

To: Partnership
From: Partnership Leadership Team (Kim Havey, Richard Gilyard, Jeff Ellard, Patrick Hanlon, Karen Galles, and Dan Kalmon)
Date: 13 April 2020
Re: Checking in, update

In these complex and tumultuous times, we hope all of you are managing the many changes and staying well. Please remember that this Partnership is full of talented and creative people/organizations, each committed to this collective work; don't hesitate to reach out for ideas, learnings, or coping strategies ([roster](#)) -- we're all in this together and happy to help.

Although we can't meet in person, work on the RDP Feasibility Study continues, including virtual meetings with most of the Partners. For the full *partnership*, we know the importance of keeping everyone informed and involved. Please see below for a quick update, and know that we're working hard on virtual options. In the meantime, here's a quick [read](#) offering a professional perspective on meeting obligations without losing your balance.

Feasibility Study Overview, Status

As a quick reminder, below are the primary phases of the Integrated Utility Hub Feasibility Study and their current status.

- 1. Performance assessment** (January-June 2020): Working with Partners to assess the environmental, social, and economic performance of the current system, establishing benchmarks, and mapping Minneapolis on the restorative development roadmap. See major tasks described below and the status of each.
 - Gather publicly available data as input for performance assessment tool: 90% complete
 - Meet/talk with Partners to present model and capture feedback: 50% complete (5 of 10)
 - Completion of data request sheets by Partners: In progress
 - Data analysis and development of performance assessment and scorecard: In progress
- 2. Restorative development benchmarking analysis** (January-March 2020): See major tasks described below and the status of each.
 - Development of circular economic case studies and lessons learned by private and public organizations: Complete
 - International benchmarking analysis: Complete
- 3. Technical analysis** (January-May 2020): This work is based on input from Partners earlier in the process and through the performance assessment described above. See major tasks described below and the status of each.
 - Technical component analysis: 70% complete
 - Technical component integration analysis: 25% complete
 - Availability and tonnage of waste streams for processing in the IUH: 100% complete
 - Resource flow modeling within the IUH: 25% complete

- Output analysis (amount of energy, reclaimed stormwater, fish, vegetables, compost/fertilizer): 10% complete
- Conceptual design draft available first week of May, with final conceptual design completed by June 1

4. City Scorecard and Ecological Equity Statement for current and historic status (April-May 2020)

Key Tenets of Restorative Development

Redefinitions

Now: Current concept is waste; we build infrastructure that gets rid of waste as cheaply as possible

New restorative economy:

- Restorative concept is materials
- Keeps products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times
- Uses infrastructure that maximizes their quality
- Focuses on **equity**
 - Marginalized populations as assets
 - Stormwater as asset
 - Wastewater as asset

Requirements

- Utilizes all wastes as materials
- Efficient output-to-input transfer of materials across production processes
- Geographic proximity
- Outputs improve local community and city
- Equitably optimizes social, economic, and environmental outcomes

Highlights: Key takeaways from Partner meetings

Yorh has been meeting with Partners for the Performance Assessment work described above. Below are some of the interesting learnings that have emerged.

- There is a broadly shared sense of excitement about the opportunity to rethink urban development in a more holistic manner.
- Partners are beginning to find ways to position this generational RDP effort within their own organizational contexts -- which have narrower scopes and are shorter term.
- The COVID-19 crisis has added a sense of urgency for building more resiliency into the fabric of local communities. *For example, empty grocery shelves may be a consequence not only of anxiety about the pandemic, but also because our complex, distant production system leaves most Americans ignorant of how much food is actually available in the country.*
- As Partners have looked at the draft performance assessments, they better understand the problems with current measures of success. *For example, focusing on limited measures and in isolation, doesn't account for opportunities to optimize positive benefits and minimize negative impacts. Changing how we think about measures of success allows new, constructive, and collaborative conversations within and between stakeholders.*

- Partners raised a variety of interesting topics for consideration, all of which tie back to the city’s ability to achieve their 2040 goals; examples included:
 - Could soil in Minneapolis parks be restored using biochar made from residential kitchen scraps?
 - What strategies can we use to generate additional revenue to support “waste” reuse and decrease the amount of waste going to the HERC?
 - How would wastewater and stormwater be handled such that it becomes an asset?
 - Can investment in restorative development serve as an economic stimulus in a post-COVID-19 world?
 - How can we use the concept of restorative development in the City and County budgeting process?

Next Up

Work is continuing on the tasks noted above, and specifically in the next 3-4 weeks:

5. Performance Assessment:
 - Partners return all data request sheets
 - Yorth completes contextualization of data and drafts report
6. Partnership: We anticipate working with all of you to schedule a virtual workshop for Yorth to share and seek collective feedback on preliminary findings from the Performance Assessment, and the Partnership will then plan next steps.