



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

*1500 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660*

Fax: 651-266-6222

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/1/2016

SUBJECT: Summary of the public process and comments received on the proposal to incorporate bicycle facilities into the scheduled mill and overlay project on Upper Afton Road.

This memorandum presents a summary of the public process and comments received on the proposal to incorporate bicycle facilities into Ramsey County's scheduled mill and overlay of Upper Afton Road. The full text of all written statements received is attached to the end of this memorandum.

The proposal to implement bicycle facilities on Upper Afton Road was released publicly in February 2016. A website was created for the project, providing an overview of the planned improvements, data, project documents, visuals, timeline, and a project contact for questions and comments. Each project website was linked to on stpaul.gov/bikeprojects, a website providing a list of all bicycle projects throughout the city.

Notification was sent to the executive director of the District Council where the project was proposed (District 1), and an offer was extended for city staff to attend a district council meeting to present the proposed improvements.

Upper Afton Road Open House:

A community open house was held for the proposed bicycle facilities on Upper Afton Road and was facilitated by city and county staff. Residents and property owners within 200 feet of the proposed project were sent notifications of the open house via mail, along with an overview of the project details and impacts. 652 flyers were sent out for the Upper Afton Road open house. The flyers provided a map of the project, a link to the project website, contact information for city and county staff, and information about the project details.

Open House details:

- Upper Afton Road Open House – Thursday, March 3 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, Battle Creek Recreation Center
- A total of 56 attendees were recorded on the sign-in sheet



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5/18/2016 City Council Public Hearing:

At the City Council Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 18, Public Works presented an updated proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. This proposal includes implementing bike lanes in both directions between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. This requires parking removal on both sides of Upper Afton between Burns and White Bear, and on the north side of Upper Afton between White Bear and McKnight. The City Council then voted to amend the resolution for Upper Afton bike lanes to include bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight.

Since this proposal is different than what was messaged in the notification letter dated 4/28/2016, the City Council delayed a decision on bike lanes on Upper Afton until Wednesday, June, 1. To notify residents and property owners of the updated proposal and new City Council Public Hearing date, Public Works sent out an additional notification to 652 addresses within a 200' buffer of Upper Afton Road within the project limits.

Written Statements Received:

As of May 31, 2016, city staff received a total of 79 written statements specific to proposed bicycle facilities on Upper Afton Road from the following sources:

- Comment forms from the open house (13 statements)
- District 1 Official Letter
- Comments emailed or forwarded to city staff (43 statements)
- Statements received on Open Saint Paul (22 on-forum statements)

It should be noted that the total number of statements received may include multiple statements from some individuals, as well as some duplicate statements (e.g. an individual may have provided written feedback at an Open House and provided feedback online on Open Saint Paul).

Attachments:

1. Original text or transcription of all written statements received by city staff
2. Copy of Open House Flyer
3. Copy of City Council Public Hearing Notification
4. Copy of Second City Council Public Hearing Notification

Transcribed Open House Statements:

(scanned copies of the original statements are provided after the transcription)

1. C. Thiele:

Perhaps a 4-way stop at Upper Afton & White Bear Ave might also slow traffic.

2. Anonymous:

I like the idea of the bike lane on one side + pkg on the other

3. Anonymous (Lives on Dana Ln off Upper Afton):

How many accidents on Upper Afton? Plus pulling out on Upper Afton more [??] looking for bikers - = no lanes.

4. Anonymous:

- Not opposed to a bike lane on one side only. Very opposed to removing parking on both sides.
- There should be a 4-way stop (or traffic light) at White Bear.

5. Anonymous:

Suggest stop sign at White Bear & Upper Afton to reduce hazard at that location.
Opposed to no parking west of White Bear.

6. Keith Goetzman:

I'm an area resident and a frequent bike commuter who uses Upper Afton Road as a key part of my route. I fully support the implementation of protected bike lanes in both directions on Upper Afton Road. I can see on my frequent commutes that few cars park on Upper Afton and that motorists in general drive much too fast on this neighborhood road. Bike lanes will improve safety for everyone. I'd like this to be a safe route for my kids as they range further on their bikes, and for other novice bikers who would use the lanes.

