

SAPCC Transportation Committee
November 29, 2022

Present: Scott Jensen, Kim Frair, Pat Jensen, Nick Studenski, Betty Wheeler, Karen Nelson
Guest: Luke Wetterstrom, new SSAP neighbor

Minutes

The minutes of October 4, 2022 were passed unanimously (Jensen/Wheeler).

Good news updates

- The sidewalk slab bump on Territorial is gone — repaired just before the first snowfall. Thanks to Jensen for riding herd on that and making sure it got done, connecting with Councilmember Jalali's office.
- The fence that had been erected between Westgate Park and the Sunrise Banks headquarters has been removed completely. The friendly meeting we requested happened with Rick Beeson from Sunrise. Just before that, the head of St. Paul Planning and Economic Development sent a letter to Sunrise telling them that the fence had not been permitted, explaining PED's vision for the public realm in the area, and referring to the Westgate Station Area Plan for connecting Myrtle to Curfew.
- Kathryn Murray emailed Commissioner MatasCastillo's office about county speed limit changes on roads with bike lanes, based on our earlier motion to that effect. She heard back pretty quickly that Public Works staff have been delayed a bit on their fall estimate, but that it should be by early 2023. (This reminded us of the state 30mph speed limit law and whether anyone will be working to change that in the legislature to allow more local control...)

Neighborhood Gateway Project

Thompson has made progress on the project at Raymond and Robbins, working with some members of the Environment Committee. Boulders are not allowed at all in the county's right of way, unfortunately, and likely are not allowed in the city's. She previewed the planting plan that is under way so far. Volunteers from the SAP Community Garden have said they will be involved in on-going maintenance once the garden is planted. Gopher State One Call has been contacted. She is exploring water access: either via a hydrant across the street or by borrowing the CEZ's water trailer.

Cleveland Avenue project status and public meetings

SAPCC (Thompson, Michael Russelle from Environment Committee, and Kathryn Murray) held a meeting with Ramsey County officials (Trista MatasCastillo, her aide, and three Public Works staff) to discuss Cleveland Phase 2. The main purpose was to set up plans for public meeting(s) for the county to tell the SAP community what the county will be doing with the street, given the things they said about possible changes to Phase 2 back in May/June. Essentially, there will be no changes, though they did review changes suggested by SAPCC. They agreed to have two public meetings, one on Zoom in January and one in person, open-house style in February, hopefully at the St. Paul Student Center. Ideally, it would be possible to send in questions before the January meeting so they can shape a presentation to answer the questions people have efficiently – but people will also be able to ask questions there.

During the meeting, Thompson also raised what we see as the three policy implications of the 2022 Cleveland debacle for the commissioner: tree-forward planning, commitment to separated bike facilities, and what role public engagement plays / commitment to public engagement throughout a project when plans change. The commissioner has been invited to attend a Transportation Committee meeting, ideally before the first public meeting.

Transportation Committee goals for 2023

In addition to the four general goals that we will have on-going (carried forward from 2022), we identified these specific projects or areas to focus on:

- Raymond/Robbins Gateway Project
- Cleveland Avenue Phase 2 communication and advocacy
- Sidewalk quality, communication with SPPW
- Prepare for advocacy on any 2024 street projects within SAP
- Rethinking I-94 advocacy
- Bike Plan comments after the plan is released
- Westgate bike trail/park connection
- Carleton Extension: make progress on who to talk to, look into legal aspects, pursue Capitol Region Watershed idea... discuss creating a Task Group early in the year.
- Start thinking about future CIB proposals so we're ready when the process is announced in early 2024

Metro Transit service cuts

Substantial service cuts go into effect this Saturday, December 3. Several routes in SAP will go to hourly during non-rush hour and on Saturday. There is a Boost the Bus demonstration this Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Heywood Garage, 560 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis (just past Target Field, near the end of the Green Line)

Location of Route 61 temporary stop on Cleveland

When Cleveland Phase 2 is under construction, the eastbound 61 bus stop on Larpenteur at Cleveland will be disrupted.

Motion: SAPCC to send letter to Metro Transit about the location of the 61 temporary stop during 2023 Cleveland Avenue construction, asking that it be on the west side of Cleveland near the Bell Museum rather than removing it altogether. (Wheeler/Jensen) **Unanimous**