

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 10.09.2023, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Amy Gage, James Johnson, April King, Lisa Mueller, Lisa Nelson, Mary Morse Marti, Allen Saunders

Committee Members Absent:

Guests: Jerry Clendenin

Staff: Leah Timberlake Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- October agenda and September minutes approved unanimously

2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

- 1% sales tax forum elicited lots of community engagement
- Ward 1 candidate forum offered a broad array of opinions/options
- ICPBJ added face painting (big hit)
- Midway PP Fun Day came off, thanks to April getting permission to relocate the inflatables
- UPDC board elections meeting rescheduled to Nov 15; UPDC board annual meeting unlikely to happen again on previous scale (dinner), but will include a treat, at 7-9 PM
- STAR grant deadline this week (branded bike racks), with Public Works support; Midway PP trees from earlier STAR grant are now in the ground and getting watered (through the fall).
- no response yet on letter to Metro Transit re: sidewalk on Wabash.

3. Open Forum

- Met Council to hear Summit Ave. proposal again this Thu (Amy will attend and update us);
- CLUED mtg next Monday will be talking about the 1% sales tax; 10/18 lunch hosted by Midway C of C to talk about this topic (city officials, community leaders with different perspectives);
- Desnoyer Park STAR grant being developed, which should take advantage of others' experience, including importance of developing relationships with the grant reviewers; see past Capital Improvement grants on Google drive.

3. Cretin Ave

- City responded to St. Thomas's request to remove parking by the stadium with a letter that followed the approach suggested in our letter, saying "only in conjunction with a lane re-think". Cretin is on the list of streets that might benefit from the 1% sales tax funds (but TBD).
- St. Thomas/Amy McDonough/Jerome Benner could be allies, due to concerns about student safety crossing Cretin.
- Possibility of adding bike lanes to Cretin.
- Coordination with I-94 (and Hwy. 280) re-think. Question of what are the criteria for where to put painted crosswalks. Lane diet may trigger need for EAW or EIS.
- Community engagement needed (per city). Our committee has a long history of this. St. Thomas could help with this. WSNAC \$ might be available. Need city to define what "community engagement" means.
- How did Macalester proceed with establishing its "pedestrian zone"?

- New visions for how Cretin could fit in with St. Thomas. Tom Welna worked on this with Mac (lives on Carroll). Other knowledgeable people in the area. Deanna Seppanen. Student journalists could be good point of contact (Tommie Media).
- Highland likely isn't aligned with Mac-Groveland and UPDC re. Cretin; they don't experience what we do. They're more concerned about Cleveland and MRB.

6. I-94

- Walking event went well, despite damp evening.
- Upcoming 10/26 Thu 6-8 PM community meeting (Jerome, Mary and Lisa planning it) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church near Allianz Stadium. Food! Transportation Committee members encouraged to attend as small group facilitators at tables.
 - a. After dark, that location doesn't feel safe to some on foot; may want to arrange a carpool option, and have a daytime meeting next time (attracts a different audience, too).
 - b. Will have some sort of update for facilitators before the meeting, even immediately before (early start).
 - c. Encouragement to do the MnDOT survey on I-94.

7. New Topics

- Walk audits. AARP has a toolkit of good stuff.
- Update (Metro Transit) on quality for riders on the light rail. Anecdotally: Buses = comfortable. Light rail = awful. One anecdote re. drunk vodka-drinking passenger on bus. Metro Transit survey on safety: <https://rsgsurvey.com/MetroTransitNewsletter/index.aspx?l=3>.
- Upcoming St. Paul Snow Summit at Dale St. Garage; no new info available re. snow plowing and sidewalk clearing. Sainly City Snow Angels can help in high-need areas. Possibility of a spin-off of neighborhood block party: uniting to help neighbors with limited mobility/strength, rather than having it be a "gotcha" thing after the fact. SCSA does this. Invite their leaders to our meeting!
- Resurfacing of Summit: should have contacted us, should have done the bike lanes too (which might have required ADA curb cuts and repainting of stripes). Sean Kershaw says bike lanes will get attention next, depending on weather.
- Trash: October 28, 10:00-noon, Midway trash pickup; last for season? Take photos of trash, send to Lisa Nelson. CVS site: city did a clean-up, billed CVS. It reaccumulates. Provide safe place for IDUs? This gets back to Metro Transit as a haven for IDUs.
- Community forum? \$500 to hold one.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday October 9th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm via videoconference.