

Dear Mr Carter, Mr Thune, Mr Stark, Ms Brendmoen, Mr Bostrom, Ms Lantry,

As a servant of St Paul, I imagine you consider issues from the perspective of effectively serving voting and tax-paying constituents.

As one of those (a new resident (2 months) of River Park Lofts - wooed there by the community spirit and location by Mears Park, I wish to offer you my perspective on the effect of expanding the sidewalk.

It would offer a few businesses expanded seating for approximately 4 months. It would cause a loss to the community at large: parking and ease of driving for 12 months, many of full of snow. As a voter, it would make me darn unhappy as traffic congestion would increase and parking for guests at my home would be compromised.

To benefit a handful of business concerns/developer for 4 months to the detriment of the lower town community and commuters for 12 months seems nothing short of madness.

There are other possibilities - portable boardwalks have been proposed. This collaborative method apparently was nay-sayed by the developer.

A my-way-or-the-highway spirit that does not deserve to be supported.

Please consider, that on balance, expanding the sidewalks is a losing situation for the community at large.

Life is the sum of our choices