7. Anonymous:

I really look forward to the added safety that these lanes will offer! Thanks so much!! I think there have been too many times I have seen speeding traffic zoom by bikes in a dangerous manner. However, there are some benefits to having an alternative plan – in so far as public hostility management towards bikers/ I have had aggressive

drivers/homeowners in other areas retaliate towards me as a biker. Maybe it would help to transition out the parking slowly (1 side only) until demonstrated need happens.

8. Anonymous:

I live on Upper Afton Rd. I need on-street parking. I do not want bike lanes. I park on the street all the time and if I have any kind of party or gathering. It is way too far to walk to the cul-de-sac. I need at least one lane of parking.

9. Anonymous:

- o We definitely need better bicycle infrastructure on the east side. Right now its limited to disconnected and steep mixed use trails they need to connect the bike grid to other bike streets so that casual bike commuters and users who are less confident will feel more confident.
- o If the one side street parking for the whole length with one direction bike option is selected I would prefer the bike lane to be on the south side east-bound so that bikes could be separated on the more challenging uphill climb.
- o Upper Afton is the best direct path to downtown St. Paul by bicycles
 - I bike commute and also drive on Upper Afton almost every day and I one block over on Berland.
 - It will also decrease speeds and improve infrastructure to attract younger people to the neighborhood to get it growing and developing again.
 - Also street parking is owned by the public not by the people who live in the houses
- o Many of my neighbors also have small children with bikes who right now are largely limited to the cul-de-sac
- o St. Paul really needs to emulate Minneapolis and its admirable bike infrastructure

10. Anonymous:

- Please only put bike lane on western end of Upper Afton Rd. I see most bikers going east so would be best to have the lane on south side of the road.
- The parking survey you conducted wasn't complete. In my job when I've done surveys it is done on different days of the week, different weeks of the month + different months of the year. Summer is when people have more get togethers so would have been more parking.
- I don't slow down on Ruth St for the bike lane. I do slow down for parked cars.
- Has a study been done on traffic speeds if you put a stop light or 4-way stop at intersection of Upper Afton + White Bear?

11. Anonymous:

Not in favor of bike lanes + losing our parking on our side of the street. Cars are not going to slow down when they see bike lanes. I can count the # of bikers who use the lanes on one hand over years. Want to be able to park in front of our house anytime. We pay good taxes for our house.

12. Anonymous:

They're great! We need bicycle lanes and we need to slow the cars down. You should consider adding some more speed-limit signs or those flashing speed signs at the beginning and end of Afton.

13. Steve Yetter:

I am strongly in favor of the bike lanes plan for Upper Afton Road. My experience with the Raymond Avenue traffic calming tells me that this plan will make Upper Afton safer for pedestrians and cyclists. This section of town needs an east-west connection for bike commuters. I will use this route as part of my regular commute to and from 3M.

Sign-In Sheet

Upper Afton Rd Open House

Battle Creek Recreation Center

75 Winthrop St. S

Saint Paul, MN 55119

[illegible]

Sign-In Sheet

Upper Afton Rd Open House

[illegible]

Sign-In Sheet

Upper Afton Rd Open House

[illegible]

Upper Afton Rd Bicycle Lanes

Comment Form

Ramsey County is planning a street resurfacing on Upper Afton Rd between Bruns and McKnight in 2016. Implementing bicycle lanes on Upper Afton as a component of this project is being considered.

.....

Please provide written feedback on the proposed plans for Upper Afton Rd by doing one of the following:

- Leave a comment on Open Saint Paul (stpaul.gov/open)
- Send an email to city staff (Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us)
- Write comments below

Comments:

Perhaps a 4-way stop at Upper Afton
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Plus pulling out on upper Afton none

Cover looking for bikers — NO LANES

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Keith Goetzman

651-731-5822

keith.goetzman@gmail.com

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kanal@usfamily.net

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plan will make Upper Afton safer for
pedestrians & cyclists. This section of town
needs an east-west connection for bike
commuters. I will use this route as part
of my regular commute to and from 3M.

