

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022, 6:30-8:20 p.m., meeting held virtually via Zoom video conference

Committee Members Present: Lisa Nelson (co-chair chairing meeting), Scott Berger (co-chair), Gene Christenson, Amy Gage, Debbie Meister, Sean Ryan, Barb Thoman, and KC Cox.

Staff and Interns: Abdulraham Wako, Jonah Wexler, Leah Timberlake-Sullivan

Guests: Finn McGarrity and Julie Johnson (Move MN), Matt Lingam (Kimley Horn, representing Starbucks), Jeanette Rebar (City of St Paul), April King (board member), and Derek Badger.

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Meister moved, Gage seconded motion to approve March agenda and minutes from February. Motion passes.

2. Open Forum

- Residents have concerns about lack of plowing and enforcement of vehicles parking in bike lanes on Marshall. Saint Paul has recruited and hired more staff to do traffic enforcement. Will monitor to see if the situation improves next year.
- Vehicles are encroaching unprotected pedestrian rights-of-way along Ayd Mill Road. Residents note damaged infrastructure along Ayd Mill Road and Trail (broken pedestrian button pole in median, bollard, left turn sign). Evidence of vehicles intruding pedestrian space includes tire tracks and abandoned bumpers and car parts at scene.
- Nelson submitted five CIB application ideas including one for landscaping along Ayd Mill. Berger also submitted an application for improvements to the intersection of Saratoga and Selby. The city has okayed all for a full proposal – deadline to submit full applications is March 27, 2022. Berger offered to help with applications.
- CVS pharmacy at Snelling and University will be closing along with many other locations nationwide.

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

ED Update

- Planning for redesign of Summit Avenue is beginning. Berger and Gage will be involved.
<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/summit-avenue-regional-trail>
- Wako is meeting with the point person re crosswalk from Skyline Tower to the new Midway Peace Park. Nelson submitted a CIB idea for this. Nelson will send CIB info to Wako.
- Hamline Midway is organizing a joint meeting on April 6 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. of transportation committee members from surrounding district councils. Info will go out to all UPDC transportation committee members.

- Block parties (Play Streets). Nelson purchased a set of barricades that can be borrowed. UPDC is also ordering a set. This will make it easier and less expensive for neighbors on a block to close the street and host a block party.

Follow-ups / City actions

- UPDC has requested the addition of a sidewalk on Wabash (north side of Metro Transit). No response from Metro Transit. Saint Paul responded by email to Wako that it would be willing to consider if adjacent property owners are surveyed. Thoman or Wako will follow up with Metro Transit. Berger recommends engaging with and taking a petition to Lake Monster Brewing and businesses in that complex (Vandalia Tower) and soliciting support. Few known residents nearby to query.
- Yum! Bakery and UPDC Transportation Committee concerns about driveway. No real answer from Ryan Companies after our inquiry. Wako asked to follow up with Ryan Companies.

4. Starbucks Update (Snelling and Marshall) – Matt Lingam, Kimley Horne

- Existing Starbucks drive-through for vehicles will be removed and replaced with a walk-through, new patio, and three additional surface parking stalls. Additional landscaping will also be added. Three parking stalls will be designated for mobile ordering. Committee was happy with changes. No electric vehicle (EV) charging is being considered at this time.

5. Boost the Bus Campaign – Finn McGarrity and Julie Johnson, Move MN

Document was shared with the committee. See links:

<https://www.moveMN.org/initiative/boost-the-bus-campaign/>

<https://www.moveMN.org/action/petition-to-boost-the-bus-reject-metro-transit-cuts-in-response-to-bus-driver-shortage/>

- Move MN has initiated a campaign to get cities, counties, MnDOT, to invest in signal priority for buses on high frequency routes. Hold the green light and speed the red light to cut time from bus waiting and reduce bus travel time. Light rail has this at many intersections as do Rapid Bus (arterial BRT) lines (A, D, etc.). Cost is about \$4 million per route. Involves retiming the traffic lights and sometimes new signal hardware. Move MN asked the committee to sign on in support. No specific routes in UPDC area were mentioned. Map on the Move MN website only shows #21 which will soon be joined by the new B-line arterial BRT route and will have signal priority, new shelters, real time info, etc. Many of these high frequency routes are on county roads.

6. Snow Emergencies in Saint Paul – Jeanette Rebar

- PowerPoint presentation provided on how St Paul handles snow emergencies. Link: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/street-maintenance/snow-emergency>
- City has 1900 lane miles of roads.

- Avg of 2-7 emergencies per year. Each event costs the city approx. \$400k to \$800k.

7. I-94 Our Streets Proposal

- Meister notes that the April Transportation Committee meeting will be largely dedicated to the Rethinking I-94 MnDOT project and will include a panel discussion regarding the Twin Cities Boulevard Vision.
- Outreach efforts will be made to boost attendance of local residents for a robust discussion.

8. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 11, 2022, 6:30–8:30 p.m. via Zoom