

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 12.08.2025, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Guests: Nichole Morris, Chris Bower, Mark Valencia, Greg Brown

Staff : Leah Timberland Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Agenda and Minutes approved. Moved by James, seconded by Jerome, approved unanimously.

2. Updates and Open Forum

- executive update about the UPDC social. CM Coleman attended the meeting and shared she was able to maintain the rec center hours at Merriam Park. She also talked about how she'll support the 10-year plan for Union Park.
- Finley gave the committee updates re: the Curbs to Currents program and the importance of protecting our watershed/stormwater systems.
- No questions raised from the Board.
- Open Forum: Allen – Desyoner Park is having a virtual meeting for Pelham Blvd discuss. Will share updates.

3. Pedestrian Safety with Dr. Morris – Research Associate Professor

Works around transportation safety and human system interactions/high risk road users – Human Factors Safety Lab – the marriage between psychology and engineering

Dr. Morris gave a sense of the type of work she does to set expectations about what she can/cannot answer. Her research lab is focused on creating safer roadways.

Work is centered around highway safety.

Discussed the importance of collecting crash data to understand how and when crashes occur.

Shared collaborations with MN, LRRB, St Paul, and Ramsey Co. on temporary and permanent ped infrastructure:

- Signage
- Right turn lane designs
- Speed management

Dr. Morris fielded questions from the group:

- Scott: Have you done any work around shortening crossing distance in re: to trails like the proposed Summit Avenue trail.
 - Yes, there has been work around shortening distances.
 - Trees are also helpful to show drivers that they are driving too fast. Large obstructions can serve as cues to drivers about their speed.
- Lisa: How do we be more proactive about preventing crashes instead of being reactive. Property crashes are often overlooked because they don't involve fatalities.
 - Systems approach is important. Don't wait for crashes
 - Collaborate with different levels of government
 - Better documentation is also needed.
- Lisa: Any insights into St. Paul crashes?
 - St Paul also reports on property damage but many cities do not.
 - They expect 75% of crashes to be property damage only. If they fall below that, they are not doing that work correctly.
 - Follow up: Can they do a better job on how to improve reporting>
 - State law only said sworn officers to do the work. There have been citizen works
 - Need better data reporting from more than just police
 - Allen: shared his question about 4-way stops and people rolling through the stop signs.
 - Not much data on 4-way stops.
 - Jim: Measures to reduce speed?
 - Speed camera program in St. Paul.
 - Speed control from manufacturers
 - Barb: Do narrow lanes work:
 - Yes and know but there is a tipping point. Needs many solutions
 - Scott: do we really need larger lanes to accommodate oversized ER vehicles?
 - It hasn't really been studied.

4. HWY 280 Projects – MN DOT Presented

- Chris Bower from MNDOT, Mark Valencia from SRF, presented work to be completed along Hwy 280
- Two projects coming up
 - 2026 – Payment and bridge repairs. Try to complete this work before the State Fair.
 - Will lose 280 entirely as early as April
 - Reconfigure the NB entrance ramp from WB 94 to NB Hwy 280 so they have their own lane – removes abrupt merge
- 2028 and Beyond
 - Working on streets along and across the HWY
 - Broadway Street – Safety risk with left turns at the street.
 - Ped accessibility improvements, improving bike network, traffic signals.
 - Work needs to be collaborative across agencies.
 - Shared some things that MNDOT will NOT be working on which included, traffic calming, and slowing speeds down.

- Improving Issues at Hennepin Ave/Industrial BLVD
- Bike facility improvements at Territorial Rd. and Wabash Ave.
- Barb: Can we find ways to slow down the speeds?
 - Not as this time.
- Leah: Shared concerns about accessing businesses.
 - Chris shared an alternative route that adds 30 seconds to getting to the businesses via Industrial blvd.
- Scott: Roundabouts at the intersection of Broadway and ?
 - Good idea but needs a bigger overhaul for the whole section of 280.

5. Greg Brown - Kimley Horn and Steve Elmer from Met Council to discuss the Midtown Greenway Planning Project

- Shared three alignment concepts
- Shared how to learn more about the project: Midtown Greenway Trial Expansion Planning Study
 - Scott: The connections east of the bridge crossing have many zig zags/too many at-grade crossings. Look for more grade separation and direct routing.
 - Ideal route would be along the corridor but ROW with RR is a barrier.
 - Lisa: Build another bridge across the Mississippi?
 - MNRA policy: There is a policy that restricts new bridges. Must demonstrate need.
 - Barb: What type of traffic are you seeing on the bridge? Are there examples if you pay enough [to the railroads] you can get what you want. Have there been considerations to buy or deal with Met Council?
 - The RR would require a buyout of the entire corridor to use the bridge.
 - Lisa: Is there more consideration to have alternatives along the highway in the example of St. Anthony to Dewey, running parallel to 94?
 - Potentially and is a good option but I-94 might prevent this from doing so

Adjourned: 8:10 pm

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday January 12th, 2026 via zoom.