Steve Yetter
1499 HYTHE ST.
ST PAUL 55108

Email Statements Received:

Community Council Office(651) 578-7600 (phone)
(651) 578-7404 (fax)
district1council@gmail.com**Youth Programming**(651) 578-7400 (phone)
(651) 578-7404 (fax)
district1chia@gmail.com

March 14, 2016

To: Luke Hanson, Saint Paul Public Works
From: District 1 Community Council
Re: Upper Afton Bike Lanes

Bringing bicycle connections to our part of town remains a top priority of our planning process for a variety of reasons: 1) to provide neighborhood children a safe way to get to parks and rec centers; 2) to help in slowing traffic along key streets in the district and increasing safety for everyone as a result – our number one complaint from people is the speed of cars on neighborhood streets; 3) to increase the number of eyes on the street to prevent crime – more bicyclists traveling slowly mean they are seeing what is happening all along their routes; 4) to provide transportation options for residents, particularly youth and low income residents without access to cars; 5) to increase opportunities for incorporating healthy activities in people's daily lives; 6) to assure that people who want to get to places all over the city of Saint Paul, without resorting to driving, can do so safely; and 7) to assure that the East Side receives its fair share of tax funds towards public improvements – to date the vast majority of these bicycle improvements have been on the western side of town. A viable bike network means there will be connected routes throughout the City.

As an organization, for all the reasons listed above, our basic recommendation is that continuous eastbound and westbound bike lanes be added the entire length of Upper Afton. We ask that Public Works explore all options that would allow keeping marked bike lanes the entire length of this road. In addition we are asking for the following enhancements to the street plan:

- 1) That painted two foot buffers be included between the drive lanes and the bike lanes;
- 2) That additional trees be planted along Upper Afton's boulevard where there are currently no trees; and
- 3) That cross walks be added or improved at key intersections, including at White Bear Avenue, at the Battle Creek trail crossing, at Ruth Street, and at Winthrop Street.

We feel that marked bike lanes and crosswalks, and additional tree plantings will address the concerns that everyone feels for maximizing the safety of all those traveling on our neighborhood streets, regardless of mode. We also feel they will work together to help decrease the speeds along this street.

We ask that there be a traffic speed study conducted along Upper Afton soon after the street is repaired and upgraded, and then again in 1 year, and that a location along Upper Afton be added to the annual bike count locations.

Thank you,

The District 1 Community Council Land Use Committee

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Amy Jensen <maynardbaltes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 10:57 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton Bicycle Proposal Concerns

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I writing to voice my concerns on the proposed bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road. I am a resident that lives on [Upper Afton Road](#). This change will affect my life in very challenging ways. I am a homemaker. You see my husband works difficult rotating hours. He works very hard to maintain and sustain the ownership of our two vehicles. As a small family we do not live in a big house and we do not own a double garage. We have a single lane drive. If this proposal passes I suspect my husband will be playing musical chairs with our cars. Not an easy task when working difficult hours. I will at many times be unable to assist him in the matter as I'm taking care of our young toddler. That is my first concern.

My biggest concern however is the impact on the value of my home. As a growing family we will most likely need to move in the future. Having a one lane drive isn't an issue when you can park on the street for most people, however taking away the parking will VASTLY limit anyone who would want to live in our home. I find myself asking the question- Is the city of Saint Paul going to pay the residents whom are losing value on their property due to this proposal?

On a different note, I don't get my exercise by biking. Maybe this is why I don't understand the need for a bicycle lane (let alone two). I do however understand that the twin cities has hundreds of miles of bicycle trails paved and not paved. I just don't understand how all of those miles are not enough. I grew up believing that roads were meant for automobile transportation and sidewalks were for walking and biking. If there is a resource in which I could educate myself on these matters please provide.

Thank you for your time and understanding while listening to my plight.

Sincerely,
Amy Jensen

Sent from my iPhone

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 8:53 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Bike Path on Upper Afton - Please See Attached
Attachments: BIKE PATH - COMMENTS; ATT00001.htm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hayne, Sheryl" <Shayne@archinsurance.com>
Date: June 1, 2016 at 8:50:51 AM CDT
To: "'ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us'" <ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: "Hayne, Sheryl" <Shayne@archinsurance.com>
Subject: Bike Path on Upper Afton - Please See Attached

Good Morning,

Please see the attached letter that addresses my views and concerns on the proposed bike paths on Upper Afton Road.

I'll look forward to the meeting this evening at the City Council Chambers.

