

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 5.09.2022, 6:30 - 8:04 p.m., Via Zoom video conference

Committee Members Present: Lisa Nelson (presiding co-chair) Scott Berger (co-chair), Gene Christenson, Dan Elenbass, Amy Gage, April King, Debbie Meister, Henry Parker, Sean Ryan, Barb Thoman, Claire Warren

Staff and Interns: Abdulraham Wako, Leah Timberlake

Guests: John Levin (Hamline Midway Coalition), Kevin Samdahl Sands (Hamline Midway Coalition), Kathy Johnson, KC Cox

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Thoman moved, Warren seconded motion to approve May agenda and minutes from April with no changes. Approved with all in favor.

2. Open Forum

- No topics.

3. Follow-ups: UPDC board and committee meetings, also city actions

ED Update

- Date for Ice Cream Peanut Butter and Jam will be the weekend of Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022. Info about I-94 planning could be available at the event. Warren suggested having a Metro Transit bike rack so people can try it.
- Micro grants available from UPDC. \$400-\$600 available.
<https://www.unionparkdc.org/projects/micro-grants>
- Missing sidewalk on Wabash adjacent to Metro Transit. Thoman reports that Metro Transit says it has no money for this. Committee members suggested making a comment to the Metropolitan Council when Metro Transit capital budget is up for public input. Nelson notes that this is a priority area in the city's pedestrian plan. Cox suggests continued engagement with the city.
- "Highways to UnHealth" event will be held (in person) at 6:00 p.m. on May 19th at St Peter Claver Church.

Follow-ups from Board meeting / City actions

- Nelson reported that the UPDC Board approved the Our Streets "Twin Cities Boulevard" proposal to convert I-94 to a boulevard. Need a process to send letter to city/MnDOT and others. Alex Burns from Our Streets reported that MnDOT says a boulevard will be one of the options studied.
- City list of possible CIB proposals released today for public comment.

4. City and County projects and other issues

- Recent crash on St. Anthony near Aldine pedestrian bridge. Speeding remains a problem.
- Prior Avenue reconstruction will start soon. Utility work now underway.
- Ramsey County is looking at making changes to speed limits on roads it owns. May not use 85th percentile speed to set posted speed. Won't require mandatory speed studies.
- Concern expressed about speed of bicycles on trails and lack of enforcement of traffic laws where bicycles are concerned.
- Survey on the city of St. Paul website about reconstruction of Grand Avenue from Fairview to Snelling.

5. University Avenue Clean-up and Beautification

- Levin and Samdahl Sands joined for this discussion. Improvement is needed along the corridor.
- There is much trash, and there are many dead trees, weeds in between bricks, and little in the way of public art or green. The SE corner of Snelling and University with the chain link fence and litter is awful. Concern about long standing and unsightly chain link fences along the corridor.
- Hamline Midway has experience with major litter cleanups. Somdahl Sands said it took 100 people three hours to clean up a major stretch of University Ave in Hamline Midway.
- To solve these problems, there was discussion of involving: Soccer fan group(s), Midway Chamber (planning a reimagine Midway Campaign), Ramsey County (owns the road) Metro Transit, individual businesses.
- A budget for clean-up, art, trees, could be presented to the Neighbors United Funding Collaborative (NUFC) and Bill McGuire. McGuire was especially excited about the trees planted surrounding the Allianz Field stadium.
- Excess litter falls under the city's nuisance abatement ordinance and could be reported. <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/safety-inspections/report-incident>
- Next steps: 1) Evening clean-up this week. Meet at Warren's house, and 2) Clean-up event Saturday morning June 11th. Events could be monthly on 2nd Saturday.

6. Neighborhood Walking and Bicycling Events

- Committee is interested in organizing a couple of these in 2022. Will pick dates at the next meeting.
- Levin noted that Mayor Carter is organizing a Slow Roll event.
- There is a bike tour of the Art Murals in South St Anthony Park on May 21 at 1 pm. The ride ends (starts?) at Urban Growler.
<https://www.bikemn.org/events/chroma-zone-murals-bike-tour-and-open-street-event/>

7. Summit Avenue Regional Trail update

- Berger attended a recent planning meeting. City will seek federal funding through Metropolitan Council. Controversy about rumor of possible loss of trees potentially necessary with a trail project depending on configuration. Summit has a lot of traffic. Concern that the current bike lanes are not safe for many riders. Plans/drawings are expected from the city in the next month.

8. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 13, 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference