

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 03.10.2025, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: James Johnson, Lisa Nelson, Jerome Benner, April King, Amy Gage, Scott Berger

Guests: Bob Donahue, David Czaia, Justin Borrell

Staff : Leah Timberlake Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Allen moves to approve minutes, Jim seconds
- Moved Agenda and Minutes by Jerome, Seconded by April

2. Updates & follow-ups

- Leah: ex committee decided we will have the board retreat later in the year and have a board social in the near future. The board retreat will be focused on the 10-year plan.
- Leah: Working with the city on the amplified sound permit. Also working on administrative duties, financial planning.
- Connected with League of Women Voters to partner on the Ward 4 forum. Also including Midway Chamber, Hamline Midway Coalition.
 - There are three council members running. Once candidates register with Sec. of State, UPDC will announce certain candidates.
- Amy: Any ideas on who is running for the interim seat?
 - Leah was unsure if she could share the prospective candidate's name.
- Leah will be out of town, Thursday through Monday.
- Leah: CLUED is working on sound level permit.
 - NSVAC wants to expand their scope of work. Potential opp with the Senior Club and Skyline getting into environmentalism. Skyline towers reached out with concerns about their seniors not getting enough recreation. More to come from NSVAC.
 - Also will be working with the watershed district on discussions around impermeable surfaces

3. Open Forum

- Scott Berger: Who is responsible for clearing curb cut on the N. side of the ped crossing? No one is clearing the space by J&D Builders.
 - Lisa had discussed the same issue with Jimmy Shoemaker at the City. She believes it is the City's responsibility.
- Amy G: Texted building owner, Joe Hughes where Luminary is located. No signage makes it difficult to find. It would be helpful if we can help them advocate for more signage. YUM has a prominent space on the corner and we want to make sure adjacent businesses are not overlooked.
- Lisa: Joint transportation committee meetings last week. One thing that came up was a letter to ask the City and County to have more speed limit signs more frequently in certain places.

- Scott would like to post more 20 MPH signs. Premise of the letter it is important to educate people of the required speed limits. More focus on key intersections where it may be confusing. Sometimes people are not aware.
- **Scott: Moved to support a letter to promote increased signage with speed limits. Jerome seconds it. All in favor, none opposed.**
- Lisa will email the letter once she finds it.

4. Work Plan

- Lisa: Do we want to vote on the work plan?
 - **April moved approval of the 2025 Work Plan, Seconded by Amy. All in favor, none opposed.**
- Lisa: Does anyone want to be co-chair of the Transportation Committee?
- Lisa shared a google doc that will serve as a planning document to make suggestions. Everyone who is a committee member should have access to the shared Google Drive. If we want to suggest or take care of a topic, use this [document](#).
- April: Walking tour was great. Jerome suggested the idea of doing a walking/transit tour.
 - Making sure we incorporate places with bathrooms on the front and back ends of our tour.
 - Lisa: Where do we want to go? Uni would be a good option for a walking/transit tour. Walk one way then take the train back the other way.
 - Leah suggested the university avenue/fairview corridor.
 - Lisa suggested a new development tour.
- Lisa: Do we still want to do monthly trash pickups on University Avenue? Coordinate with HMC at the same time, or do it independently of them.
 - April: I like the idea of staggering.
 - Amy: Why do we solely focus on this area since we see these issues across UPDC.
 - Lisa: The fence and all the issues with trash everywhere.
 - Amy: Near fairview has tough areas. Marshall is not great either.
 - Lisa: We will continue monthly pick ups at University Avenue and snelling but then include other places as well.
 - April: We can walk in the other direction of University and Snelling as well.
 - Scott: We should coordinate with other orgs/groups that are doing this work?
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5. Follow-ups & planning

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6. Allianz Field Transportation Update

- Justin: Metro transit has about 9-10% ridership to Loon games. According to their numbers it started to go up. Started the year around 1,200-1,400, ended the year around 1,900 riders (combination of bus and trains)
- Scott: Why do you think ridership increased, Justin?
- Lisa: Asked Justin if Allianz field has trash pickups.

- April: Can we park in the parking lot at Pique's Place?
- Justin: Yes, the parking lot is fine and assuming it doesn't cross over with a game.
- Justin: Still needs to look at the numbers, better policing on transit ways and at the stations. People are beginning to trust the system.
- Justin: avg 1300 parkers day of games. Avg around 1600-1900 cars parked per game. Avg 2.5 people per car. Brings in 3,000+ in cars. These numbers do not take into account on-street parking.
- Lisa: Any estimates on how many people walk up who live nearby?
- Justin: Does not have it but they do track zip codes. He'll see if we can pull it. We do have many people who tend to come from a couple blocks away. Sees people come from the NW and NE gates. Typically a good indicator of transit users.
- Sgt Bob: Agreed that he also sees people coming from the North, near Spruce Tree. Also from the south. Seems that traffic is flowing better. Felt that we were able to get people out of the stadium
- Justin: Have seen fewer ride shares. It's hard to get info from Uber and Lyft.
- Sgt Bob: Making sure people are using the streets safely. Been a huge plus. Open to having officers in different places to help guide folks to the stadium. Feels like things are getting a lot easier. We don't have as many people asking officers where to park.
- Justin: Sold out from season ticket holders
- April: Any construction coming up?
- Justin: Going to review the site plan with development folks. Most of the development is living on the site. A bit of lane closure near old MacDonald's site but shouldn't be too impactful. Will start sometime in early to mid April.
- Formal kick off meeting with development team around site planning. That is scheduled for early next week. Monday afternoon.
- Sgt Bob: We have kept the same numbers of officers at the intersections. People have been used to
- NW has a new attraction with the sculpture.
 - Added a hard perimeter to the north. Blocking it off until the development starts.
 - Justin asked Sgt Bob if he's seen an uptick near the north? Snelling and University was the last to close out but before it was one of the first ones to clear out. This could be contributed to the sculpture. A bit of uptick to the NW.
- April: People are figuring it out and less people are driving down her permit only street.
- Lisa: Are the bike racks being used?
- Justin: Launched a website this year, we have a comprehensive experience with a Plan Your Visit tab.
- Lisa: Is there any additional enforcement during game days OR is there less illegal parking.
- Sgt Bob: There is always the same number out there. We do have less parking enforcement officers. They can call down to the traffic unit and ask for more people during the games. Call non-emergency. Will reach out to the commander and ask that they focus on certain areas.
- Lisa: For games where regular fans don't attend, how do we make sure they know where to go? (e.g. US National games, games vs. Miami (MESSI!), etc.

- Justin: Using the website to push education. Will see some inconsistencies from a parking perspective. Will push the website as much as possible.
- Lisa: When you know which games have pregame festivities, let Leah know and we can advertise in the newsletter? Just a heads up to let folks know that people are coming to the neighborhood.
- Friday night would be a concert on the great lawn for a game against Miami. New VP of Ticketing wants to include a concert. About 4,000-5,000 people.
- March 1 was the first home opener win! Go Loons!

8. Wrapping up

- No wrap ups.

Adjourned: 8:04 pm

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday April 14th, 2025 via zoom.