

Please note the following response to Debra Jessen's inquiry.

From: Joan Pasiuk
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 1:56 PM
To: 'dljessen@comcast.net'
Subject: FW: Jefferson Avenue Bikeway response

Dear Ms. Jessen,

Thank you for your message and concern. Residents interested in the outcome of the Jefferson Ave project endured a long and sometimes difficult process. TLC was surprised and disappointed by the last-minute change in project design. Although two of the traffic circles were removed and another is left to be resolved, enough elements west of Snelling remain to meet requirements and provide a safer route for walkers and bicyclists: sharrows, pedestrian safety features at Cleveland and Cretin crossings (flasher, speed displays, marked crosswalks) and a traffic circle. These elements, combined with numerous features east of Lexington (including new sidewalk segments, under-bridge lighting, bike lanes) create a successful addition to the walking and bicycling network. The work of the Bike Walk Twin Cities pilot program is to help a community take steps toward improved bikeability and walkability. Every project we have funded meets this goal and is shaped by the capacity of the community's public acceptance, political will, and public works capacity.

St. Paul will benefit from your continued advocacy.

Regards,
Joan Pasiuk
Director, Bike Walk Twin Cities

Joan Pasiuk
Director, Bike/Walk Twin Cities
Transit for Livable Communities
626 Selby Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-789-1409 (office) 651-399-3091 (cell) 651-221-9831 (fax)
joanp@tlcminnesota.org
www.tlcminnesota.org www.bikewalktc.org
www.youtube.com/user/BikeWalkTC www.facebook.com/bikewalktc @BikeWalkTC



From: dljessen@comcast.net [<mailto:dljessen@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 10:01 AM
To: joan.reidell@ci.stpaul.mn.us; Joan Pasiuk; ellen.biales@ci.stpaul.mn.us;
kim.obrien@ci.stpaul.mn.us; nicole.wittig-geske@ci.stpaul.mn.us;

samantha.henningson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Subject: Fwd: Jefferson Avenue Bikeway

From: dljessen@comcast.net

To: tlc@tlcminnesota.org, ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us, ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us,
ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us, ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us, ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us,
ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us, ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us, ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Cc: betsy1015@hotmail.com

Sent: Wednesday, May 9, 2012 9:17:33 AM

Subject: Fwd: Jefferson Avenue Bikeway

Dear Transit for Livable Communities,

I am writing concerning the Jefferson Avenue Bikeway in St. Paul, MN. As you can see below, my neighbor, Elizabeth Fabel, wrote to you last month urging you to deny St. Paul the \$750,000 federal grant funds for the bikeway unless proper safety measures are implemented. I have Ms. Fabel's agreement to forward her email to you and the City Council. Mr. Tolbert, the City Council representative for the Ward 3, led the City Council in a terribly misguided vote to strip his Ward of virtually every safety measure that was to accompany the bikeway. The City Council in a total disregard for biker and pedestrian safety followed Mr. Tolbert's lead and agreed to strip the bikeway of safety measures. Not even the busiest sections of Jefferson Avenue, between Snelling Avenue and Prior Avenue receive any traffic calming measures aside from sharrows painted on the street.

Mr. Tolbert bowed to political pressure of residents who do not live on Jefferson Avenue and wish to use Jefferson Avenue as their street of choice on which to drive quickly to school, church and work. It is not a coincidence that at both City Council hearings, those few loud voices who opposed the bikeway did not live on Jefferson. It was obvious from the numbers of people who appeared at both hearings that those in favor of the bikeway outnumbered those opposed. Also, those in favor of the bikeway cited safety statistics, backed by City of St. Paul traffic engineers, that favor traffic calming measures. Yet, Mr. Tolbert, and the City Council, ignored the advice of city employees, safety experts and traffic engineers to deny any traffic calming measures that would help ensure the safety of bikers and pedestrians.

I may be too late in sending this email, I hope not. I was unable to send this earlier due to family illness.

Please deny St. Paul the federal funds unless the City Council agrees to implement safety measures for all of Jefferson Avenue, not just for part of the bikeway in Ward 2. If you review the plans of the city, you will see that there may be the bare minimum of the required number of traffic circles and other safety measures, but they are not located in the busiest sections of the bikeway and most are located in Ward 2 not Ward 3. Jefferson Avenue is in both Wards, not just Ward 2.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Debra Jessen
1877 Jefferson Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: "Betsy Fabel" <betsy1015@hotmail.com>
To: "Deb Jessen" <djessen@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 7, 2012 7:35:25 AM
Subject: Re: Jefferson Avenue Bikeway

Not at all!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 6, 2012, at 9:30 PM, Deb Jessen <djessen@comcast.net> wrote:

Do you care if I forward this to tlc and tolbert with my comments supporting it?

Sent from my iPhone

From: betsy1015@hotmail.com
To: tlc@tlcminnesota.org
CC: emily.erickson@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: Jefferson Avenue Bikeway
Date: Wed, 4 Apr 2012 21:00:00 -0500

Dear Transit for Livable Communities,

I am a resident of Jefferson Avenue in Saint Paul and have been a very avid supporter of the Jefferson Avenue Bikeway since its inception.

Tonight I attended the Saint Paul City Council meeting at which a version of the bikeway plan that included an 11th hour amendment by Representative Tolbert was approved unanimously. I am sickened by the behind closed doors political maneuvering that produced this gutted version of a bikeway.

I am writing to you because I believe that the city of Saint Paul has failed to uphold the requirements to receive federal funding by approving this version of the bikeway absent the significant bikeway appropriate traffic calming treatments originally proposed. Councilmember Stark voted to approve with the comment, "We can't give up on good with the hopes of achieving perfect." Perfect was lost in this process a long time ago. What was left, up until 3 pm this afternoon, was

okay. What has been voted into existence tonight no longer resembles a bikeway at all.

I believe in alternative transportation and the goals of TLC. I believe that encouraging biking in our communities is healthy for the environment, healthy for our bodies and healthy for our neighborhoods. Unfortunately Saint Paul has shown that they are not willing to lead my city in this direction but will bow to the pressure of bullies instead.

There is a city in America that will make good use of the \$750,000 in federal funding. Sadly, Saint Paul is not that city.

Please deny the city of Saint Paul the \$750,00 in federal funding for the Jefferson Avenue Bikeway.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Fabel
1880 Jefferson Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
651-698-8771
betsy1015@hotmail.com