

Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 10.14.2024, 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, Kelly Vinson-Taylor

Guests: Karen James, Doua Yang (Saint Paul), Mitra Jalali (Saint Paul CM), Thomas Moss

Staff: Leah Timberlake Sullivan, Abby Heil

1. Agenda and Minutes

2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

3. Noise Issues and Enforcement (Jim Johnson & Mitra Jalali)

- Increase in speeding and noisy vehicles, intentionally designed to make noise
- Adverse effects on mental health, behavior, and learning
- Some cities have moved to automated enforcement
- Some cities have moved to manual enforcement (like on Cretin for speed)
- Very difficult to catch for manual enforcement
- Automated systems to catch loud vehicles – automated tickets, done in many other cities in the US and the world (NYC, London, Paris, Amsterdam)
- Could we send a letter to the city to consider automated enforcement
- April: Yes, I hear them a lot from the highway, and Marshall
- Scott: I hear them quite often in 94, lots of motorcycle traffic, very loud on Snelling
- Kelly Taylor: Hear a lot of loud cars and vehicles on Marshall, vehicles with loud bass
- Barb: Live a few houses in from Cretin, nobody walks around block because of both noise and traffic volume. Engine braking for trucks exciting 94
- Mitra:
 - a. Always excited to talk to community to have conversations about this topic
 - b. Main realm with the city is around noise and sound: permits for amplified sound, general guidelines for nuisance noise
 - c. Part III - administrative code around vehicles producing excessive noise
 - d. Transient nature of vehicles committing violations
 - e. Challenges in quantifying unreasonable noise
 - f. There has been more success in targeting repeating behaviors in repeated areas
 - g. Are we reporting vehicles, it's hard to see offending vehicles
 - h. Cases where we have more success: industrial noise
 - i. Drag racing up 280, lining up to zoom onto 94
 - j. Working closely with the Western district to get a handle on how to get around drag racing
 - k. Happens a lot in our neighborhood a lot due to proximity to our neighborhood
 - l. Have dealt with idling industrial vehicles (e.g. up in Como)
 - m. Our ordinances don't lay out a specific standard, situation by situation makes things challenging
 - n. Is there a barrier to car quieting – are there people with vehicles that are old and in poor repair and is there a partnership opportunity there?
 - o. We have contact information we can provide – is there a repeated area where this is happening

- p. Big picture work around alternative transportation, can we make our neighborhoods less vehicularly oriented
- April: Has the city done any signage around engine braking?
 - a. Mitra: We have a ordinance like Minneapolis around prohibiting vehicle parking overnight in city limits
- Allen: Pelham – street conditions lead to loud thumping, loudest noise polluter is I-94. Can Saint Paul sign on to a letter like Minneapolis, that we believe that MnDOT needs to listen to folks that want smaller, quieter freeways?
 - a. Mitra: I am on the policy advisory committee, elected that represents people along the corridor, and have been the city's longest serving member. We sent letter that we oppose expansion, want to include bike facilities, Rondo land bridge
 - b. MnDOT and federal government are coming to decisions soon, talking to CM Bowie about how we want to respond, we won't support MnDOT make recommendations to preclude land bridge. We want to see a more forward-facing proposal. We have to find a consensus position that accomplishes the most for the most people. Have to get together with her team.
- Barb: Attended webinar on Syracuse, MnDOT said they would get it up on their website. Woman and NY DOT talks about it and has found it very compelling, NY has different traffic modeling than we do.
- Barb: A lot of it is not lost catalytic converters, it's people intentionally modifying their vehicles to produce excessive noise
- Jim: The great majority of these cars are not victims, but deliberately souped up this way. MPCA does have rules around these things.
 - a. Other cities with their automated monitoring systems can send tickets without having to explicitly target
- Mitra:
 - a. Would like to know where they work, what they cost, how we can protect data privacy
 - b. Wonder if public works has taken this up
 - c. If state has already made up standards and features on what vehicles can have, can we push that enforcement better?
- Leah: Worked over five years on shelter for women, six young drivers between 18 and 22
 - a. Our judges are very good about understanding difficulties of people coming before them remotely, provide leniency towards people who face hardships like stolen catalytic converters

4. Letter about Cretin

- Voting on Cretin Enforcement
 - a. Barb - will make the motion
 - i. Clarifies that it supports automated photo enforcement on the road
 - b. Jim
 - i. City can't put it directly into safety, because all fees go into the general fund
- Strike language around directing money directly into traffic safety
- Money from enforcement exceeded grant received, but costs were high due to overtime
- Leah: Should city not allow discretionary warnings?
- Allen: Could we make it stand out that we want to continue applying for grants?
- Moved: Barb, second Amy: motion is approved

5. Letter about I-94

- Asking the city to sign a resolution similar to what Minneapolis city council and mayor unanimously voted in favor of
- Letter shared amongst committee
- Leah: Because people want to bring this to their committee and their board, you need a little time and you tend to get allies or nothing
- Asked Sarah for time to talk about I-94 and this letter at the upcoming board meeting
- This year, MnDOT has hired consulting agency to speak on their behalf?
- Scott: Was there a letter years ago about 94 that we signed on?
 - Barb: We have presentation to committee, that became streets.mn article?
- Scott: Jalali's interactions with Bowie, finding common ground, can't ignore Rondo Land Bridge and its political capital
- Moved: Scott, second Jim: motion is approved

6. Open Forum

- Snelling and University: Hamline Midway is having meeting to discuss issues there
 - a. Jim: Concerns about the facility north of University
- Leah: Will there be anything to learned from it?
- Lisa: How are people feeling about the timing and location of this meeting?
 - a. April: Two hours is hard
- Jim: We could be a bit more efficient, run a tighter shift
- Scott: We could maybe have occasional in-person meeting for important topics, in favor of stopping at 8pm
- Allen: In favor of X number of times per year, meeting at Spruce Tree
- Bounce discussion around ICPBJ table to next month
- Kelly: Very limited parking, off-campus "dorms" for Saint Thomas, only two parking spots in a limited area
 - a. Right in the middle of the block that is otherwise single family
 - b. Can attest to having college students, most have cars
 - c. Very little available street parking, our garage is too small for two cars
 - d. Questions about Arena and new EAW: new comments by November, a significant portion of that is parking and transportation and traffic on Cretin
- CLUED will present at upcoming about EAW
- Lisa: We'd love to have you do a presentation and make a motion
- [EAW is about 400 pages long](#)
- Kelly: Would they tear down what they already built if there was significant environmental impact?

Next Meeting:

Next meeting Monday November 11th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm via videoconference and in-person.