

## Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 06.10.2024, 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Via Zoom

**Committee Members Present:** Lisa Nelson, April King, Barb Thoman, James (Jim) Johnson, Allen Saunders, Mary MM, Jerome Benner, Austin Wu, Amy Gage

**Guests:** Jean, Kelly Vinson-Taylor, Michele Bailey

**Staff:** Leah Timberlake Sullivan, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Finnian Falvey

### 1. Agenda and Minutes

- June agenda and minutes approved

### 2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

- UPDC Exec committee:
  - a. Brand new interns
    - i. Caroline Fitzpatrick
    - ii. Finnian Falvey
  - b. Two new board members, including Lisa Nelson
  - c. Community meeting with DSI
  - d. Trash cleanups keep going well
- Union Park would be putting together park efforts with Merriam Park Advisory Council, as well as for Midway Peace Park (person in charge of Friends of Peace Park retired)
- Union Park will be offering bulky pickup day
  - a. A way to be seen and acknowledged
- Letters were approved
  - a. April will contact **Bill Dermody** to see how letter and approval went
- Rachel Callahan testified to UPDC board to get them to sign onto letter about cannabis distances, to the Mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission.
- Joint Transportation Committee meeting happened, is quarterly
- Union Park submitted half of all projects through CIB process
- Mary MM: Can we look into stabilizing the banks on the Mississippi River near Shadow Falls, lots of erosion has been happening. Can we get easier access for people on feet?
- Allen: How did Mixed Blood presentation go?
  - a. Mary MM: No elected officials, a couple legislative aides, the gist was Our Streets submitted a letter to MnDOT, [MnDOT wrote back](#), we have read your letter and we have decided that we are doing the things you are asking. And that we won't be doing any additional things. This Thursday, there will be a [demonstration](#) on John Ireland Blvd that MnDOT isn't responding to engineering findings in I-94 study.
  - b. Caroline: Is MnDOT's response public? MMM: Link in chat

### 3. Automated Enforcement (Randy Newton)

- Red light camera and speed safety camera legislation passed this year to enable pilot projects
- Speed safety talked about, but not red light
- First action is warning, second can be fine (with a class as alternate)
- Goes in 2025, through 2029
- MnDOT can do them in work zones
- Not going to be easy to get off the ground in Saint Paul

- Jim: Minneapolis is now moving forward, so it's no longer hypothetical. But baby steps, and stretched out over a long period of time.
- This action had to take place for any city to do this. Legislative priority for Minneapolis, they had been working on it for many years. The changes were not authorized for Saint Paul, only authorized cities. Looking at dates, it would be several years before it's opened up for more cities to do this. Likely to be at least 2029 before we see any change. This has been controversial, but lots of concern about this being public data and what it's being used for.
- One thing that Minneapolis heard and we've heard is concerns about reliving the harms that were caused by the cameras. Requirement is that you have diverse placement of the cameras.
- The more tools that we have the better, and so we can see this being a positive development going forward but it will be many years, as only Minneapolis and Mendota Heights are authorized to implement cameras at this time.
- A resolution that encourages the city to look into cameras would likely be more productive than demanding a certain outcome.
- The only realistic action the city could take at this time would be to ask the legislation to be updated to include Saint Paul, but most likely outcome is to wait to see how things turned out in Minneapolis.
- Barb: Ethan gave presentation about this legislation, very informative
- Randy: Have talked with Ethan many times about this, Minneapolis did what they had to do to get this legislation passed
- Allen: Since it's not available and we are concerned about pedestrian safety, are there other long-term plans that the city has to improve safety in the area of pedestrian safety?
  - a. Yes, we've presented to UPDC in the past, completed our first pedestrian safety action plan and vision zero plan. Raised crossings, bump outs, other areas where we can. There is a lot that we want to do, but it's hard to find staff time to do these things.
- Allen: Saw that there was increased presence along Cretin
  - a. We added upsized speed limit sizes in gateway approach
  - b. We may also add speed limit painting on road, along with extra enforcement
  - c. This is not a treatment we can do everywhere, we wanted a higher volume roadway and a location where people would be coming into the city
  - d. We also have higher yielding rates in Saint Paul than Minneapolis
- Jim: You mentioned some resistance to automated enforcement can be privacy issues, also equity (around where positioned), also fixed rate fine structure is inherently regressive
  - a. Fine is set in state statute, Ethan pushed for small fine (\$40), not setup to make money. Not meant to be punitive, but to change behavior.
- April: Will you do a speed study on Cretin after painting speed limits?
  - a. Tricky to paint on surface in way that lasts, but we did do a speed study last year
- April: Will Saint Paul be working more directly with Minneapolis to give feedback on how to setup the speed cameras?
  - a. We will be collaborating with them (and do that on a *lot* of projects including speed limits and truck parking change), but this is likely to be a bit more hands-off with occasional touch bases.
- Barb: Was there during speed enforcement, three officers, was going all day long. Things do seem slower after the enforcement action. Police officer said they have clocked people going 60.
- April: Will be they doing more focused enforcement efforts on places like Cretin?

