

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 11.14.2022, 6:30-8:00 p.m., via Zoom videoconference

Committee Members Present: Scott Berger (co-chair), Gene Christenson, Dan Elenbaas, Amy Gage, April King, Debbie Meister, Lisa Nelson (presiding co-chair), Allen Saunders, Ben Swanson-Hysell, Barb Thoman

Committee Members Absent: Dan Elenbaas, Sean Ryan

Guests: Commander Ryan Murphy, SPPD Special Operations Unit; Cody Olson, Metro Transit; Russ Stark, St. Paul Chief Resilience Officer; Daniela Guillen, Allianz Field Stadium Administrator; Mitra Jalali, St. Paul City Council Member (Ward 4); Doua Yang, Ward 4 staff; Tom Basgen, Ward 4 staff; Community members: KC Cox, James R. Johnson, Mary Morse Marti, Kevin Sands (HMCC), Ande Quercus

Staff: Abdulrahman Wako, Leah Timberlake Sullivan

1. Agenda and Minutes

- Agenda and minutes approved unanimously.

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

Rethinking I-94 - Staff Report

- UPDC officially supports both Reconnect Rondo and the Twin Cities Boulevard (Our Streets).
- Upcoming meetings including an invitation to ask both groups to a joint meeting

Safer Summit

- Swanson-Hysell notes that a new group is promoting a safer Summit Avenue design, and is providing yard signs free of cost (safersummit.org).

3. Open Forum

Pelham Boulevard Speeds

- Saunders notes that observed speeds on Pelham Boulevard have been high.

Metro Transit Service Cuts

- Gage notes that cuts are coming to Metro Transit routes, driver shortage persists.

4. Allianz Field Traffic Management Plan, Traffic and Safety Issues

Commander Ryan Murphy of SPPD, Cody Olson of Metro Transit, Russ Stark and CM Mitra Jalali of City of Saint Paul, and Daniela Guillen of Allianz Field.

- Allianz Field game day LRT riders down from 2-5K pre-COVID, to about now 500-2K now
- Traffic control only extends to a certain boundary. Outside the boundaries issues are prevalent but less intense. Getting traffic and people cleared out is now about 25 minutes compared to about 40 minutes for Wild games.
- Commander Murphy states that safety for pedestrians comes first, then bikes, then cars.
- CM Jalali, in attendance, encourages a game day experience marketing campaign, encourages reaching out of Ward 1 CM Balenger, suggests creating a deliverable, and says: If people are willing to organize a walking tour with CM Balenger I would

totally join and we can do a physical mapping activity. take 1 hour on a weekday/weeknight and either travel it ourselves or spend time going over a map on a call."

- Cody Olson, Metro Transit, encourages transit, needs marketing help, ridership ticking up over time; B-line is fully funded and construction starts soon.
- Cmdr. Murphy states that signal timing is prioritized before/after games, but only so much can be done due to transit using the corridor.

5. Rethinking I-94

Updates

- RCR may come to UPDC Board in the future
- Thoman suggests briefing the Board on the status and history of how we got here on Rethinking I-94
- Mary Morse Marti would like evidence that she's authorized to attend Rethinking I-94 meetings.
- Rethinking I-94's UPDC Community Leader and representative could be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom videoconference