

SAPCC Transportation Committee meeting – DRAFT
June 28, 2022

Present: Scott Jensen, Pat Thompson, Kim Frair, Karen Nelson, Nick Studenski, Ray Bryan (briefly)
Guest: Molly Burns-Hansen, Move Minnesota

Nelson moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2022. Studenski seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Residential Transit Pass program

Guest Molly Burns-Hansen from Move Minnesota.

Metro Transit has initiated this program for multi-unit buildings. Unlimited rides cost \$14/month per pass (\$168/year). Contracts are 1–5 years, billed monthly. There must be 1 pass for each unit in a building. With the pass, residents can save up to \$1400 annually vs regular Metro Transit passes, and the passes don't require refilling, so less stressful. (For comparison, cars cost \$6,400/year on average). Also decreases car traffic, makes transit safer with more people on it, and fewer parking lots needed. Increases foot traffic for small businesses. Gives transportation access to people as they age/with disabilities/young people. It's cheaper than the already affordable TAP by \$40/month.

There was a 2019 pilot of the RTP program of four properties (682 units). Results: 74% of residents used more transit. 100% said they preferred a building with RTP, even though 70% owned a car.

Move Minnesota is promoting RTP to developers of new properties and residential property owners generally. The cost of the passes can be passed along to residents at the \$14/month cost, but no higher. There is a minimum of 10 units – property owners can coordinate to combine buildings, so it can be 5 duplexes, or two 6-plexes.

In St. Anthony Park: new buildings The Mason, MODA on Raymond, and the Paster building on University by McDonald's. Our Land Use Committee has contact info for these recent SSAP developers. We will pass along that info to Molly.

Is the number 50 cards / 50 units, or is it literally 1 card per individual unit (50 specific units each get one card)? It's 50 cards total in a 50-unit building – not one per specific unit. Can switch to a month-to-month contract after one year, if needed. Are condo associations eligible? Yes. Given these answers, there are also several HOAs we can forward info for, including Metro Lofts at Westgate.

Signup can be done through an online form – if helpful, Metro Transit can meet with people at a residence about how to use transit, e.g., “I want to get to Southdale, how do I do that?”

Blocked bike/pedestrian access on Territorial at the Minneapolis border

Jessica received a voicemail response to our letter to Hubbard Broadcasting about the fence blocking the vacated part of Territorial Road at the Minneapolis border. It said:

Hi, Jessica, this is Tom Rekamp from Hubbard Broadcasting, giving you a call back regarding the letter you had sent about the fence on our property. I'm willing to absolutely understand where the residents and the neighborhoods are frustrated by it and I'm happy to talk to you about it.

Just so that you know, we've tried for the last two years with increased lighting, on-site security, and additional cameras, and crime only increased against our staff that uses those parking lots. Again, everyone likes to refer to Territorial as a vacated street but it is private property and it has been for 20 years.

We did do everything we could in those last two years to mitigate the threats and assaults that were happening to our staff and their property. And that is my primary concern. We knew there would be frustration from the neighbors in shutting the road down but in order to make a safe work environment for our staff and our team here, that was the final decision that we had to after we had the armed car-jacking.

Some of the - a lot of the threats and things happened without vehicle entry, they were personnel entry, and so therefore either we have a fence or we don't. And most of the crime happened during the day. So that's why the daylight timeframe doesn't work either. We've gotta keep our staff and their vehicles and property secure, so they've got a good work environment.

I understand the frustration of the neighborhood. If you'd like to talk more about it, please give me a call. Again, it's Tom Rekamp with Hubbard.

We decided to refer this to the Land Use Committee (meeting on August 4) to ask Bob Straughn about the long-term "use" easement that has been in effect since the street was vacated. Because the vacated street was used for more than 20 years effectively as an easement, is there any legal recourse for neighbors?

