



Target Field Station

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hennepin County

Counterclockwise from top: Bird's eye view of Target Field Station; canopied light rail boarding platform; public event at the Target Field Station Amphitheatre (all photos © Morgan Sheff. Courtesy Perkins Eastman).

A multimodal nexus that seamlessly integrates transit, design, and cultural elements contributes to a dynamic public space.

CONTEXT

- Opened June 2014.
- Midwestern.
- Urban.
- \$79.3 million.
- 140,000 square feet.
- 500 train arrivals/departures each weekday.



MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTERS

- Provides intermodal connectivity among light rail, commuter rail, and city buses.
- Improves surrounding street grid, enabling better and safer access to public transit.
- Incorporates placemaking elements.
- Design accommodates future light rail lines.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

The popularity of light rail transit (LRT) with spectators of Minnesota Twins baseball games led to higher than anticipated ridership, causing long lines and crowding at boarding platforms after games. Additionally, fans wanting to walk to the adjacent North Loop neighborhood had to cross active LRT tracks. With the scheduled opening of a second LRT line in 2014, the need to accommodate new travel demand and enhance neighborhood connectivity became clear. Ultimately, A \$10 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant award in 2011 served as a catalyst to realizing a shared vision for the new Target Field Station as an intermodal connector and iconic public space. In a unique public-private partnership, nearly 10 other organizations, including the Minnesota Twins, also contributed funds toward the station's development.

HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

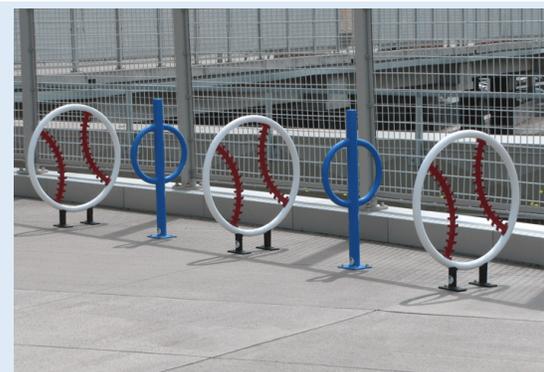
Prior to 2014, with only one LRT platform, post-game lines and train delays proved a disincentive to further transit ridership growth. The new Target Field Station of 2014 provides spacious and safe queuing areas for fans waiting to board two LRT lines. The new second platform makes simultaneous boarding of Blue Line and Green Line trains possible. Additional **transit user accommodations** include canopied boarding platforms, accessible wheelchair ramps, and on-demand heating.

The completion of station improvements in May 2014 also aligned with the opening of the METRO Green Line in June 2014, which connects the area to neighboring St. Paul. Further, station improvements provide increased access and intermodal connectivity to the existing METRO Blue Line LRT, Northstar Commuter Rail line, and a dozen bus routes that stop at or near the station. Target Field Station's new underground parking garage and connections to bike trails and a bikeshare system offer **expanded access to transit** for area residents and commuters. Additionally, the station update incorporates a "plug and play" design that will allow planned LRT line additions to seamlessly connect when they come online.

The transformational vision for Target Field Station extended beyond transportation improvements. This concept included infusing culture with transit design and open space that would make the station an appealing destination for both transit users and non-transit users, while also attracting real estate development to the area. Amenities that support this "open transit" concept include public spaces, public art, and an amphitheater. By integrating **improved transit service** with cultural elements, enhancements to Target Field Station increased both physical and social connectivity for the 3,000 residents and 40,000 workers located within a half-mile radius of the facility.

The use of **context sensitive solutions** to engage community members and stakeholders in the design process was key to success of this vision. Initially,

area residents had misgivings about the construction of a transit hub in their neighborhood. To address this, Hennepin County hosted a **design charrette** that brought together more than 50 participants including residents, architects, and designers to review early plans for the station. Together, this group came up with a solution that moved the alignment of LRT tracks from an adjacent street to the site of a County property nearby. This solution removed a visual obstruction between the neighborhood and the site, and also made space for wider sidewalks and future development. Importantly, this and other public engagement efforts by Hennepin County helped garner support for the project and worked to ensure the vision for the station reflected residents' values.



Twins-themed bicycle racks (@Hennepin County).

WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



In addition to the project's connectivity benefits Hennepin County's commitment to quality design and cultural space have catalyzed redevelopment of the area and created economic opportunity. These include the creation of 300 full-time jobs directly tied to the station's construction and the development of a nearby nonprofit headquarters that brings more than 900 new workers to the area. Additionally, construction has begun on a nearby 156-room hotel and entertainment center. Awards:

- American Public Works Association: Public Works Project of the Year (2015)

For more information: <https://www.hennepin.us/targetfieldstation>