

SAPCC Transportation Committee  
January 31, 2023

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

Guests: Luke Wetterstrom, potential committee member

### **Minutes**

The minutes of December 27, 2022 were approved unanimously. Motion: Nelson/Jensen.

### **Bloomberg bike grant letter**

The committee reviewed a draft letter from SAPCC endorsing Saint Paul Public Works' grant application to the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure. The grant request would fund renovation/reenvisioning the bike infrastructure in the Grand Round connection between Raymond/University and Pelham/Wabash and allow the City to experiment with better snow-clearing methods/technologies within protected bike infrastructure. It is an international grant competition.

Motion: To send the letter to Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure endorsing St. Paul Public Works' application for the BICI grant to improve the bike infrastructure between Raymond/University and Pelham/Wabash. Nelson/Frair **Passed unanimously.**

### **SAPCC heavy truck letter**

SAPCC Environment Committee is working on a draft letter about heavy truck traffic in South SAP, emphasizing health effects of diesel trucks. The Transportation Committee discussed aspects of the letter's suggested remedies that need to conform with the reality of law, for instance that state aid roads like Territorial and Hampden can be used as access between highways and destinations. Businesses like Khoury Cartage are on Hampden itself. However, there may be ways to ask some other businesses to send their traffic down Vandalia as much as possible. Are there design features that can be changed that would improve things, such as a traffic circle at Hampden and Territorial, or a median on Hampden? We know the right of way width is constrained and there is also a need for sidewalks, so options are limited. The letter's final draft will not have time to come to Transportation Committee, so members are invited to attend the SAPCC Board meeting on February 9 if they want to be involved in discussing it. Jensen, Thompson, and Bryan from this committee are all on the board.

### **Report on the Good Neighbor Fund meeting**

Scott represented SAPCC at the Good Neighbor Fund's annual meeting. Their next round of funding is due March 30. They have \$80,000 to fund this year. Scott talked about what our committee did on Territorial, how we worked with the right of way system in Saint Paul (benches as public art). We will be working on the Gateway corner project this spring — are there new capital-oriented grant proposals to ask for into 2024?

### **Ramsey County 2050 All Ages Transportation Plan**

Ramsey County will be asking for community input on the 2050 update to its All Ages and Abilities Transportation Plan soon. Get on the email list for updates here.

### **Rethinking I-94 / Twin Cities Boulevard update**

The Twin Cities Boulevard is working on getting funding of a feasibility study for the Boulevard. This would cover implications for freight movements, including effects on local streets such as in South St. Anthony Park, and how the Boulevard concept could be connected with the underlying concept of the land bridge in Rondo. Any individual who is interested in speaking about this on their own behalf is invited to the Capitol on Wednesday, February 8, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### **Committee co-chair elections**

Scott Jensen and Pat Thompson were nominated as co-chairs (Nelson/Bryan). Approved by acclamation.

## **Committee goals for 2023**

Our high-level goals remain the same:

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:

- 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