

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 2.13.2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m., virtual via Zoom videoconference

Attendance:

- **Committee Members Present:** Scott Berger, Lisa Nelson (presiding co-chair), April King, Amy Gage, Barb Thoman, Sean Ryan
- **Committee Members Absent:** Gene Christenson, Debbie Meister
- **Guests:** KC Cox, Austin Wu, Justin Borrell (Allianz Field)
- **Staff:** Leah Timberlake Sullivan

Minutes:

- New member after attending meetings: James Johnson, Mary Morse Marti
- Bringing committee aware of Safety Through Infrastructure (CIB committee)
- Mary discusses what CIB committee does, appreciate community input
 - Groups often come in with solid projects that meet requirements
 - Equity scoring of CIB has really helped improve the overall fairness of the committee
 - Need to dissect what went wrong with Skyline Tower
 - We should engage her successor at UST with about Cretin Ave
- Comments on the Reconnect Rondo (RCR) talk from previous week
 - It dominated the previous discussion
 - Points of confusion, wanted to know better how the financials would work out, did a great job of covering presentation on website
 - Air rights: unclear on how ownership would happen
 - Target Field extends over 394, would be interesting case study
 - How will RCR reconcile with TC Boulevard
 - Interpersonal strife between the two groups evident, feels that it's perfectly possible to find some kind of agreement between the two groups
- Future informal discussion with regards to I-94, will be in future email
- Summit Avenue Regional Trail Plan – 90% plan is out, comment period is available until March
 - <https://streets.mn/2023/02/10/the-summit-avenue-plan-at-90-percent/>
 - SPBC is in favor of the plan (as is streets.mn), goes to Park and Rec committee meeting every month, SARPA (Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association) asked for separate public meeting, want to talk about parking, history, and trees, public comment is needed, not hearing a lot of positive comments in favor of plan, comment before Feb 28
 - Article in Villager as well, city isn't doing a good job of explaining plan
 - Sympathizes with confusion about the plan, talked to Mary Norton about the plan
 - SOS spent a lot of time misinforming people
 - They want to make it a regional line, federal funding has strings, says they don't want to discuss what that means

- Federal money is very flexible, cities can use it almost any way they want, discusses Marshall, Griggs, other streets, is used all across the city all the time, feds have requirements on bidding, etc. but not overly prescriptive
- Committee Google Drive access
- Scott Berger is stepping back from the co-chair position for a time, and will stay on the committee and board. April King will be stepping up as co-chair starting in March.
- Allianz Field discussion with Justin Borrell, Property Manager of Allianz Field
 - Mr. Borrell here to discuss Allianz Field, missed meeting in December, happy to be here today, Has been with the club for 10 years. Community cleanups, cleaning, food shelves, catalytic converting painting, looking for other ways to work together with the community.
 - Clarifies this discussion is not about superblock discussion
 - Very pleased with fan supporter groups (with neighborhood cleanups), transit ridership to game days was down to 1/3rd to what it was pre-pandemic. Asked is “are you trying to encourage non-car arrivals, what are plans here?”
 - Borrell: 2019: 33-35% on transit, kind of on par with what we were hoping would take place, 5-10% on bikes (surprising for team, added bike parking), ridership on Metro Transit (MT) has dropped. We have ongoing partnership, conversations ongoing to make it more enjoyable. Sensitivities around safety and extracurricular activities that are happening there. Pushing for advertisements and free ride opportunities, depending on financials.
 - Go-To Card, discount on beer, working with MT to increase ambassadorship on their vehicles.
 - Borrell: Better than a beer for driving, everything is on the table, we built where we built due to it being a transportation hub that doesn't require a car.
 - Have you seen improvements to cleanliness and improvements to Snelling Station?
 - Borrell: I don't walk out there every day, I do know that we struggle with cleanliness on site, especially the fenced in areas, we can always do better. We do rewards for community cleanup.
 - Clarifies cleanup is on the SE corner of Snelling and University
 - Do you know who is responsible for cleanup of those properties?
 - Borrell: We took that on, expanded snow cleanup to the entire site.
 - Area near the fenced off area is nowhere near as well cleared as by the stadium.
 - Borrell: Will send a note to the developer about that area.
 - Note that not everybody drinks beer when it comes to free drinks.
 - Borrell: Will alter messaging there.
 - Wondering if UPDC could get access to the fenced in area
 - Borrell: There are concerns around liability around anyone who enters the area.