Regards,
Sheryl Hayne

Sheryl Hayne | Operations Assistant | Arch Insurance Group, 30 E 7th Street, Suite 2270, St Paul, MN 55101 | Phone: 651-855-7114 | Fax: 651-855-7171 | SHayne@archinsurance.com

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COMMENTS:

As a follow-up to the meeting held on Thursday, March 3rd, concerning Upper Afton Road bicycle lanes, I would like to offer the following comments for consideration:

I understand the District 1 Committee Council is “excited” to see the proposed bicycle paths on Upper Afton; however, as a homeowner on Upper Afton for the last 24 years (have lived on Upper Afton Rd. for 57 years), I do not share their enthusiasm.

Property Values

Has anyone done a survey to determine if not having on-street parking effects the value of the homes in the proposed area?

Side Street Neighbors

What is the feedback of the people who live on the side streets who would be impacted by the additional parking? Have you checked with these neighbors and gotten their feedback, i.e., Dora Court, Afton Road Terrace, Kennard, Miller Crest, etc.?

Congestion at the Intersection of Upper Afton/Burns Ave.

In my opinion, the bicycle lanes on Upper Afton would add more congestion down by the intersection of Upper Afton and Burns Ave. There is already a bottleneck and this is just going to compound the issue. Anyone who travels this road daily is aware of the congestion problem during peak hours.

Increased danger of bicycle/vehicle accidents

The majority of homes on Upper Afton have one-way driveways where the residents need to back out into the street; with the proposed plan, I see a potential for a higher risk in car/bicycle accidents.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

1. As a compromise, put **one bicycle lane** on Upper Afton vs. two. One lane would allow residents to have access to on-street parking, while giving bicyclist a dedicated lane of travel.
2. As an alternative plan, I would propose having a bike path on **Lower Afton** from Hwy 61 to McKnight. It is a much more scenic stretch of road, there is no housing on that street and therefore no residential parking would be affected, it would connect to Battle Creek Park; and if speed is an issue, consider reducing the speed limit to accommodate the bikers' concerns.
3. In the larger picture, with any of these alternatives, an overpass or underpass from one side of Highway 61 to the other would be more beneficial for bicyclists and pedestrians alike than the changes you are proposing on Upper Afton Road.

Please take these comments into consideration and keep the residence informed of upcoming meetings to discuss this issue by letter vs. a footnote in the District 1 paper.

Sheryl V. Hayne
1555 Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 8:01 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes & Parking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judith Hartmann <jbhartmann2n@gmail.com>
Date: May 26, 2016 at 2:35:44 PM CDT
To: Jim.McDonough@co.ramsey.mn.us
Cc: "ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us" <ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes & Parking

Regarding the proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road:

We are concerned about the process that has been used to decide which alternative to present to the City Council and ask that you reconsider your support for totally removing on-street parking between White Bear and Burns Avenues.

At the public open house (Battle Creek Recreation Center, March 3, 2016), there was overwhelming opposition from residents who actually live on Upper Afton Road to the proposal that removed all on-street parking west of White Bear Avenue. The written notice that we received after the open house stated that the design to be presented to the City Council would allow one-side parking along all of Upper Afton. This plan was apparently later changed, and the one presented removed all parking west of White Bear Avenue. Our understanding is that the vote was delayed until June 1 in order to inform residents of the change and allow comments. We just received the written notice on Wednesday afternoon (May 25). With the short time frame and the Memorial Day weekend holiday, we assume that most residents will not be able to respond or are unaware of the switch.

The open house did not adequately address neighborhood residents' serious concerns. For example:

Numerous claims about bicyclists' safety and about slowing down the traffic were made, but were not supported by data from any statistically valid studies of comparable situations. Several of the claims were contrary to people's experience, which further undermined credibility.

Data regarding the number of parking spaces were misused. One frequently repeated claim was that there would be plenty of on-street parking spaces east of White Bear Avenue so on-street parking is not needed west of White Bear Avenue. This does not make any sense. - Regardless of their age, people are not going to park east of White Bear Avenue and walk long distances to a destination west of White Bear Avenue.

