

Dear Councilmember Stark and all St. Paul City Councilmembers,

My husband Kevin and I and our two daughters have lived 1 ½ blocks from Raymond Ave. for 13 years now. I am a member of this current Raymond Ave Traffic Calming taskforce committee.

Our children are now 15 and 12 years old. They are finally old enough for me to finally consider allowing them to cross the street to the Hampden Park Coop by themselves! Because of the curves at this section of Raymond Ave. (from Rollins Ave. to University Ave.), it has always been difficult to see oncoming traffic at the ideal vantage points in order to cross safely. Also because of the curves, it is a favorite road on which to speed, and on my numerous walks along Raymond, I have seen many, many speeding motorists.

The new plan provides much safer pedestrian crossings at the safest locations. The bump-outs and center islands will help pedestrian safety significantly. The new plan also provides much better lighting, planting areas, and bike paths. All of these help scale the street down to pedestrian proportion and make it a more walkable street. Scaling the street down to pedestrian size also increases awareness for motorists that this is a special place, which it is; it's a neighborhood.

Walking to businesses in our neighborhood is a joy and it is precisely why we choose to remain homeowners here in South St. Anthony Park.

Thank you for your attention to this project.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Rutten Commers  
939 Cromwell Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55114