

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 04.14.2025, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: James Johnson, Lisa Nelson, Jerome Benner, April King, Amy Gage, Barb Thoman, Scott Berger, David Czaia, Mary Morse Marti, KC Cox

Guests: Jane McClure, Lynda Rhodes

Staff : Leah Timberlake Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Moved Agenda and Minutes approved

2. Updates & follow-ups

- Matt Privratsky is new city council Ward 4 representative

3. Open forum - Lynda Rhodes

- Owns four-plex in less loved area of Merriam Park, off Saint Anthony west of Snelling, on Wheeler
- Saint Anthony has never been fixed more than once
- Can't have things on shelves, because semi-trucks knock things off
- Very bad potholes on Saint Anthony
- Bike lane-wide enough for cars to drive on, often the wrong direction
- Committee member comment: Law changed, if roads receive State Aid money, trucks can go anywhere. But this section of St. Anthony is a city street.
- Committee member comment: Weight limit on Carroll has a weight limit, enforcement requires a lot of
- Committee member comment: Are we asking for a "no semis" sign west of Aldine?
- Perhaps a sign saying "no trucks over 15000lbs?"
- April makes the motion – Barb adds friendly amendment, asking when road is on schedule for mill and overlay
- **April makes motion, Scott seconded, Motion approved unanimously: UPDC should write a letter:**
 - Asking the city to make it closed to truck traffic
 - Asking police to do additional enforcement on the road
 - Asking when mill and overlay will be done on Saint Anthony west of Snelling

4. Additional Updates

- Board approved letter about speed limits
- Woodstock UST withdrew variance application (had gone through CLUED)
 - Will pursue permit without a variance
- Snelling & University grant submission happened, check out support for it
 - Discussion of ward 4 interim changes
- CM Noeker asked that we seek citywide approval for asking for CM approval for certain sound permits

5. I-94 Updates

- I-94 down to a couple lanes

- MnDOT had a meeting on March 3rd at restaurant, committee members attended and gave reports:
 - Committee member questioned why called Rethinking I-94 when they're essentially rebuilding it the same
 - MnDOT staff's big argument was "safety" - results of vehicle safety study show that there are fewer accidents on 94 than on side streets
 - Basically no changes to road, also MnDOT mentioned national security
- Discussion of committee & UPDC's pas request for study of boulevard, and possible future actions:
 - Would like to advocate for reconfigure 94 be named to "expansion"
 - Reduced Capacity A, like 35E with things that neighbors have been saying they've wanted for years (crossings, vegetation)
 - MnDOT thinks local communities should pay for overpasses, despite the fact that we only need them because of 94
- Discussion of whether the reconfigure option would trigger municipal consent requirements. Option should be renamed regardless because it's misleading. L
- **Motion that UPDC send a letter to ask that MnDOT more accurately name Reconfigure option**, April moves, Barb seconded
 - **Passes 7-1**
- Barb makes motion to write a letter asking MnDOT to rename Reduce Capacity option to be more accurate. April: friendly amendment to combine this letter with the previous letter.
- **Motion to amend previous motion to add a request to rename the Reduced Capacity option to be more accurate**. Barb moves, Allen seconds
 - **Passes 7-0, one abstain**
- Discussion of costs for pedestrian infrastructure, crossings, etc as part of any reconstruction.
 - Second largest construction project in MN history
 - MnDOT should pay for costs they are considering requiring the cities to pay for
- **Motion that UPDC send a letter regarding MnDOT's cost participation policy, asking that rather than asking St. Paul to cover local costs, MnDOT agree to bear the cost of pedestrian overpasses, sidewalk, pedestrian lighting, trails, and other infrastructure and to more completely reconnect the pedestrian grid that is interrupted by the highway**. Barb moves, Mary seconds.
 - **Motion passes unanimously**
- Mary wrote letter asking [MnDOT to do study during construction](#)
- Study on traffic is relevant to all future options, as an example
- **Motion to ask the board to send the letter asking MnDOT to study traffic patterns, changes, and air quality during I-94 construction**. Scott moves, Barb seconds
 - **Passes 7-0, one abstain**
- Discussion of other Rethinking I-94 updates:
 - Our Streets recently sent out lengthy memo, not willing to give up on boulevard option
 - Legislation to give policy advisory committee to vote and take stances and have more influence

6. B-Line

- Opening June 14
- Doing outreach and education about the B Line:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YZZP5TT>
 - Super tight timeline
- What fun stuff could UPDC do?
- B Line will replace 21 bus, with exception of jog up to University
- Will there be Metro Transit staff at all the stops, like Gold Line?
- 7 Stops in UPDC
- Could we do themed bus tours? Stops at grocery stores, things that are fun to families
- One shelter along route (at Cleveland) was already destroyed by car
- Potential partnering right along B line, let's all head up and get ice cream
- Bus running every 10 minutes, right by their houses

7. Trash pickup

- When and where
- Third Saturday in May 17, meet at PK's Place

Adjourned: 8:04 pm

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday May 12th, 2025 via zoom.