

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 08.14.2023, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Scott Berger, Amy Gage, James Johnson, April King, Lisa Nelson, Sean Ryan, Allen Saunders, Barb Thoman, KC Cox, Mary Morse Marti

Committee Members Absent: Lisa Mueller, Austin Wu

Guests: Chuck Sorlie, Jerome Benner, Bob Hindel

Staff: Leah Timberlake Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- August agenda and July minutes approved unanimously

2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

- Leah requesting volunteers for ICPBJ and Midway Peace Park event
- Wednesday, August 16, 2023 Midway Chamber of Commerce recognizes UPDC as a non-profit at their event
- [United Village Superblock forum](#) happening on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at Allianz Field Stadium Club from 7pm-8:30pm

3. Open Forum

- Discussion of recent Villager article about the Allianz Field superblock
- Next Monday, August 21, United Village will be coming to the CLUED meeting – temporary five year parking permit, asking for a request for renewal
- MoveMN has had trouble getting their Saint Paul advocacy group off the ground
- Bike racks:
 - a. Currently stuck in limbo with regards to purchasing and installing branded bike racks
 - b. We are looking for “destination places” and trying to do “placemaking” with regards to the existence of Union Park
 - c. Update from Jimmy Shoemaker (SPPW) on inability to install boulevard bicycle racks

4. Shield Avenue Game Day Issues (Chuck Sorlie)

- Requests from local buildings to expand “no parking” to south side of Shields, will be added to list of areas that need extra parking enforcement, but changing the signage changes have no time line
- Police non-emergency number is the place to report it - (651) 291-1111
- Temporary signage needed for directing traffic, as semi-trucks have passed through during games
- Pitch and Pivot have added turn lanes south from Shields, another lane for straight/left
- Consistent parking in the no parking zone, ends up shortening that turn lane and making it difficult for cars to turn and cars end up in crosswalk
- Cars also end up inside the bike path
- Police have done some enforcement and ticket writing
- During games, lanes are blocked northbound, onto Saint Anthony or Snelling
- Illegal parking is almost every day at this intersection

- Permit parking from 10am-4pm, city doesn't allow parking only "during events"
- Should we have a campaign to get folks to park in their garage?
- Could we put up "street sweeping" type signs during events?
- Can we paint signs to make no parking areas clearer?
- Discussions on how limited parking that there is

5. Saint Paul Neighbors League (Robert Hindel)

- Discussion on the inadequacy of snow plowing in Saint Paul
- Arterials are plowed well, residential areas are not painted as well – have discussed with Sean Kershaw (head of SPPW)
- Once plowing is missed (or delayed), it stays in poor condition all winter
- Working with public works to get winter areas switched to one-sided parking
- East Side did tentative one-sided parking last winter, and it seemed to work well
- Would need to switch from 80 to 120 plows, with 15+ hour shifts
- Looking to request extra budget to get additional plows and drivers
- Multiple city council members have expressed interest in these proposals
- Looking for a meeting in early September, with City and District Councils, offering their suggestions on how to make snow plowing better in Saint Paul
- How do we get people to follow the text messages for snow emergencies?
- If you want to reduce salt usage, you have to plow as soon as possible
- Should we fill potholes right away, even if we have to fill them twice?
- Lack of alley parking pushes more cars onto the street, which makes plowing a lot more difficult
- City often borrows plows from other parts of the city (SPPW from non-SPPW?)
- With one-sided parking, the arterials and one side would get plowed at the same time
- Can we suspend permit parking during snow emergencies?

6. Additional Follow-ups

- Neighborhood trash cleanup happening again, on Saturday Aug 19, 2023
- Walking event along I-94
- Wabash and Cleveland sidewalk gap (Barb Thoman)
 - a. Need to circle back with Vandalia Tower, going door to door
- Ayd Mill Road update
 - a. Speeding – no information on current traffic speeds
 - b. No traffic counts since changes to road configuration
 - c. They don't think there has been a lot of traffic diversion, not many complaints about spillover
 - d. Safety at north end of Ayd Mill Road – no data about intersection, not flagged as priority as part of Transportation Safety Action Plan
 - e. Outside the scope of Capital Improvement Budget (CIB)
 - f. Scott Berger proposed Dutch protected intersection (islands at four corners), but city had proposed more aggressive islands and bumpouts
- With regards to above, reminder about the \$1M CIB program
- City is lowering speed limits on cities that have bike lanes, including Marshall
- Summit Avenue Regional Trail updates (James Johnson)
 - a. City Council passed it, now through two levels at Metro Council

- b. Now cleared to go to full Met Council on the 23rd
- c. If approved, Met Council will provide funding for separated bicycle trail work, will only happen in segments as the city gets rebuilt
- d. City will do reconstruction over 10-15 years, prioritized based on which roads are in worst condition
- e. Most tree issues are from excavation into roots, roadway curbs won't change much, tree may deviate bicycle path to route around trees
- Rethinking I-94
 - a. Next meeting will have representatives from MnDOT come and talk about I-94
 - b. MnDOT released possible designs for I-94
 - c. Purpose and Needs statement is part of federal framework of how you would go about this
 - d. [MnDOT survey](#) is seeking feedback from citizens
 - e. Walking events – August 22nd (Lake Monster at 4pm for sidewalk, 5pm for I-94 walk) and September 26th, don't show up if over 100F
 - f. Legislative delegation has been stronger on pro-human over pro-car, possibly
 - g. Listening sessions are upcoming, dates will be forthcoming
 - h. We could have talks at the UPDC office, to have conversations, we may also be able to find community organizations to host a meeting - thoughts on locations: Merriam Park Library, Central Baptist Church, Allianz Brew Hall
 - i. Horizontal scale of the options are very confusing
- Transportation Committee website updates: talk to Leah or Kingsley

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday September 11th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm via videoconference.