

SAPCC Transportation Committee
April 25, 2023

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

Guests: Peter Leete

Membership motion: Peter was voted onto the committee as a member. **Unanimous.**

Minutes

The minutes of March 28, 2023 were approved unanimously. Motion: Nelson/Jensen

Raymond/Robbins pollinator patch update

The garden's hardscape was installed over the past weekend, and it is in good shape for the plant installation in May. About 56 hours of volunteer time went into the project during the weekend, mostly from Environment, Transportation, and Equity Committee members (some of whom are also board members), but also two young people from the neighborhood. The May volunteer session is on Sunday, May 21 (rain date May 28) from 1:30–3:30 p.m. Sign up at <http://sapcc.org/plantraymond/>

Truck counts

We did our previous truck counts in summer to late summer/early fall of 2020, basing our methodology on the St. Paul Bike Count. Is it critical from a data standpoint that they be in similar months? Yes, we might as well match what day of the week/what week each one was previously for the best comparison. We counted:

- University and Raymond
- Territorial and Hampden
- Territorial and Seal
- Raymond and Hampden
- Territorial at the 280 northbound ramp

Should we add any other locations. Yes, University and Hampden, since so many people live there. Noted that all traffic seems to increase in fall (school related), but that it may not affect truck traffic. Many school buses (and other vehicles). Leete will look to find the pre-Green Line study to see how it included freight traffic on University.

Lighting follow-up

In following up with Ben Hawkins from St. Paul Public Works: he said that he visited Cleveland Avenue soon after speaking with Thompson and found the lights to be to spec: 3000K. He doubted that the Raymond lights were at or above 5000K and said that phone-based apps are not reliable / conditions make it difficult to get good readings. He was wary of attending a meeting (said he would have to ask his boss, essentially) and sent a PDF of FAQs about lighting. We can see that there are many diverging interests around lighting (safety vs. dark skies for wildlife and star viewing, aesthetics of bent straws vs lanterns).

We will let neighbors know that back shields are available as new lights are installed and the Cleveland project finishes. We should let Como/Raymond neighbors know. Put it in the *Bugle*, put it in the newsletter, tell the list serve.

Coordinating on Rethinking I-94 outreach

Several other district councils along the I-94 corridor may be interested in co-hosting a public session on how I-94 affects our lives. One suggestion was to hold it outside on the patio at Lake Monster where you can hear the highway, but there are likely other possibilities. **Motion:** To allow Thompson to discuss SAPCC involvement in this type of session: Nelson/Bryan.

Unanimous.

Bike plan draft

It should be posted tomorrow (April 26) at

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation-and-transit/bike-saint-paul/saint-paul-bicycle-plan>

EV Spot follow-up

A neighbor sent photos of the placement of the chargers on the charger pads by the library, pointing out that they are at dead center of the newly installed walk-out paths from the sidewalk, which makes them only usable to a fully able person. Not everyone who drives an EV or an Evie would be, or even for someone else to pass by on the path who isn't using the charger. The neighbor has already emailed Russ Stark to ask about this, and took a photo of one of the equivalent placements in Marcy Holmes (in Minneapolis), where the walkout path is wider, and the charger is off center so there is enough space beside it to go past with a walker or wheelchair.

Valentine area mill and overlay

SAPCC recently received notice that the city will be doing an M&O on the streets between Como and 280, north of Carter. While doing that, there will be some water main work in three spots, upgraded wheelchair ramps at a number of corners, and installed ramps in a couple more spots. No new sidewalks (this area lacks them on a number of blocks). They will be sending notices to property owners in the area. How they determined this area needs an M&O vs. other areas, we don't know. It's on a schedule of some sort, but it's not clear that these streets were constructed that much before any others in the neighborhood, and clearly not before the ones in SSAP that are falling apart. **Motion:** To officially inquire to the project manager about how this was decided vs. areas that need it much more in St. Anthony Park, such as Territorial Road. Is it possible to redirect the money to more dire need? Jensen/Nelson. **Unanimous.**

County road speed limits

Trista MatasCastillo's aide Ethan Osten reports: Ramsey County Public Works staff says they don't have a specific timeline yet on changing the speed limits to 25mph on county roads that have bike lanes, but they are discussing when to bring the speed limit change back to the board for discussion and action this year. In the meantime, they are looking into whether they can move forward with lowering the limit on Cleveland Avenue on its own. There isn't a specific timeline for that either, but if it did happen it would probably be around the time construction wrapped up. Thompson followed up to ask, Do you think that would extend down Raymond, as a contiguous street (extending to University Avenue)? Osten responded: I'll ask. No promises, but it seems

reasonable. Nelson asked, what about the signage planned for Cleveland, which is being made now? Why not get those made correctly in the first place? Thompson will follow up to ask that.

The Robbins/Eustis connection

Is there interest in pursuing closure of the vehicle connection from Robbins to Eustis under 280? The connection seems dysfunctional, causing speeding by cut-through drivers from Raymond, speeding down Eustis to the lights at University, and not much use for anything else. Leete said it is used by people from the SSAP neighborhood between Raymond and 280 as a convenience to reach 94, but it is also clear that the neighbors on Robbins and Manvel suffer from its effect. This would be a project of community engagement with residents. Members of the community garden may have good feedback on it as one starting place also.

Share your feedback with MnDOT on MnSHIP Investment

MnDOT has a draft state highway investment direction. Go to www.minnesotago.org/investment to give feedback and tell them what types of improvements you would fund with additional revenue. This is a highway budgeting tool. It closes in early May. MnDOT will use the results of public engagement, along with state and federal requirements, to finalize the investment direction and adopt the final plan this fall. This investment direction impacts the types of improvements and projects which are prioritized on the state highway system.

May meeting location

Our next meeting is on May 30. Note that **we will MEET IN PERSON** at the northeast corner of Westgate Commons Park. Rain location: SAPCC office, 2171 University (CEZ HQ, corner of Vandalia, back door off the parking lot). We will have a guest, Molly Burns Hansen from Move Minnesotam to talk about multimodal transportation options for St. Anthony Park. After that topic, assuming we are meeting at Westgate, and after any other general topics, we will walk to look at the locations of possible bus shelters on Franklin Avenue (which is one of our goals this year) and other Westgate-related pedestrian/bike/transit topics. Bring a camp chair if you have one.