

SAPCC Transportation Committee
February 28, 2023

Present: Kim Frair, Scott Jensen, Karen Nelson, Pat Thompson

Guests: Peter Leete, Luke Wetterstrom

Minutes

The minutes of January 31, 2023 were approved unanimously. Motion:

Membership

Having attended three meetings (consecutively), Luke Wetterstrom was **elected unanimously** to the committee. His name will be forwarded to the SAPCC board for approval.

Land Use Committee

The Land Use Committee will be meeting this Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. (It generally meets on the first Thursday of the month at that time.) They have worked with Towerside a district that encompasses the north-most area of Prospect Park and Westgate on a range of topics. At this meeting, Towerside's interim executive director and Dick Gilyard, a long-time Towerside board member and Prospect Park activist, will be presenting on district energy and stormwater plans. SAPCC and Towerside have also worked together on coordinating development plans. From a transportation angle, Towerside is also working on the Granary Road crossing to connect the area to Kasota (which also would connect to 280). Pop in if you can. Karen will send a link to members.

Committee goals for 2023

We discussed our goals at the last meeting but did not officially approve them. Our high-level goals are:

1. Improve pedestrian safety and neighborhood walkability
2. Improve and expand on existing bike infrastructure
3. Provide a community listening place and voice on transportation issues and projects that affect St. Anthony Park
4. Work toward our 10-year plan's transportation infrastructure outcomes

Some of the specific outcomes we will work on this year (adding a few more than were listed at the January meeting):

- Implement the Gateway Project garden at Raymond and Robbins
- Make progress toward execution on the Carleton Extension, including information on legal issues
- Coordinate with other district council transportation committees on Safe Streets for All topics, funding
- Work with the Creative Enterprise Zone on the Charles Avenue plaza, work toward turning that block of Charles to one way
- Get a mill & overlay done on Territorial Road between Raymond and Hampden
- Advocate for the neighborhood on the heavy truck traffic issue
- Update our heavy truck traffic count from 2019/2020
- Provide input on the trail connection work that's underway from Eustis to Westgate
- Advocate to Metro Transit to install bus shelters on Franklin at Berry (both sides) because of substantial number of elderly riders there
- Advocate for the Midtown Greenway Extension and how it connects smoothly to St. Anthony Park.
- Prepare ideas for the 2024 Capital Improvement Budget process.

Motion to approve the 2023 goals: Nelson/Bryan. **Approved unanimously.**

Westgate area trail connection plans from Parks & Recreation

A Parks & Rec staff member will be at the SAPCC board meeting on March 9, 7 p.m. (presentation probably starts about 7:20). Pat will send the link to committee members.

We reviewed the plans. There are two rain garden/stormwater retention depressions at the north end and near the curve, otherwise the plan is essentially an asphalt path along the track area. There is desire for amenities at the north end of the trail closest to Westgate Commons Park: there is city-owned land (a wide boulevard) between Berry Street and the pavement. We also discussed the idea of a raised crosswalk there (just south of Myrtle) between the trail head and the park to fully connect the two. The plan does not include any work on the bridge crossing 280.

Citywide Safe Streets for All plans

Mac Groveland Community Council sent a letter to St. Paul Public Works with a resolution requesting that SPPW form a working group to review and improve St. Paul's existing traffic calming-request process and propose a new program that meets the USDOT's Safe Streets for All funding by the federal deadline. The MGCC letter included the fact that Saint Paul residents make more than 2,000 traffic-calming requests every year through various means. Minneapolis, in the recent past, has implemented a traffic-calming request system that rates requests on a 100-point scale, but is only implementing ones that reach a number in the very high 90s because of lack of funding; SPPW has said it doesn't want to set up a request system that will not be able to implement a substantial number of changes that are requested.

Thompson informed the committee that the SPPW staffer who is working on the Safe Streets for All proposal will be presenting to the joint District Council Transportation Committee tomorrow (March 1), so we will soon have more information about this. Wheeler asked if Thompson can ask what the timeframe is on the county road speed limit change, since we were told it would be in spring (though that's a county question, so the SPPW staff may not know the answer). We can follow up with Commissioner MatasCastillo's staff again if needed.

Current draft of heavy truck traffic letter

The letter will be going to SAPCC executive committee this Thursday. We reviewed it and discussed to possible changes. One to add mention of another possible new housing building on Hampden, and the other whether it would be possible to expand the scope of the problem area to include Raymond. Thompson will bring these up in the executive committee discussion.

Discuss steps toward enacting the committee's specific outcomes

- Gateway: the project is funded, committee members will be asked to help out when there are specific tasks and volunteer opportunities. Thompson is coordinating, with help from Kerry Morgan from Environment Committee
- Carleton Extension: first task is to find out who the contact is at Capital Partners. Jensen will work on this.
- District council coordination: quarterly meetings. Thompson is attending, Jensen will if able.
- Charles Ave. plaza: Thompson, Nelson and Jensen were part of this working group and are willing to continue if someone from CEZ is still running it. Wetterstrom is interested in participating.
- M&O: Letter has gone to Public Works and Councilmember Jalali. SPPW Director Kershaw replied and said it's scheduled for M&O in 2025, possibly a more substantial improvement if they get the sales tax. Thompson said she thought we must respond that 2025 is not soon enough. Jensen has described an incipient sink hole at Carleton and Territorial.
- Truck traffic: Letter is underway. Environment Committee is also working on this issue, which is good. Equity Committee also.
- Truck count: We will redo our past count in spring, possibly add some new locations. Thompson will come up with a timing plan to share at the March or April meeting.
- Midtown Greenway Extension advocate/representative. Is Wetterstrom interested in being in this role?

- Westgate trail connection: Nelson (?)
- Bus shelters: Nelson (?)
- CIB: We will put this on an agenda as a topic to do an initial brainstorm for ideas, and then return to it with info on the various ideas and prioritize them.

Ramsey County All Ages Transportation 2050 plan

This long-range planning will shape roadway, pedestrian, bike, and public transportation investments for the next 27 years, through the year 2050.

Virtual community meetings are Thursday, March 9 and Tuesday, March 28, 6:00–7:00 p.m. (The first date is right before the SAPCC board meeting.)

Zoom link is here:

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/content/all-abilities-2050-transportation-plan-virtual-community-meeting>

Project page is here:

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/multi-modal-planning/all-abilities-2050-transportation-plan>

The Project page has a survey link (please fill it out!)