

University UNITED Policy Position on Biotechnology Development in the Midway

University UNITED is a coalition of community-based organizations and businesspeople working to revitalize the University Avenue Corridor. UNITED created a Task Force led by four of our member organizations to direct the Midway Industrial Area Initiative. The purpose of the effort is to analyze the existing uses and conditions in the 1,200-acre study area, and to make recommendations regarding ways to enhance business viability, create jobs, and promote more efficient and productive land use.

The Task Force is supportive of biotechnology development in the Midway industrial area, including the proposed University Enterprises Laboratory project, within the context of the following recommendations:

- The community and a wide range of stakeholders should be involved in the creation of a larger vision and comprehensive plan for the proposed biotechnology corridor, integrating the biotechnology development into the fabric of the adjoining neighborhoods.
- New development should conform to the *St. Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework* and include a mix of land uses, incorporate mass transit, and preferably be directly connected to the University Avenue corridor in order to maximize spin-off economic benefits. All biotechnology research and activities should also conform with the highest standards regarding safety and the ethical use of technology.
- Minneapolis, St. Paul, the University of Minnesota, and the private sector should work together on the development of the plan and its implementation, in order to maximize the competitive advantage of the entire region.
- Public sector support should be directed primarily to planning and infrastructure improvements that promote sustainable development and enhance a unique sense of place.
- Every effort should be made to insure that any manufacturing activity generated by the biotechnology research should remain within the community.