The planners also emphasized that the numbers of parked vehicles observed west of White Bear Avenue during their two counts was small and, therefore, in their opinion, on-street parking is not needed there. Even though the parking spaces are not used continuously, having none available would be a

hardship for residents of all ages in that area. On-street parking serves several critical functions and is expected by homebuyers in a residential neighborhood of this type. A related issue involves yard maintenance and construction trades. In some cases, the equipment has to be parked on the street. When asked about this, the organizers said that would not be allowed. This seems to favor transient residents who do not care if their properties get run down versus conscientious homeowners who want to maintain or improve their properties.

Preserving on-street parking along one side of the entire length of Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight is a compromise that would respect the homeowners of all ages who live here, while still allowing for bike lanes.

James and Judith Hartmann
1895 Upper Afton Road
St. Paul MN 55119

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:59 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: June 1 - Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes and Parking

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From: Judith Hartmann <jbhartmann2n@gmail.com>
Date: May 27, 2016 at 8:58:33 AM CDT
To: ward1-7@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: June 1 - Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes and Parking

You will be making a decision on June 1, 2016, regarding parking and bike lanes on Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. We are concerned about the process that was used to decide which alternative was presented to the City Council. Please look at the type of residential neighborhood this is and support the alternative that retains on-street parking on one side of the entire length of Upper Afton Road.

At the public open house (Battle Creek Recreation Center, March 3, 2016), there was overwhelming opposition from residents who actually live on Upper Afton Road to the proposal that removed all on-street parking west of White Bear Avenue. The written notice that we received after the open house stated that the design to be presented to the City Council would instead allow one-side parking along all of Upper Afton. This plan was apparently later changed, and the one presented removed all parking west of White Bear Avenue. Our understanding is that the vote was delayed until June 1 in order to inform residents of the change and allow comments. We just received the written notice on Wednesday afternoon (May 25). With the short time frame and the Memorial Day weekend holiday, we assume that most residents will not be able to respond or are unaware of the switch.

The open house did not adequately address neighborhood residents' serious concerns. For example:

Numerous claims about bicyclists' safety and about slowing down the traffic were made, but were not supported by data from any statistically valid studies of comparable situations. Several of the claims were contrary to people's experience, which further undermined credibility.

Data regarding the number of parking spaces were misused. One frequently repeated claim was that there would be plenty of on-street parking spaces east of White Bear Avenue so on-street parking is not needed west of White Bear Avenue. This does not make any sense. - Regardless of their age, people are not going to park east of White Bear Avenue and walk long distances to a destination west of White Bear Avenue.

The planners also emphasized that the numbers of parked vehicles observed west of White Bear Avenue during their two counts was small and, therefore, in their opinion, on-street parking is not needed there. Even though the parking spaces are not used continuously, having none available would be a hardship for residents of all ages in that area. On-street parking serves several critical functions and is expected by homebuyers in a residential neighborhood of this type. A related issue involves yard

maintenance and construction trades. In some cases, the equipment has to be parked on the street. When asked about this, the organizers said that would not be allowed. This seems to favor transient residents who do not care if their properties get run down versus conscientious homeowners who want to maintain or improve their properties.

Preserving on-street parking along one side of the entire length of Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight is a compromise that would respect the homeowners of all ages who live here, while still allowing for bike lanes.

James and Judith Hartmann
1895 Upper Afton Road E.
St. Paul MN 55119

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:58 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: upper afton rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joe Lee <brandonrefugee@yahoo.com>
Date: May 27, 2016 at 1:55:53 PM CDT
To: "ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us" <ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: upper afton rd
Reply-To: Joe Lee <brandonrefugee@yahoo.com>

My name is Brandon Vang and I am living at 1480 upper afton rd. st. paul 55106. We do not want you guy to add another bike rout to upper afton rd. That is not a parkway and there is no one riding bike on this street. For example Johnson Parkway, you guy made two bike lanes, but so far no one using it at all. The only time there is bike going on when they have bicycle rally or something, but that only once a year. Please do not add bike lanes to upper afton rd. That will be waste and we do not want to pay tax for fixing the rd. jus for those who riding bicycle. there are better ways to spend city money somewhere else for the needy.

Thank you

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:58 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lana Schaffer <lanal@usfamily.net>
Date: May 27, 2016 at 10:09:32 AM CDT
To: <ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Re: Why there should only be one bike lane on the stretch between Burns and White Bear Avenue (western end).

