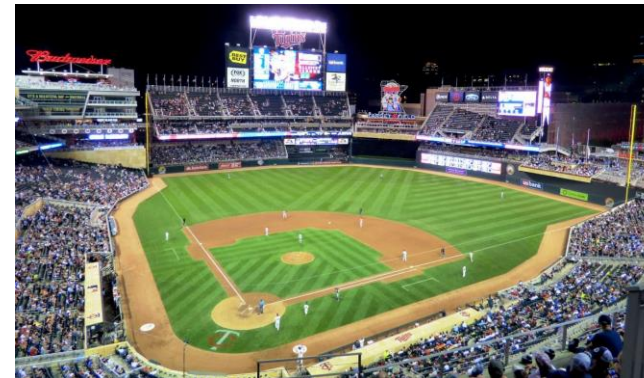


Klyde Warren Park Land Bridge (Dallas, Texas)

Publicly funded projects



US Bank Stadium

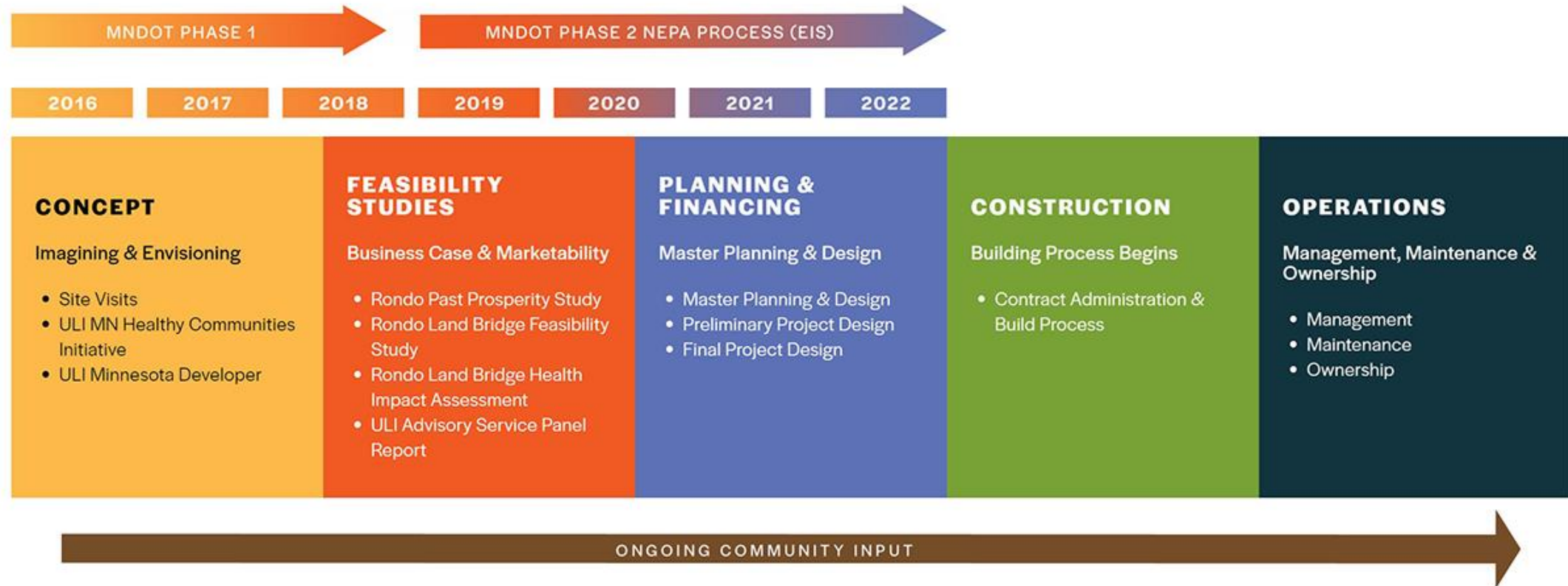


Target Field



Xcel Energy Center

A purposeful path to equity

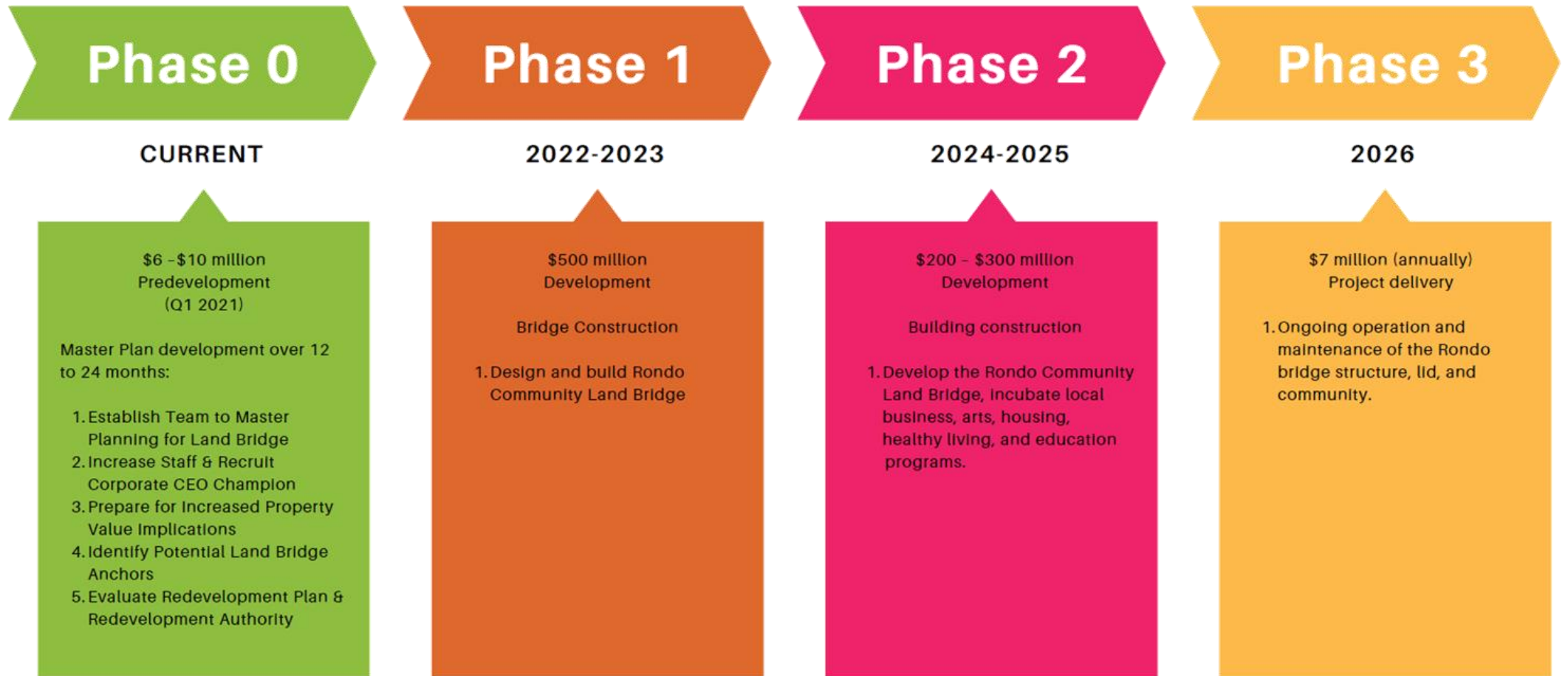


A multifaceted funding approach

- Restorative financing
- Shared understanding by all parties
- Community ownership success



Support is needed



A progress plan is in place



“We will do this work through the lens of One Minnesota, because we know that when Mankato thrives, Moorhead thrives. When Rondo thrives, the Range thrives.”


—Minnesota Governor Tim Walz



BUILD A BRIDGE TO BETTER

THANK YOU!

reconnectrondo.com



**Who are your current
partners?**

Ecosystem expertise & resources

