

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 4.11.2022, 6:30-8:30pm, Via Zoom (Recording was made via Zoom)

Committee Members Present: Scott Berger (presiding co-chair), Gene Christenson, Amy Gage, April King, Debbie Meister, Lisa Nelson (co-chair), Sean Ryan, Ben Swanson-Hysell, Barb Thoman, Claire Warren; other UPDC Board members in attendance: Bruce Corrie, Kirsten Fryer, Gregg Gridley, Henry Parker

Guests: Alex Burns (Our Streets Minneapolis), José Antonio Zayas Cabán (Our Streets Minneapolis), Mikeya Griffin (Rondo Community Land Trust), Jane McClure (Villager), Paul Bakke, Pat Curtner, Mark Edwards, AnnMarie Fox, Merle Greene, Eric Henery, Jesse Hennem, Catherine Hinz, Mathews Hollinshead, David Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Jenn Lambert, John Levin, Mary Morse Marti, Becky McNally, Chelsea Mendez, Paul Nelson, Greg Northrop, Joe & Sharon Reid, Steve Robertson, Tom Robison, Barb Rogne, Kevin Sands, Susan Willis

Staff: Abdulrahman Wako (Executive Director)

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Ryan moved, Gage seconded motion to approve agenda and minutes. Approved unanimously.

2. Introduction - *Berger*

- Welcome and introduction to the Transportation Committee
- Brief introduction to Zoom meeting procedures
- Informing participants that the meeting will be recorded via Zoom

3. I-94 Presentations

History of I-94 - *Barb Thoman*

- Presentation of research into how the neighborhood was affected by I-94 construction.
- Maps, photographs, and information about streets, buildings, and businesses that were demolished to make way for the highway.

Our Streets Minneapolis: Twin Cities Boulevard

Alex Burns (Transportation Policy Coordinator)

José Antonio Zayas Cabán (Advocacy Director)

- URL: twincitiesboulevard.org
- Provided information about history and health impacts of the highway. Overview of the MnDOT Rethinking I-94 Process, including timeline and rough dates for each stage in the multi-jurisdictional process.
- Presentation of Twin Cities Boulevard proposal.

4. Q & A and Community Discussion

- Our Streets Minneapolis presenters responded to committee and community member questions and comments about the Twin Cities Boulevard proposal and concept.

- Topics of discussion included: further discussion of specifics of the proposal; impact of climate on feasibility of the proposal, and on maintenance during winter; questions about engagement and equity; housing; induced demand and traffic evaporation, including examples of other highway removal projects worldwide; electric vehicles; relationship of the Boulevard proposal to the Rondo Land Bridge proposal and the Rondo community in general.

5. Committee Discussion

- The specific ask from Our Streets is for Union Park to sign onto their letter of support, which was distributed to committee members beforehand and is available online.
- The sign-on letter prepared by Our Streets was previously shared and can be publicly found at the URL:
https://www.twincitiesboulevard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/3_2_2022-Twin-Cities-Boulevard-Organization-Sign-on-Letter.pdf
- Short committee discussion. Members noted that further discussion could happen at the next board meeting, if the board considers signing the letter.

Motion

- **Ryan moved, Meister seconded a motion that the Transportation Committee recommend to the Board that the Union Park District Council sign onto the Our Streets letter in support of the Twin Cities Boulevard proposal.**
- **Motion passed unanimously (11-0).**

6. Other committee business

- Updates and follow-ups will be discussed at the May meeting
- Discussion of newsletter and next meeting topics will take place via email

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting:

May 9, 2022 6:30-8:00 PM via Zoom.