

**From:** [Kathleen Weiker](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeff Weiker](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments re: City Council Public Hearing 5/12/2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:57:08 PM

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Hi Racquel:

Thanks for letting me know. I have copied and pasted the letter below:

May 10, 2021

City of St. Paul City Council  
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
310 City Hall  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
**Via email** [Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

Dear Councilmembers:

We are writing to share some of our thoughts and concerns regarding the recommendation for placement of the west corridor of the Capital City Bikeway. Our primary concern, which we assume would be consistent with the City's, is public safety, flow of traffic and ease of access to businesses along Wabasha Street. We are very concerned about the ability to properly address these concerns with the bike lane on Wabasha. It is our feeling that it would be in the best interest of the City of St. Paul and its patrons, drivers and bicyclists to forego the bike lane altogether or put it on St. Peter and not Wabasha Street for the following reasons:

- Wabasha Street is the main corridor for northbound traffic through Downtown St. Paul. Traffic is much heavier on Wabasha than St. Peter, making Wabasha a more dangerous option for bike riders.
- Wabasha Street is narrower than St. Peter. It would make more sense to place the bike lane on a wider street.
- The loss of on-street parking along the west side of Wabasha Street will have a significant negative impact to properties and businesses along Wabasha which will likely result in more vacant store fronts.
- Six parking facilities are located on Wabasha Street between Kellogg and 7<sup>th</sup> Place Mall and all have traffic that exits onto Wabasha directly or indirectly. This creates additional bike safety and traffic concerns as vehicles enter and exit these facilities.
- St. Peter is naturally a better setting for a bike path. It is wider, not as busy and has proximity to green space.
- This is not a good use of City funds, particularly given the negative impact the Pandemic has had on our community. It does not make sense for the City to make

such a substantial investment into a bike lane at a time when there are much higher priorities throughout the City of St. Paul.

- The Lawson Ramp sidewalks are heated on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and Wabasha Streets. Therefore, when constructing the bike path on Wabasha there will be a very large additional expense related to having the heated sidewalks redone.
- It has felt like this has been more of a political decision, rather than practical one. As a result, we do not believe that the City has fully studied the safety, traffic and access issues that would result from placing the bike lane on Wabasha.

Again, we oppose the placement of the bike lane on Wabasha Street, but if the decision is ultimately made to move forward with this, we urge the City to keep the following in mind prior to proceeding:

- We have significant concern over Wabasha Street construction being performed in 2022 just as we are starting to recover from COVID. This will only prolong the negative impact to businesses along Wabasha.
- Given the negative impact this will have on Wabasha Street businesses, the City should consider some sort of compensation or grant to offset the additional loss of business that will occur during construction, and potentially beyond, due to the loss of street parking.
- It would be even more devastating to the businesses if the City were to assess the property owners along Wabasha for any of this work. This cannot happen.
- If this does move forward, significant emphasis has to be placed on selecting a contractor that can commit to getting the work done as quickly as possible. Proper coordination with businesses to maintain access is critical. Consider including liquidated damages clauses should they not complete construction by a certain date. We can't afford to have Wabasha closed down for any extended length of time.
- Focus must be placed on all left and righthand turn lanes. There should not be any turn lanes signed with "no turn on red" either from Wabasha or onto Wabasha in order to allow for the normal traffic flow. The City should consult with businesses along Wabasha before finalizing the design.
- The bicycle lights that are on Jackson should not be on Wabasha as they will further restrict the flow of traffic.
- If the City chooses to move loading zones to cross streets, full consideration needs to be given to addressing blind spots and the impact on ingress/egress from parking facilities. For instance, if Amsterdam is forced to move its loading to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, this will only exacerbate the blind spot that already exists when exiting the Lawson ramp and further slow the exiting of vehicles from the ramp.

We do not believe the City needs this bike lane and we definitely don't think that it should be placed on Wabasha Street. It seems that this money could be better spent on things like public safety, crime prevention or economic incentives for businesses to stay in or relocate to Downtown St. Paul. Thank you for considering these comments.

Thank you,

Todd Geller  
CEO

Jeff Weiker  
President

cc: Councilmember Rebecca Noecker ([Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us))  
Nicolle Goodman ([Nicolle.Goodman@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Nicolle.Goodman@ci.stpaul.mn.us))  
Sean Kershaw ([Sean.Kershaw@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Sean.Kershaw@ci.stpaul.mn.us))  
Randy Newton ([Randy.Newton@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Randy.Newton@ci.stpaul.mn.us))

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**From:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <[Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:53 PM

**To:** Kathleen Weiker <[kathleen@victoryparking.com](mailto:kathleen@victoryparking.com)>

**Cc:** Jeff Weiker <[jeff@victoryparking.com](mailto:jeff@victoryparking.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Comments re: City Council Public Hearing 5/12/2021

For some reason, the system will not let me save your comments. Is it possible to send it to me another way? Adobe is thinking this is an "image" and is having problems with it.

Racquel Naylor  
City Council Offices  
Suite 310 City Hall  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
Phone: 651-266-8573  
Fax: 651-266-8574

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**From:** Kathleen Weiker <[kathleen@victoryparking.com](mailto:kathleen@victoryparking.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:57 AM

**To:** \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council <[Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Cc:** Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <[Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Goodman, Nicolle (CI-StPaul) <[Nicolle.Goodman@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Nicolle.Goodman@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Kershaw, Sean (CI-StPaul) <[Sean.Kershaw@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Sean.Kershaw@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Newton, Randy (CI-StPaul) <[Randy.Newton@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Randy.Newton@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Todd Geller <[todd@terracegrouppllc.com](mailto:todd@terracegrouppllc.com)>; Jeff Weiker <[jeff@victoryparking.com](mailto:jeff@victoryparking.com)>

**Subject:** Comments re: City Council Public Hearing 5/12/2021

St. Paul City Council:

Please see the attached letter from Todd Geller and Jeff Weiker with comments regarding the Capital City Bikeway plan which will be discussed at the City Council public hearing on May 12, 2021. Thank you.

Kathleen Weiker  
Victory Parking, Inc.  
344 Wabasha St. N.  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
P: 651-256-1025