Ms Prince:

With no parking on the western end my guests will have to walk 1/4 mile to get to my place. the study said there were enough remaining parking spots for those used on Upper Afton but the study didn't say that it is almost a mile from Burns to White Bear. I clocked the mileage from my place to White Bear (.8 miles). So the parking spots east of White Bear do me no good.

Bicyclists safety:

One of the reasons given for having a bike lane in both directions was the safety of the bicyclists. Having 2 lanes on Upper Afton doesn't take into account that the bicyclists will have to turn left onto Burns Avenue when going west on Upper Afton. Then will have the intersection of Hwy 61 and Burns to contend with.

A safer route for the bicyclists is for them to use Upper Afton to travel east and then use the trail along Battle Creek to go west. The entrance to that trail is just east of White Bear Avenue on Upper Afton. It follows the creek, goes under Hwy 61, and connects to the trail along Warner Road and the river. The bicyclist can also get back to Indian Mounds Park by following that trail.

We were told in the meeting that a survey was done of the homeowners on Upper Afton about having bike lanes. This survey asked if we would be willing BUT it didn't say anything about losing our parking. If that had been in the survey the results would have been different.

Many of the homes on Upper Afton have one car garages and short driveways. Therefore, there isn't enough room for them to park all cars of the parents and children on the property. They need the on street parking for that. Your asking residents to convert their front lawns into

parking lots.

The parked car survey done in November was incomplete. It only did it for one week in the winter. There should have been a survey throughout the year to determine the number of parked cars. I have a small house so when I have parties it is in the summer when my guests and I can be outside. So more cars would be parked on the street in the summer.

There has never been a survey of the number of bicyclists that use this route. I see groups come by on the weekends in the morning going EAST. But the same group doesn't come back west. In the winter there are only a handful of bicyclists on the road. If only a few groups do this during the summer it seems excessive to have 2 bike lanes on Upper Afton.

If there are so few parked cars on Upper Afton then there is plenty of room for the bicyclists to go around them. It wouldn't have to be a dedicated bike lane.

Another safety feature was mentioned was that white lines make drivers slow down. I slow down for parked cars and bicyclists but never for a white line.

Please only put one bike lane on the western end of Upper Afton (Burns to White Bear Avenue) It is safer for the bicyclists to use the existing trail along Battle Creek to go west. Two lanes is excessive for the amount of bike traffic.

Sincerely,
Lana Schaffer
1458 Upper Afton Rd

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:56 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Bike Lanes on Upper Afton and no parking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Karen West" <karenw0214@gmail.com>
Date: May 30, 2016 at 8:29:02 PM CDT
To: <ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Bike Lanes on Upper Afton and no parking

Dear Jane,

I live at 1452 Upper Afton Road in the Battle Creek neighborhood in St. Paul. I bought my house in 2001, and ever since I've been sorry I did. I have put thousands and thousands of dollars into remodeling it, and now it's really nice. However, because of my address, its value has not appreciated. My old house in Como Park (909 W. Iowa) is worth a lot more, because it's in Como Park instead of Battle Creek.

Now the city is planning to put bike lanes on BOTH sides of my street and forbid any parking at all on the street. I was so shocked by this that I told a friend who lives in Highland Park. She said in her neighborhood where they have bike lanes, it's just one side or the other you can't park on. I thought I had misread the letter, but today I found out I didn't. If the city does this, my house will undoubtedly be worth even less. Who would knowingly buy a house where your friends and visitors couldn't park in front of your house, but would have to park on another street?

I don't have much money, but I worked hard for 34 years as a St. Paul teacher. Please don't treat me like this—like a second-class citizen. Please don't go through with this.

