

SAPCC Transportation Committee
October 25, 2022

Present: Karen Nelson, Pat Thompson, Kim Frair, Scott Jensen, Ray Bryan, Nick Studenski, Betty Wheeler
Guest: Sigrid Ellis

Minutes

Minutes of August 30, 2022 were approved unanimously (motion: Nelson/Bryan)
September did not have a quorum, so the notes did not need approval, we assume, since they are not official.

Territorial sidewalk slab bump status

It has been five months since contractors left the tripping hazard (worse for mobility scooters/wheelchairs) midway along the block on the new sidewalk between Seal and Carleton! Scott has talked to the contractors, who don't know when it will be fixed. He has written to Mitra Jalali's office. Tom Basgen (staff in the CM's office) has gotten Xcel to respond that they will fix it as soon as possible. We hope it will be a true fix and not just asphalt patching/miniature ramps on either side, which will chip out over time.

Heavy truck traffic

How should we begin to revisit the idea of city policy change on last-mile to final destination? It was agreed that we should return to this through contacting our city council member or her staff, as we were doing earlier. There was staff turn over after we began the process, and covid interrupted. Once corrugated cardboard recycling ends at WestRock, that may decrease some truck traffic in the Raymond/University area and/or Hampden/University area.

County road speed limit follow up

In the county commissioner committee session our committee members attended earlier this year on county plans about speed limits, it was said that county roads that have bike lanes (such as Raymond) could be getting 25 mph speed limits as soon as this fall. What has happened with this? We will ask Kathryn to follow up with Ethan Osten, Trista's aide.

Neighborhood Gateway Project

A member of the Environment Committee who has since resigned the committee applied for a grant to the Good Neighbor Fund for a project at the corner of Raymond and Robbins. Called the NGP, it would improve the appearance of that corner with native plantings, remove some dead trees and trim others, and add some boulders (he described them as stone bollards, but clearly meant boulders) to prevent vehicles from crashing down the embankment next to the railroad viaduct. Given his absence, are there members of the Transportation Committee interested in working with members of the Environment Committee to see this project completed by next June? Assuming it is funded, the budget is about \$5,000. Ray is interested, thinks it would be "gneiss." Boulders seem awfully hard, what other options are there? Reflectors on the boulders (public art!). Pat is interested in the planting aspects.

Other follow-up items

Kathryn has forwarded the sidewalk infill map to Reuben Collins. She is checking in with Beth Stiffler at Public Works about the list of transportation-related items around Territorial and Hampden (visibility at the Union Flats garage, double parking at the entrance, lack of any overnight parking on streets nearby during snow emergencies).

We don't know anything about the status of policy change on semi parking, but have noted that general No Parking signs have been posted along Hunting Valley Road (off of Como near 280) and that the number of semis along Hampden and Hersey seems less, though there are still quite a number of box trucks and some semi cabs. This could just be because of changes in demand within the shipping industry, however. Studenski has noticed an increase of parking on Pelham and Glendale.

MnDOT signs on Territorial near 280

MnDOT is doing a survey about bike and pedestrian facility maintenance in its right-of-way. They posted signs with a link on Territorial near 280. Fill out the survey if you can.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7018539/MnDOT-Pedestrian-Bicycle-Maintenance-Survey-2022>

Crashes on University at the Green Line / 280 intersection

Eastbound drivers on University going left/north onto 280, sometimes have the nose of their cars almost onto the tracks. Especially in the winter when it's hard to see the tracks – they are cranked over too far to the left, don't realize they are too close the tracks. What can be done about this?

Signal priority for the Green Line

An ongoing problem that slows down the LRT. We understand that both cities have asked for signal priority, but Metro Transit hasn't. Also that MnDOT is a holdout at intersections they control like 280, Snelling.

Bike plans

The revised bike plan should be coming out soon. There is an open house on the Summit bike project this Thursday.

Sidewalk conditions

Individuals have to report sidewalks in bad condition to Public Works – Sigrid reported eight sidewalks in particularly poor condition. Balance reports with trees, because if there is a possibility that roots are the cause of heaves, the response from Public Works may be that the tree has to come out. We could do a public call for people to report sidewalks. Sigrid will send her list of sidewalks reported to Thompson. The email to report sidewalks is: PW-sidewalkdivisionvm@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Winter

Snow and curb cuts – call for keeping passages clear, especially past parking lots and other cuts. Add to SAPCC's December *Bugle* write up. What can we think of longer term, raise money, structural change? Pristine conditions for cars but terrible conditions for people on foot or rolling.

Cleveland Avenue

If a public meeting happens in February or sooner, we should focus on policy going forward: separated bike facilities as a key investment, tree-forward planning, public engagement and communication failures.