

MEET

# Minneapolis

## Samatar Crossing

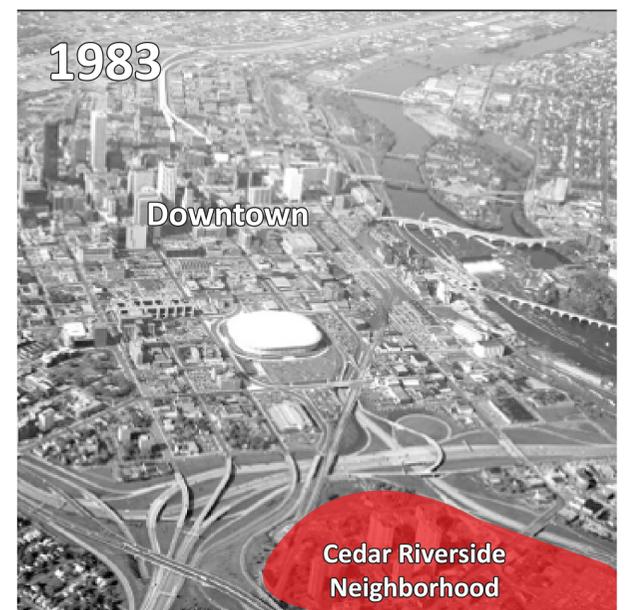
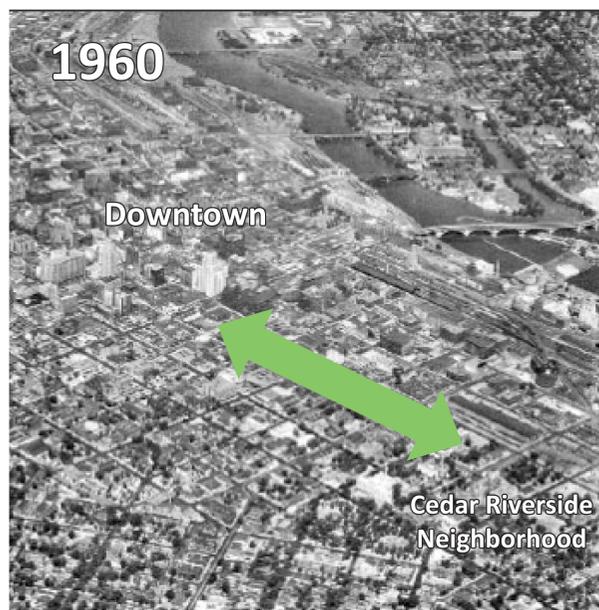
Reconnecting neighborhoods separated by freeways



### Freeways and the lasting impact on one neighborhood

Like other U.S. cities, interstate freeways dismantled traditional neighborhood design in Minneapolis, isolating neighborhoods and the people who live there.

The Cedar-Riverside neighborhood, just east of downtown, is one example of this change. As the city developed in the early 1900's, the neighborhood was part of a well-connected street grid system. However, by the 1980's it was surrounded by freeways on three sides.



### Recent network changes led to big opportunities

- Minneapolis' 2007 *Downtown Action Plan* identified changes to several freeway access points
- In 2017, a new off-ramp was constructed at 7th Street
- The original ramp at 5th Street was no longer needed for motor vehicles
- The City repurposed the old 5th Street ramp as a non-motorized connection

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Before (2017)



## Concept Development

- Repurposing the 5th Street Ramp provided an opportunity to improve connections between two densely populated areas of Minneapolis
- Engagement with Cedar-Riverside residents found there was a strong desire to prioritize non-motorized connections and prevent new motor vehicle access to the neighborhood
- The new connection provides access to jobs, housing, commercial areas, light rail transit, bikeways, parks, hospitals, and entertainment venues

After (2018)



## Design

- Modified an existing highway ramp into a non-motorized street
- Includes a new sidewalk, bicycle path, and pedestrian scale lighting with improved sight lines
- New street and greenspace support major events and activities hosted at US Bank Stadium and the Commons Park
- Additional greening and public art is planned to be installed in 2019

## Serving a Diverse Community

Presently, the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood is home to the largest community of immigrants in Minneapolis, including over 8,000 Somali-Americans. Most residents rely on walking and transit to get around.

## New Public Space

The densely populated neighborhood lacks adequate public space. In addition to serving as a transportation connection, Samatar Crossing also provides new space for events, gathering, and recreation.

## Behind the Name



Samatar Crossing is named after the late Hussein Samatar, a former Minneapolis School Board member and the first Somali-American elected to public office in Minneapolis.

