Project Connect is a City of St. Louis initiative to understand the potential benefits and impacts the relocation of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) will have on surrounding neighborhoods and future development.

It is focused on eight neighborhoods with a goal to identify priority investments that will help keep existing residents and businesses in the area and encourage new growth in the future.

Project Connect works by creating alignment between the people of the neighborhoods, existing plans, and current and future projects by both the public and private sector. This includes extensive community, local and regional agency input. In addition, a series of technical studies provide support in evaluating the potential contributions an investment can bring to the health of the neighborhoods and City as a whole.

The Project Connect Team has worked with residents to define and prioritize elements of the public realm that will support neighborhood stability and reinvestment. The first milestone of this process is an Action Plan, which will guide future investment in streets, transit, bicycle access, social services, parks, open spaces, and stormwater facilities.

Through a variety of methods listed here, the project is working to create alignment between People, Plans and Projects:

- Resident & Business Interviews
- Service Provider Interviews
- Neighborhood Association Meetings
- Neighborhood Improvement Specialists Meetings
- Small Forum Neighborhood Working Group
- Large Public Meetings
- Resource Fair with CDA
- Project Email and Comment Forms
- Website Updates Every Other Week
- Coordination with Local Projects
- Coordination with St. Louis Police Department
- Coordination with NGA and USACE
- Technical Working Group Meetings Across all Agencies and City Departments

STAY INFORMED
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Process

Neighborhood residents, business owners, and community organizations have been working closely with the Project Connect team to formulate potential investments for the City. This joint process between the City and community is extremely important to ensure that public investment has a positive impact on the existing community and supports future growth.

The process included a detailed assessment of previous and current planning efforts and projects throughout the area between the City, local and regional agencies, as well as the following:

1. Community needs and desires study to determine existing and future needs of residents and businesses;
2. Market analysis to determine the economic viability of new infill development. This included development of urban design alternatives for potential location and size of infill development to inform the following three models;
3. Analysis of existing flooding locations and combined sewer capacities, and potential solutions that would also support new growth;
4. Measurements of existing traffic and forecasts of future traffic including a future needs analysis;
5. Financial analysis that estimates the costs and revenues that might be incurred for a variety of infrastructure investments.

The next NGA West facility is moving to a new location in St. Louis at N. Jefferson and Cass Avenues. This project is the largest project within Project Connect and will be a catalyst for future development.

NGA is the nation’s primary source of geospatial intelligence for the Department of Defense and the U.S. Intelligence community. It provides support to U.S. national security and defense as well as disaster relief.

The City is preparing the site and NGA will complete the construction of its facility. Preparation activities include site acquisition, demolition, environmental cleanup and utility relocation and improvements.

NGA is working on programming for the site and community integration first before they determine the building locations and design the buildings. The Project Connect team is collaborating with NGA on identifying opportunities for integration with schools and neighborhood development that is sensitive to existing residents.

PROJECT MILESTONES

- **June 2016**: NGA announces its Record of Decision to locate in North St. Louis.
- **July 2016**: City begins NGA site preparation.
- **2018**: City to transfer property to US Air Force and US Army Corps of Engineers to begin construction.
- **2022**: NGA opens!