SAPCC Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 17, 2:00–5:00 p.m. in Hampden Park. Sponsored by the Equity Committee. A chance to do outreach and recruitment, talk to neighbors about transportation topics. They ask that we:

- Give them names of at least two people who will be representing the Transportation Committee that afternoon.
- What we will be doing and what we need to create an interactive experience for Transportation (tabling, activities, information)?

We ran through some ideas related to maps (identify spots where you've had a problem as a pedestrian or biker), artist involvement, kids' bike rodeo, bad driver dunk tank (miniature with a doll?)

We settled on the idea of an activity or game based on the idea of how speed affects the amount of energy goes into a collision – similar to the kinds of things Physics Force does. We need to work out the specifics, but maybe something like thin wooden skewers – hot wheels cars on tall and short ramps crashing into them, or some other way of demonstrating this in an interactive way. Have the 20 30 40 graphic also to accompany.

- Title for publicity: "Safe or Smash Game"
- Possibly also kids' bike helmet decorating
- What 2-3 organizations do we partner with who they can contact to table at the event?

Evie Car Share – James Vierling jamesv@hourcar.org

Our Streets Minneapolis (Twin Cities Boulevard) – Alex Burns alex@ourstreetsmpls.org

Transition Town – Mindy Keskinen mindykeskinen@comcast.net

Metro Transit (ABRT) – Yumi Nagaoka Yumi.Nagaoka@metrotransit.org

[Ramsey County: Should Equity Committee ask Commissioner MatasCastillo's office if they want to come?]

Twin Cities Boulevard

Is there interest in door-knocking with Our Streets about the Boulevard in SSAP? Studenski will contact Alex Burns at Our Streets. We discussed that in order to reach the most people in SSAP, it may not just be door-knocking, but tabling at Seal (inside in the community room or outside the front door), or talking to people at Green Line stations or the new park at Westgate. It may also be possible to get access to the apartment buildings around University Avenue (officially or unofficially).

Cleveland Ave. construction and trees

Michael Russelle and Pat Thompson met with Nick Fischer and John Mazzitello from Ramsey County Public Works yesterday (July 25) to discuss possible changes to Phase 2 that could preserve more trees. They presented a list of changes, mostly north of Folwell (see attached). The county staff said some of the ideas may be more

possible than others; all would require reengineering. They can't promise, but the list was thoughtful, specific, with significant areas to look at. Russelle told them that knowing the reasons why particular things are not possible will be helpful.

Committee member recruitment

Studenski will work out a flyer (Thompson will send him wording from the Territorial event promo sheet as a start). Nelson will also put it up in her building.

Traffic-calming info

Union Park District Council's Transportation Committee is holding a Special Forum on Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming. It's on Monday, August 8 starting at 6:30 p.m. With guest speakers Dr. Nichole Morris (director, U of M HumanFIRST Lab) and Randy Newton, St. Paul Public Works manager of traffic engineering. <https://zoom.us/j/99150458413> Questions can be sent to info@unionparkdc.org

UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SPECIAL FORUM ON

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY & TRAFFIC CALMING

Dr. Nichole Morris
Director, University of Minnesota HumanFIRST Laboratory
tcsafetycup.umn.edu/study-information

Randy Newton
St. Paul City Traffic Engineer
stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/traffic-calming-and-safety

MONDAY AUGUST 8 @ 6:30PM-8:30PM
online via zoom: zoom.us/j/99150458413
Questions: info@unionparkdc.org

Territorial sidewalk disruption

Xcel cut a big chunk out of the new sidewalk in July. Still not fixed, but they dropped the slab they had cut back into place without finishing the edges. The sidewalk is open for use but with a 1" bump on both sides of the slab — usable by people in power wheelchairs but uneven. Xcel workers say they commit to having it fixed in August some time.

University and Raymond sidewalks are open by the MODA building — hopefully the bike lane will be restriped soon. We have heard Charles will remain closed near Raymond through August for contractor storage.

Next meeting

August 30 – will be on Zoom since it will be getting dark too early at that point to meet at the park. Hopefully many of us will be seeing each other in person for door-knocking, or at the Ice Cream Social, or another event.