Sincerely,
Karen West (651-399-9571)

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:54 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Regarding Bike Lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kim Kurki <mkckek@aol.com>
Date: May 31, 2016 at 12:20:44 PM CDT
To: ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: Regarding Bike Lanes on Upper Afton Rd

We live on that street, and do not think you should take that away for parking for bike lanes. We have about maybe 3 bikes a week that go by. More cars use the parking on the street and by taking away us and our family will not be able to park there. Our family should not have to walk with little ones a block or more to see us. We pay taxes and should be able to park in front of our own house! We could have a lane where bikes and cars can both use. It's not fair to home owner who lives there and pays taxes. There is not many bikes that use it to justify taking our parking away.

you

Kim Kurki

Thank

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:51 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Julie Jonker <loren.julie.j@gmail.com>
Date: May 31, 2016 at 5:17:42 PM CDT
To: ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Road

Living on Upper Afton Road for more then 30 years our concern for young children has grown. There is too much speed. We can not see how removing all parking and painting white bike lines will slow this. It seems a clear path to to increase speed. At least with some parking there is a object which narrows the road and may slow traffic. This plan is ok for an adult biker but certainly not safer for children. Adding a speed bump may help to slow traffic.

Thank you, Loren and Julie Jonker.

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:51 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Upper Afton Bicycle Lane Concerns

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amy Jensen <maynardbaltes@hotmail.com>
Date: May 31, 2016 at 8:48:35 PM CDT
To: <ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Upper Afton Bicycle Lane Concerns

Dear Mrs. Prince,

I writing to voice my concerns on the proposed bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road. I am a resident that lives at [1727 Upper Afton Road](#). This change will affect my life in very challenging ways. I am a homemaker. You see my husband works difficult rotating hours. He works very hard to maintain and sustain the ownership of our two vehicles. As a small family we do not live in a big house and we do not own a double garage. We have a single lane drive. If this proposal passes I suspect my husband will be playing musical chairs with our cars. Not an easy task when working difficult hours. I will at many times be unable to assist him in the matter as I'm taking care of our young toddler. That is my first concern.

My biggest concern however is the impact on the value of my home. As a growing family we will most likely need to move in the future. Having a one lane drive isn't an issue when you can park on the street for most people, however taking away the parking will VASTLY limit anyone who would want to live in our home. I find myself asking the question- Is the city of Saint Paul going to pay the residents whom are losing value on their property due to this proposal?

On a different note, I don't get my exercise by biking. Maybe this is why I don't understand the need for a bicycle lane (let alone two). I do however understand that the twin cities has hundreds of miles of bicycle trails paved and not paved. I just don't understand how all of those miles are not enough. I grew up believing that roads were meant for automobile transportation and sidewalks were for walking and biking. If there is a resource in which I could educate myself on these matters please provide.

Thank you for your time and understanding while listening to my plight.

Sincerely,
Amy Jensen

Sent from my iPhone

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 7:50 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Fwd: Attention Jane Prince: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lenny Thao <email.lenny@gmail.com>
Date: June 1, 2016 at 12:24:09 AM CDT
To: ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Subject: Attention Jane Prince: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Road

Dear Jane Prince,

As a resident living on Upper Afton road, for the past six years I've seen and experienced both bikers and drivers having shared the road equally and respectfully.

However when the proposal of adding bike lanes, eliminating street parking on Upper Afton Road arose it made very little sense to me as we the residents on Upper Afton Road will now lose the freedom of parking on our community streets if this does come into effect.

Many residents do not have the adequate parking space in their driveways to accomodate guests when visiting. Also many side streets are far away that could present an issue when elder relatives or children visit as the walking distances may prove to be very challenging especially during the winter season.

The number of bikers also seems far less than the number of residents who rely on street parking as well.

Please take this into consideration when you do make the decision regarding adding bike lanes on Upper Afton Road as this will negatively impact the residents of Upper Afton Road.

Thank you,

Lenny Thao
Homeowner
1680 Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Lenny Thao <email.lenny@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 12:29 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Luke Hanson,

As a resident living on Upper Afton road, for the past six years I've seen and experienced both bikers and drivers having shared the road equally and respectfully.

However when the proposal of adding bike lanes, eliminating street parking on Upper Afton Road arose it made very little sense to me as we the residents on Upper Afton Road will now lose the freedom of parking on our community streets if this does come into effect.

Many residents do not have the adequate parking space in their driveways to accomodate guests when visiting. Also many side streets are far away that could present an issue when elder relatives or children visit as the walking distances may prove to be very challenging especially during the winter season.

The number of bikers also seems far less than the number of residents who rely on street parking as well.

Please take this into consideration when you do make the decision regarding adding bike lanes on Upper Afton Road as this will negatively impact the residents of Upper Afton Road.