- The fenced area is the most visible, people who get off the station think that it looks like a dump, is there a reason why the fence needs to be there?
 - Borrell: Not an expert on that land, there are city stipulations around the land until it was considered a “non-construction” area, they make it difficult to remove the fence. I have asked the very same question.
- Who owns that property?
 - Borrell: A combination of our majority order, as well as Murdoff (real estate developer in NY), they are working closely with the city on how to develop it properly.
- Are they aware it's an eyesore?
 - Borrell: We keep an eye on it, but it collects trash a lot. We get out there twice a year. Not a great experience for our community.
- Not sure what the rules are for the fence, suggests plantar barriers as an option outside of a chain link fence. It would be a nice gift to the morale of the community.
 - Borrell: Ultimately, we want them to simply build something there. If we had a choice, we would definitely prefer construction. We take a lot of pride in the grounds around the stadium.
- Could it have more frequent pickups? University is a busy road, there's a lot of trash, and littering. Do you have an understanding of the cost around that cleanup? It reflects very poorly on our neighborhood.
 - Borrell: We will continue to find opportunities to improve that process.
- If there are community generated ideas on what they would like to see from the stadium, what's the best way to get started?
 - Borrell: Best bet is to start by talking to me. Our CR team does a lot of work in the community. Most stems from partnerships, e.g., catalytic converter painting.
- Are there plans to have... pre-game events? And other opportunities?
 - Borrell: Working on other possibilities here
 - We have a lot of super-boosters in the neighborhood, in UPDC, Longfellow, would love to have big critical mass bicycling events, we have to get our superfans to be tour guides on the trains. Other great non-driving ways to get people to spend money around here.
 - We have Wonderwall, (dark clouds?) meeting with them, trying to figure out what their game day plans are. The Apple TV deal gets a regular schedule that helps.
 - Loves the idea of a critical mass bike ride.
 - Talking to President of Dark Clouds on Wednesday.
- Trying to get people to not just leave the stadium but also patronizing the area. Local Chamber met with local businesses in Open Streets (Open Africa Fest?) Would love to see an Open Streets in your parking lot.
- Wondering if plans for transit
 - Borrell: We've been working with police to not be overly impactful to the community, we have a conversation to make sure we are aligned into next

season. We touch base with them on an annual basis. Safety of guests and community is top of mind, we bring a lot of traffic regardless of transit. Looking for other opportunities to improve other modes of transit.

- With the exception of December, Borrell's calendar is open.
- Plans for 2023:
 - Overall views of 2023 and 2022 highlights: CIB improvements, slow roll, tables at ICPBJ and Midway Peace Park event, Pedestrian Safety goals
 - What do you think are the three most important topics to focus on in 2023?
 - Everybody takes a minute to write them down
 - Talks about Administration
 - Roads and Roadway corridors
 - Picking up trash, some thinks it should belong more to businesses
 - Walking on train platforms for trash cleanup, is it okay?
 - We haven't typically included stations in cleanup
 - We haven't typically done the platforms
 - Doesn't seem a great alternative to picking up trash
 - Capital improvement budget (CIB) discussion
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian highlights, especially Summit Ave regional trail
 - A little bit for Metro Transit, especially safety issues and promoting transit use
 - Should we add item for B-Line?
 - Residential pass and red line?
 - Has B-Line been postponed?
 - Continuing to meet regularly with people about Allianz Field
 - Asking what everybody is excited to be involved with? Going to call on people.
 - I-94, non-city owned arterials, summer bike rides
 - Sidewalk safety, CIB improvements around Skyline
 - Encouraging new people to start riding transit
 - Sidewalk shoveling, getting city to push
 - Speed and excessively noisy cars, trash pickups
 - Sidewalks, walking infrastructure, pedestrian safety
 - Safety, speed of cars, Cretin / Marshall, Midtown Greenway extension
 - CIB, slow roll
 - I-94, health impacts of air quality from traffic, pedestrian safety
 - Suggests getting Soren Jensen (Midtown Greenway head) on to speak
 - Motion is made to approve the work plan and approved, round of applause