

Kathy Lantry, Director
Saint Paul Public Works
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN

Dear Director Lantry:

The Union Park District Council is writing to provide the City with a summary of the recommendations from the district council study process regarding safety and access along Cretin Avenue in Union Park (I-94 to Summit Avenue). The Union Park Transportation Committee adopted recommendations from a working group that met in 2018. Those recommendations were adopted by the UPDC in December. Key recommendations are summarized here and the full list is attached:

- 1. Cretin and I-94 intersection area.** This area poses significant barriers and dangers to people walking, bicycling or accessing transit. Given MnDOT's plans for a mill and overlay in 2019, a new interchange at I-94/TH 280 that could result in increased traffic on Cretin Ave, and the future full reconstruction of the highway, the UPDC wants to engage significantly and regularly with MnDOT. Union Park would also like to engage directly with the City and other neighborhoods along the corridor about planning for these projects.
- 2. Cretin between I-94 and Marshall Avenue.** This section of Cretin averages 26,000 vehicles per day. Union Park would like a sidewalk/trail on the west side of Cretin Ave and safer access across Cretin for people accessing bus stops and the golf course in winter.
- 3. Cretin and Marshall intersection.** This intersection also poses dangers to people crossing on foot or bicycle. The next time Marshall Avenue is restriped, it needs redesigned pavement markings for bicyclists headed westbound on Marshall. Would the City do a property survey to determine the boundary of City property to inform a discussion about moving a small portion of fence to improve visibility? The neighborhood will be engaging with the gas station and Town and Country Club about possible improvements.
- 4. Cretin between Marshall and Summit.** This four-lane segment averages 15,000 vehicles per day and can be hazardous to cross on foot or bicycle. Many students cross in this location. Union Park recommends improvements to the Cretin and Mississippi River Boulevard (MRB) intersection and a better bicycle connection between Summit and MRB. Union Park asks the City to undertake a traffic engineering study (referenced by

Randy Newton's in a memo to UPDC dated August 10, 2018) to access what options for restriping or reconstruction would be possible in this segment of Cretin.

We understand that this stretch of Cretin Avenue is not listed as a high priority area on the City's draft Pedestrian Plan. Nevertheless, we want to make sure that the work done by the neighborhood is documented and in the hands of City staff. Union Park would initiate a community engagement process when a timeline for implementation of specific major strategies is clear.

Our neighborhood appreciated the information and data we received from Reuben Collins who attended several meetings of the working group.

Kind regards,

Brandon Long,
Union Park Executive Director

Henry Parker,
Transportation Committee Co-Chair

Barb Thoman,
Transportation Committee Co-Chair

CC: Mitra Jalali Nelson, Ward 4 Council member

Attached: UPDC, Adopted Strategies regarding Cretin Avenue, December 2018
Cretin Ave Working Group, Corridor Facts Document, May 2018