

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 8.12.2024, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Lisa Nelson, April King, Barb Thoman, KC Cox, Scott Berger, James (Jim) Johnson, Allen Saunders, Amy Gage, Jerome Benner, Amy Gage

Guests: Kelly Vinson-Taylor, Jimmy Shoemaker, Kent T

Staff: Leah Timberlake Sullivan, Abby Heil

1. Agenda and Minutes

- June agenda and minutes approved (except for Scott who abstained)

2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

- UPDC Exec committee:
 - a. ICPBJ is September 21, volunteering going out soon
 - b. ICPBJ will have four Macalester students to act as senior attendants, Episcopal homes will be bringing them
 - c. Four new board members in the last few months
 - d. Branded bike rack project is moving forward
 - i. Pricing out private installation (to all install in three days)
 - e. City would replace regular bike racks with branded bike racks, since gift to the city
 - f. Fall fun day with Midway Peace Park
 - i. Funding a bit different with ICPBJ wrt monetization
 - ii. Swapping from Saturday to Sunday
 - iii. Currently scheduled for Oct 6, 2024
 - g. Moving forward on park involvement, design advisory meeting from Merriam Park

2. Pelham Blvd (Jimmy Shoemaker)

- One of first “common cent” sales tax projects
- Now in Phase 1 engagement
- 5 year capital plan
 - a. 2026-2028 has decreasing degrees of certainty
- Long-term: Marshall, Summit & Grand, Hamline, Pelham, Cretin (over next 20 years)
- Road projects would bring them in-line with the Saint Paul bicycle plan
- Bicycle plans were a direct input into choosing what roads would get reconstructed
- Pelham - shortish street, from Mississippi Blvd to Franklin, over 94, into Saint Anthony Park
- On the Grand Round, so reconstruct to be similar to Grand Round
- 2017 Grand Round Design Plan gets to like 30% design plan
- Pehlam Blvd is on bicycle plan, recommends separated bikeway (like most of Grand Round), to replace the flexpost lanes
- Bicycle plan recommends separated bikeway on nearby roads (Mertyl, Raymond, Wabash), maybe try to stretch funding to implement bikeways
- 2017 flexposts were intended to be interim thing
- Early engagement: talking to district councils, desnoyer park improvement association, park picnics, walk assessment (july 30), in touch with major property owners along project (town and country, west rock, memorial blood center, avalon school, creative enterprise zone)


- st.paul.gov/pehlam is link to project
- Survey since mid-july – 87 responses (tree canopy, speed, 94 bridge is uncomfortable, overbuilt with odd geometry, RR tracks at wabash, road used as cut through, red river ox cart trail historical marker)
- June 2024 - October: phase 1 engagement, collecting data (traffic counts, speed, etc.)
- Nov - January 2025: Alternatives analysis
- Feb - March 2025: Phase 2 engagement, 30% design
- April 2025: Begin final design
- May 2026: Begin construction phase
- We do often hire consultants on big projects, this will be designed in-house
- Typical reconstruction would bring lights up to standard (lantern style lights)
 - a. Hoping by 2026 we will have more answers to the best we can to handle copper theft
- This is a new funding source
- Phalen Blvd isn't in that bad of shape in terms of pavement
- Jackson is in terrible shape
- What will assessments be on these roads? Currently unknown, a portion will be covered by sales tax and a portion by assessments. Third party analysis will look at property values, and looks at special benefit comes from reconstruction.

3. ICPBJ Table (Transportation)

- Amy happy to be there from 12-2
- This would be a separate table from the UPDC table
- Have we considered having a silent auction?
 - a. No, because we have lots of other ice breakers

4. Open Forum

- Austin Wu will be leaving us (:cry:)
- If we wanted in person meet-up, we have a pretty cool parking lot
- Can we request DSI get out there with a sound meter?
- Talking about the music festival
 - a. Lower noise levels in permit, sound stage facing towards stadium, open bar with limited access to drinks, pushing to get accurate sound readings
 - b. Leah: We followed up on letter to city, we asked Mike Hahm for reliable information, will reach out to Breakaway
 - i. We need data points to move forward
 - c. Kelly: Will students be riding the Lime scooters?
 - d. Same date as ICPBJ
 - e. Bus rides (to Saint Thomas), could be a good way for them to learn
 - f. Maybe follow up with Bruno about transportation
- Kind of update from MnDOT on Rethinking I-94: timeline keeps getting extended
 - a. Scott met with MnDOT consults (3-on-1), asked why study didn't go from downtown to town
 - i. They indicated that there was a separate city student of downtown segment
 - b. Effort to reignite coalition that sent letter to MnDOT
 - c. 280 interchange is part of project, up to Territorial
- Scott attended Anika Bowie dinner
 - a. Said she would come to our meetings, not fully dismissive of other options

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- April talking about [emergency response time study](#) on 4-to-3 lane conversions, out of the University of Iowa
 - History of Ayd Mill Road documents

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday September 9th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm via videoconference and in-person.