

June 30, 2014

To: Councilman Chris Tolbert

After reading the latest article in the Highland Villager as well as a letter to the editor about the proposed sidewalk on Davern St., I am again writing in support of the sidewalk.

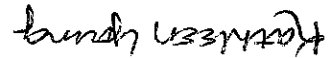
I disagree with HPC member Diane Trout-Certel's comments that the sidewalk would be urban in character and detract from Fousard's house. Davern St. is in an urban area with other sidewalks nearby and plenty of traffic. The landscaping at the Fousard house blocks it from view of the proposed sidewalk. Providing safe places to walk is a responsibility of the city and its residents.

Having the need to walk up and down the Davern hill several times a week on my way to do volunteer work near the Highland school complex, I find walking in the street treacherous. Last week I counted cars and trucks that passed me in both directions on the street. One weekday morning there were 28 cars at 7:30 AM and 20 at 11:00 AM. The next day there were 30 at 1:30 PM and 37 at 2:30 PM. This past Sunday there were 12 at 8:30 AM and 30 at 12:00 noon. In most cases the number includes several trucks, a school bus, and also one moving van and fire truck. Some cars move over toward the center line when they see me if traffic allows but some come very close to the line toward the shoulder so I have to hop up on the curb to get out of the way, also a necessity with trucks and buses. Low hanging branches don't always make that easy and it is impossible in the winter.

I hope that the safety of all student and adult pedestrians will prevail and the sidewalk project will happen.

Thank you for your concerns and efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Young

1725 Graham Ave., Apt. 215

St. Paul, MN 55116-3277