

MBA COMMITS TO MAJOR INVESTMENT AROUND THE BALLPARK



At its April 17 meeting, the Minnesota Ballpark Authority approved up to \$2 million for four separate projects designed to enhance and improve the public space around Target Field. Funding will come from the MBA's Ballpark District Enhancements and Public Art Incentive Fund, which consists of interest earnings on construction bond proceeds, and remaining contingency in the project's infrastructure budget.

In order of priority, the four projects are:

- Pedestrian and bike improvements along 3rd Avenue between 7th and 12th Streets - *up to \$1.2 million.*
- Sidewalk expansion and improvements along 7th Street from the end of the HERC property (Hoag Avenue) to 1st Avenue North, which includes the home plate entrance – *up to \$500,000.*
- Additional enhancements on 3rd Avenue between 5th Street to Washington, to be coordinated with the City's 2009 reconstruction project – *up to \$250,000.*
- Pedestrian lighting and sidewalk improvements near the ballpark entrances – *up to \$50,000.*

(For a detailed look at these proposed investments, watch the latest [Target Field Video Tour.](#))

MBA Executive Director Dan Kenney says that staff will work collaboratively with other agencies and participating jurisdictions to achieve these upgrades, starting with improvements on 3rd Avenue from 7th to 12th Streets. According to Kenney, this stretch of 3rd Avenue is a top priority because existing conditions are substandard and because it will be a key connection between the ballpark and the Cedar Lake Bike Trail. Staff has already submitted a funding request to the Met Council to assist with these projects costs; if granted, the MBA Board will consider additional streetscape investments in the vicinity of the ballpark.

This is the second time the Board has authorized expenditures from the Ballpark District Enhancements and Public Art Incentive Fund since the Fund's creation in April 2008. In July 2008, the MBA Board allocated \$200,000 from the Fund for the 5th Street art panels project.

The Fund allows the MBA to work with government agencies, private developers, and other interested parties to encourage the coordinated development of amenities that serve

both the long-term interests of the ballpark and this emerging area of the City of Minneapolis. The latest allocation of District Enhancement funds for these four projects reflects the MBA's ongoing commitment to creating a sustainable, vibrant Ballpark District.