

I am writing to express my frustration with the city's plan to add bike lanes to Hamline Avenue to Highland Parkway. Please explain to me the reason that the bike lanes cannot be added to a street that is not in front of many small businesses, who rely on people being able to park their cars there, that is not near a school where students rely on that street for parking every day. I am all for promoting biking but please realize that we live in a state with cold temperatures -- and SNOW -- many months of the year. We in Highland Park in particular are in an area where we constantly complain about the horrible plowing policies (not about the job of the street maintenance department! ... the policies) and have been ignored year after year. Now we're going to force people to park further from businesses/school and walk through our horribly plowed streets. Hello, lawsuits.

It seems like the city is going out of its way to make it difficult to own a small business here, taxing us in 55116 higher than anyone I know in surrounding suburbs, doing little to nothing about the rising crime (Walgreens on Randolph/Snelling should be shut down for basically welcoming criminals in their door on a daily basis). Seriously, who are you listening to?

Is there a reason you can't put a bike path up and down Albert Street, for example. Or Edgcumbe? If your argument is that the bike lane is for people to get access to area businesses, well, isn't the point to get exercise? Bike up and down Albert or Edgcumbe and cut over the extra block or two to then get to area businesses. You spent over a million dollars to put a bike lane on Jefferson Ave, which I drive frequently. I'd love to see a study on how many actual bikers use it on a weekly basis because I think I've seen under 20 in all the years it's been there.

I think sometimes the city's vision is so focused on thinking forward and making changes, but you're failing to think about the things that need to remain the same, that are working "as is" and that people are happy with.

I want to be able to go to the Nook, Coffee Cup, Schmidty's Barber, or Elite Repeat and park nearby, especially in the wintertime.

I hope you will reconsider this planned project or at least listen to more input from the citizens in this area. Unfortunately, however, it seems that these decisions are basically decided and THEN presented to the public for their input, a little known fact that, well, we all actually know about.

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