



May 16, 2016

St. Paul City Councilmembers and Ramsey County Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of St. Paul Women on Bikes, a program of St. Paul Smart Trips, to support the proposed Edgerton Street Bicycle Lane project. St. Paul Women on Bikes (WOB) is a coalition of over a thousand women and families working to make it safer and easier to ride a bike in St. Paul through advocacy, education, and fun.

We believe that bicycling is a vital component of safe, vibrant streets that truly work for our city's dynamic communities, and the Edgerton Project is an important piece of infrastructure connecting people in our city.

The Edgerton Street Bicycle Project is an important connection for people riding bikes in St. Paul. It safely connects to existing bicycle infrastructure north of Wheelock Parkway. In addition, it provides a north-south connection to the planned St. Paul Grand Round the City of St. Paul is making a major investment in completing in the coming years.

Further, this project would also address serious gaps in our bicycle network. The Payne-Phalen neighborhood is lacking in safe places for people to ride their bike, and this proposed project adds an important connection for people to access parks, shopping, education, and recreation.

This project requires the removal of some on-street parking. However, parking counts show that on-street parking is greatly underutilized. The majority of parking is used less than 50 percent of the time and there is a great deal of on-street parking available on side streets for residents and visitors.

We support this project as proposed. We feel that the under-used parking combined with the benefits to the connectivity of our bicycle network make this project a simple decision to support and look forward to your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Melissa Martinez-Sones
Interim Executive Director, St. Paul Smart Trips