

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 12.11.2023, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Via Zoom

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

Committee Members Absent: Sean Ryan, Barb Thoman, Austin Wu

Guests: Chuck Sorlie, Commander Mollie Brodt (SPPD), Justin Borrell (MNUFC)

Staff: Leah Timberlake Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Introductions for Chuck Sorlie
- Minutes approved (April King, Scott Berger seconds)

2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

- Leah:
 - a. End of the year, committees look at the work plan and see what was fulfilled
 - b. Next month is looking at plan for the upcoming year
 - c. Transportation is putting forward a document from our October 26th community conversation, board will bring forward document as official
 - d. CLUED continues to move forward with business survey to support localism
 - e. Much thought put into how narrative can beautify a neighborhood
- Questions about board vs. transportation with regards to Cretin Avenue

3. Allianz Field Game-Day Transportation (Justin Borrell, MNUFC, Commander Mary Brodt, SPPD)

- Justin Borrell & Commander Brodt (special operations) introductions
- Brodt: Police officer added to Shields to get bicyclists in and out
- Justin:
 - Couple parking lots on site will go away, expected that there will be some shifts in traffic patterns
 - We don't have schedule yet for next year, but first or second weekend of March is likely to be first home game, schedule due roughly on the 20th
 - Lots A, B, and C will remain intact
 - Playground will eat into some parking on east side
 - Likely to be another 120 or so spaces that go away on site for grading in preparation for development
 - The parking was used by staff, ownership, team players, premium seating, plus a bit of a general lot as purchased by fans
 - Surveying usually is for non-season-ticket members, 20% are bicycling (?)
 - We haven't seen a significant reduction in people taking transit to games (30%)
 - Not sure if hotel will affect whether players stay at new hotel, or will continue to stay at Minneapolis Radisson
 - On a regular basis, not a ton of fans come from long distances, majority are 20-30 miles, with some bleeding into Wisconsin.
 - Amy: Has Allianz considered shuttle with park and ride situations? Worked with State Fair with parking in 2019, but multiple problems:
 - Schedule (State Fair shutdowns preclude parking), shuttles are not cheap (cost five figures per game)


- Do we have numbers on the amount of available street parking in the neighborhoods? Is ridership reduction from neighborhood absorbing parking?
- Is there a region outside of which people don't park?
 - We don't highlight street parking, we kind of leave that to fate
- Do we have any information about the Breakaway Music Festival?
 - The Commander and I haven't talked about it yet
 - Attendance is expected to be smaller than on a game day – on a high end, expecting 12,000 people (a normal game is 15-19,000)
 - If attendance is below 10,000, the traffic plan is smaller, but traffic elements to that which we still have to explore
- Is there a bike valet or a plan to have a bike valet?
 - We do not currently have a bike valet, but we still see 300-400 bikes at each game. We haven't had any issues with bike theft on game days.
- Bike valets could help ridership – it takes a long to find a bike locking spot as it does to bike.
- Best way to get in contact for Commander Brodt is email: mary.brodt@ci.stpaul.mn.us
- Will look into sharing exterior events, even though they are a lot smaller (usually 1000 people)
- With three days lead time it's easy to sneak things into the UPDC Newsletter
- Concerns with vehicle shortcutting on game days, as traffic is pushing non-game traffic into the neighborhood as they can't go north on Snelling – people continue west on Saint Anthony past Snelling
 - Justin and Commander Brodt will revisit
- Will continue to work on removing signs within 24-48 hours, especially when there are closely spaced games
 - Signs are picked up immediately after games because of darkness and safety of staff
 - Sometimes equipment isn't available at those hours, so they bring multiple trucks the next day
- Who owns the black fence along Snelling? There are multiple broken pieces of the fence that people cross at.
 - MnDOT is maybe not repairing and upkeep?

3. Open Forum

- Leah: Can we provide monetary benefits for people taking bicycles or public transportation?
- MMM: MoveMN has a lot of money to help incentivize this thing
- April: Could Allianz Field do the Molson Coors Free Rides program
- Jerome: MoveMN could help implement programs like this
- MMM: Could we have a moderated UPDC group somewhere?
 - a. There is a Hamline Midway Neighbors Facebook group
- James: Is there a good page to find resources?
 - a. Lisa: There is a page on the UPDC, also The Villager
- Leah: Looking for good feedback on how to make things more findable on the website

6. Additional Follow-ups

- AARP Bike Audit Toolkit updated for documenting bike and walking in neighborhood
- Wabash Sidewalk: Metro Transit is going to build a sidewalk along Wabash
 - a. Really an effective community effort
- October 26th [Rethinking I-94 document](#)
- What would people like to talk about that could be our next meeting topic like this?

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- a. Snelling Avenue is a big topic, lots of area to work on (medians, etc.)
 - b. Cretin
 - c. Marshall
 - d. Light Rail (increasing ridership, time of day considerations, noise)
 - i. Talk to Metro Transit about data
 - ii. UPDC often doesn't score very high on equity
 - 1% Sales Tax is already on the map, including separated protected bike lanes
 - Increasing the use of electric cars and electric bikes
 - Could we do our work plan in person in January, maybe at Saint Thomas?
 - a. Next meeting will be in person, announcement to come

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting:

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