- a. Comes from grants, Stop For Me work may be done with similar grants. They are doing some enforcement through police districts.
- Leah: Absolutely loved the enforcement efforts on Cretin, would love to send fan mail
  - a. Police Commander is Jeremy Ellison
- **April proposes a letter to send letter to SPPD thanking them for enforcement efforts on Cretin** and encouraging them to do additional enforcement efforts as funding allows. Jerome seconds.
  - a. 8 aye, 0 nay, 0 absention
- Lisa: There is also a give a compliment form at <https://www.stpaul.gov/give-compliment>
- Mary MM: We would love if you would be able to join us, given your representation on the Rethinking I-94 Technical Advisory Committee
  - a. Will have to circle back on that, but overall in favor of it

#### 4. Saint Thomas plans

- Jerome: As relates to transportation, and part of process, we are being asked to develop event management plan. With officers directing traffic, some signaling, similar to Allianz Field but not to that scale. Meetings will take place from August to November.
- Jerome: We want folks to have meaningful buy-in, and while we can't promise we will accept all feedback we want it to be a collaborative process.
- Jerome: Looking for more people to be involved in the project
- Jerome: City unanimously denied both appeals, one by neighbors and one by ARD, happy to answer questions.
- Amy Gage: Feel like we are having the wrong conversation by always talking about parking. How can we get people to this arena in a different way?
- Mary MM: What discussions can we have to imagine different modal choices? Do you know what the home origination places will be for expected guests?
  - a. Jerome: I don't think we have a good sense of this yet. Would like to do shuttle from Allianz Field
- April: Do you know what modalities people are taking to events?
  - a. Jerome: This is why we want to have the stadium on campus, because it means more students will walk. Students are about 25% of attendance. Our hockey teams take 15-20 cars to get to hockey games in Mendota Heights. Majority of folks probably drive.
- Leah: Good chunk of people who use cars seasonally, I think there might be a lack of familiarity around multi-modal transportation. Leah will send email to committee about discussions.
- Amy: When I went to U, I never took a car – always a bus and bike. We need better busing down to Saint Thomas, the buses are very infrequent to Saint Thomas. Parking is an old school solution, and driving pushes people towards climate unfriendly solutions.
  - a. Jerome: We rarely have parking deficiencies, even for games. Usually rare, for Thursday basketball games. We encourage students to drive because our infrastructure provide good alternatives.
- Austin Wu: There is some churn for businesses, the stadium will encourage local commerce and mixed use developments.
  - a. Jerome: We already manage significant traffic, EMP will be living-breathing document
- Lisa Nelson: Question about living-breathing: what is the structure for how it will be reviewed and updated?

- a. Jerome: First we will monitor it for two years, with dedicated group of police officers. Beyond this point, I am unsure.

#### 4. Planning

- Past two years we have done Summit Slow Roll, are people interested in doing again this year?
  - a. Allen raises hand
- Caroline: I'm new to area, what is the event?
  - a. Meeting in middle of Summit Avenue, which goes from River to Downtown, usually lots of kids. We go not too fast. On bikes.
- Mary MM: Does Union Park need to cover this under our insurance policy?
- If we do do it, it will be the morning of July 6, pending Lisa confirming it'll be acceptable
- We can't do e-bike test rides, umbrella policy has to cover it and has to be named
- Barb: Will email committee about event, from 6-8:30, maybe start at 5:30
- Leah: We had talked last year about if people would be interested in longer walk around the perimeter of Union Park, Summit / Lexington / River, etc.
  - a. Lisa: We should start planning this for the fall, distance was under 10 miles
- Barb: Walk would be good to expose us to roads we don't experience very often.
- Leah: We are hybrid capable for our meetings
  - a. Allen: I'd be interesting in giving it a try
- Lisa: Let's plan on July 8th for hybrid
- Jerome: Could we ask city for information on how Cretin enforcement went
- Jim: Commander Kathleen Brown to talk more about Toward Zero Deaths
- Allen: Interested in bicycle plan updates and presentation
- Lisa: Union Park 10 year plan needs to be updated

#### Next Meeting:

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