

April 2015

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER IN DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

A Cornerstone for Economic Growth, Soccer Excellence and International Recognition

A group of Minnesota-based business and philanthropic leaders have joined together to promote and secure a Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise for the State of Minnesota. The effort - led by Bill McGuire, Glen Taylor, the Pohlad family and Wendy Carlson Nelson - has been successful! The league's next (and last for the present time) franchise was awarded to the Minnesota group in a fiercely competitive process against other major southern communities including Sacramento, CA, San Antonio, TX and Las Vegas, NV.

Meeting the demands of the new MLS franchise and joining the international world of soccer requires the Minnesota ownership group to provide the team and fans a dynamic game day facility. The ownership group commits to privately finance the construction of an outdoor stadium - with natural grass - that is accessible to all people and communities. The MLS franchise will be the first professional team in Minnesota to construct their stadium without a direct public subsidy.

PRIVATE COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

The ownership group is not seeking public funding for construction of a soccer stadium. Instead, the ownership group is committed to making the investments needed to make MLS soccer in Minnesota a reality, including:

- Purchase the MLS expansion franchise (at a cost of \$100 million dollars).
- Acquire necessary land for the new soccer facility in a centrally located and under-developed part of Minneapolis (approximately \$30 million for land acquisition).
- Build a first-class MLS soccer facility through private funding (estimated at \$120 million).
- Spur new and substantial economic development and community enhancements including commercial and residential building, re-vitalization of the historic Farmers Market and a new gateway between downtown and North Minneapolis.
- Coordinate development opportunities around the stadium that will enhance the Farmers Market and inspire a vibrant urban environment.
- The owners are committed to partnering with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis to optimize the stadium development, associated area improvements, and use of the Royalston transit station and other previously planned transit activities.

ANTICIPATED JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1,900 construction jobs with over \$50 million of construction wages.
- Hundreds of service-sector and related jobs, with MLS game-day economic opportunities for local establishments and spin-off jobs.
- Over \$2.5 million of state and local sales taxes paid annually.

- Spur area improvement by serving as a dynamic “anchor” tenant ignite re-development and enhancement of an important area that has languished without a champion or major private investment.
- Complement existing and planned public projects (such as Target Field and Station, A & B parking ramps, and bicycle paths).
- Provide a “gateway” into the city from the important north and northwest ring communities, currently disconnected from the Central Business District.
- Improve the historic and widely-used Farmers’ Market through creation of a year-round, market-centric produce, product and food neighborhood.
- Stimulate residential and business development for the central area, as well as the immediate vicinity to the north and northwest, with \$150 million or more of private investment.
- Secure involvement in the highest national and international level soccer for Minnesota and its thousands of fans and players.
- Create a bold new tourism destination for millions centered on soccer - the sport of today and of the future. A MLS soccer-specific field is a unique experience and is unlike any currently available in the northern Midwest.
- Grow and support a broad-based, multi-cultural constituency in the Twin Cities: making soccer available, convenient, affordable and accessible.
- Host multiple professional and amateur soccer events, including international matches and high school and youth championships.
- Additional venue uses could include outdoor hockey tournaments for college, high school and youth leagues along with other community events.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS FOR THE PROJECT

The MLS stadium will be privately financed and not paid for with any taxpayer supported subsidies. The State has routinely provided economic development tools for projects large and small. We request that three of these tools be applied to the MLS stadium to ensure its success. All of these tools have been applied to other professional sport facilities, each of which also obtained significant taxpayer funded support.

This limited request relates only to tax proceeds that would not exist unless the planned construction and use occurs:

- Sales tax exemption for facility construction materials and supplies.
- Property tax exemption / relief limited to the MLS facility and land only. No professional, college, school or youth stadium is subjected to local property taxes (i.e.: Twins, Timberwolves, Vikings, Saints, Gophers, Wild, etc.).
- Limits on future local taxes levied on the facility and operations that do not currently exist.

