

## Union Park District Council Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, 11.11.2024, 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, Allen Saunders, Mary Morse Marti

**Guests:** Jerome (St Thomas), Ian, Ember Rasmussen (ember@ourstreetsmn.org)

**Staff:** Leah Timberlake Sullivan

### 1. Agenda and Minutes

- Jim motioned to approve, Jerome seconded
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### 2. Follow-ups and UPDC updates

- UPDC news:
  - Board retreat in December
  - New at-large person - tenant advocacy and association
  - Next CLUED meeting about sound permit
    - Ward 4 asked for feedback
  - Election at the Spruce Tree Center, conference room
  - New Staff member (Ariana)
  - New business: Hot Works (filled vacancy across from United Village)
- Started with invitations on people that lived closest to intersection (UPDC task force on Snelling & University)
- Discussions on new Abby, new UPDC staff member who is very enthusiastic about the neighborhood


### 3. Bicycle Benefits (Ian - Bicycle Benefits, Ember - Our Streets)

- Amy Gage – introductions, has been in touch with Ember for a while
- Ian – reached out to Amy, said that this needs to get going again
- Ian:
  - a. Worked with businesses that want to provide benefits to customers who bike there
  - b. Wear a sticker on their helmet
  - c. Put on a bike bingo event
  - d. Still receives orders for stickers, despite program being largely spun down, maybe because businesses still acknowledge it
  - e. Is a collaborative effort
  - f. <https://bicyclebenefits.org>
- Ember:
  - a. Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition was previous iteration of Our Streets
  - b. One challenge we've had with getting program going again is that
  - c. [https://bicyclebenefits.org/pocketlist?city\\_id=242&range=5](https://bicyclebenefits.org/pocketlist?city_id=242&range=5)
  - d. Would like to be on the ground facilitator
  - e. Could use help with outreach and getting businesses interested
  - f. Connects bicyclists with participating businesses
  - g. Taking postcards to businesses around - takes businesses to website with form
- Amy: should we ask to talk to owner or manager? Ember: yes, that's best
- Barb: what is the discount? Is it consistent across businesses?
  - a. Lisa: it varies depending on the business

- April: could we add this to the potential “new UPDC business” kit?
  - a. Ian: a lot of businesses might be interested and might have limited capacity, so this might best empower businesses
- Ember: at Our Streets, we have canvassers that go out and talk to people
- Ember: in the interim, you have the postcards, and please communicate with us
- Amy: Can our District Council get you information in a more consistent way?
  - a. Ember: Yes, we also want to make it so that volunteers can take it and go
- Ian: Twin Cities is huge, struggles to get visibility with the program
- Lisa: Might be helpful to loop in other Saint Paul organizations
  - a. If we can get this working for our DC, we can go to others (sustain stp, saint paul bicycle coalition)
  - b. Midway Chamber of Commerce might be a good stop
- Ian: organizations and institutions will often purchase from us at cost
- Jim: do you use bike shops? Ian: that’s a great idea
- Ian: we need to make it easy on businesses, to find something exciting for cyclists and easy for them
- Ian: focus on local businesses and not larger ones (e.g. whole foods)
- Ember: Would appreciate connection with bicycle coalition
- Lisa: Amy can report back on bicycle coalition connection
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#### 4. Other updates

- Some language about drive throughs is making to city language (walk up windows)
  - a. Leah resubmitted our letter to city staff to public hearing, to go onto public record
- April contacted public works about what’s happening with the concordia sidewalks, will hopefully hear back soon
- Public hearing on drive throughs is on Wednesday
- Barb: MnDOT finally posted videos of land bridge (Denver) and highway-to-boulevard (Syracuse) - can we send email to committee and transportation list and Mitra?
  - a. Add this to UPDC newsletter
- Allen: Pelham Reconstruction
  - a. Ground Round
  - b. Separated bikeway - similar plan on Wheelock Parkway?
- [ICPBI topics](#) (concerns about transportation)
  - a. 30 responses, covering vehicle traffic, sidewalks, train safety, bike infrastructure, bus connections, and car infrastructure
  - b. Mac-Groveland survey follow-up
- [2024 Work Plan](#)
  - a. If we do or don’t want to do things on the work plan, we should alter it
  - b. Don’t have to make changes immediately, but due to the city by February
  - c. We should look back at 2024 and get “best of transportation committee” slides
    - i. What are our favorite things that we’ve done this year?
    - ii. Jerome: getting good talks from city
    - iii. Amy: group that is genuinely trying to consider all ways we get around city
    - iv. Barb: red paint on Marshall Avenue
    - v. Allen: community get togethers at Bethelham Lutheran and Merriam Library
    - vi. MMM: how effective committee is

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- vii. Jim: having various city experts come to chat, pet issues getting addressed
  - viii. April: Concordia redesign
  - ix. Sidewalk on Wabash
  - x. Allen: staying updated with united village
  - xi. Jim: session with Mitra, discussions about speed camera technology and noise catching devices

**Next Meeting:**

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