Thank you,

Lenny Thao
Homeowner
1680 Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Mary Thao <mm.thao@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 12:23 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul);
kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us;
jim.mcdohough@co.ramsey.mn.us
Subject: Concerns about Bike Lanes on Upper Afton Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear City Council President & Members, and Ramsey County Board,

I am a resident of Upper Afton Road. The proposed bike lanes present many concerns and I ask that you highly consider voting against bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton Road for the following reasons:

(1) While the idea seems to encourage families to bike more, I would not take my children on a bike ride along Upper Afton Road. The bike lanes would be so close to the vehicles, especially between Burns & White Bear where the road is narrower. This creates a dangerous situation for bikers and drivers.

(2) There is very, very minimal "side-street" parking all along Upper Afton Road. You are trying to encourage families to ride bikes but at the same time you are asking us to NOT host family gatherings -- Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day. My husband and I host our family throughout the year and without parking, we would no longer be able to host. With the limited side-street parking, it also means there's potential for 10 houses to be fighting for 5-6 parking spots on a dead-end road. Please, please consider this.

(3) We have elderly family members who visit, and asking them to park 1 to 2 blocks away is wrong. As you can imagine, the winter months would be extremely difficult.

(4) Some have argued that bike lanes slow down traffic, creating a safer environment for our children. This is not a valid argument. Ruth Street has a bike lane and it has not stopped crazy drivers from speeding down, even with a Saint Paul Police vehicle parked in front of one of the houses.

Please do consider the current residents when you are deciding on a proposal for residents who don't even live here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary Thao
1680 Upper Afton Road

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: bonniejell@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 10:08 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

TO: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us, jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us, ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us

DATE: May 31, 2016

RE: Comments on Bike Lanes in both directions between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road.

I do not support bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton Road from Burns to McKnight which would eliminate all on street parking. It will be a hardship for many who live in this area.

I live at 15 Luella Street South so I am indirectly affected.

The people that purchased homes on Upper Afton Road did so at a time when there was parking on both sides of the street and I'm sure it was a factor in purchasing their home. All of these homeowners pay property taxes (which includes paying for the streets in front of their homes) and now you are asking them to give up their parking spaces in front of their homes. The bikers indirectly pay taxes but not property taxes for the properties on Upper Afton Road.

In case you haven't noticed, many of the people purchasing homes in this area now are people of color and most of them have many families living in their homes and sometimes there are 6-8 cars parked in the driveways and on the street. So, if there isn't any parking in front of their homes, they are going to have to walk sometimes a block away to park and probably in front of our houses on the side streets. This certainly doesn't make sense to inconvenience these people, and change their parking for a handful of bicyclists. And then many of the homeowners who have lived in these homes for years, are elderly, and when their friends come over they shouldn't have to park down the block and around the corner. And there aren't too many of the elderly who are going to use the bike lanes.

Bikers and city staff are saying that by putting in these bike lanes it will slow down the traffic. Really? That's not going to happen. In fact it may mean more pedestrian/car accidents—especially when cars are speeding up Upper Afton just west of Luella Street. I can't even count how many mailboxes and cars that have been hit in that area from Darlene Street to East Sandra Lee Drive.

And, if the big push is on to get people to ride their bikes and bike riders increase, they should be licensed and purchase a license just as motor vehicle drivers are. They are using the roads. And it's about time they have to pass the test on driving rules as drivers do because many of them disobey those laws especially by going through stop signs and stop lights and weaving in and out of traffic.

Occasionally there are several bike riders on Upper Afton Road but most of the time there may be one or two per day. I have only seen one or two bikers on Ruth Street from I-94 to Upper Afton Road in the past several years.

If most of these bikers are coming from Woodbury, why can't they use the bike trails on Lower Afton Road. There are also bike trails through Battle Creek Park from McKnight down to Highway 61 which goes under the highway and then along the highway to downtown. And if they use the trails in the wintertime, Ramsey County or whoever owns those trails needs to plow them and de-ice them instead of changing the people's lives on Upper Afton Road.

There are a few stretches of Upper Afton Road where cars don't park on the street but there are always cars between Battle Creek Road to Ruth Street, Winthrop to McKnight and on the corner of Burns and Upper Afton Road. Someone also pointed out how many cars are parked on Upper Afton Road from Ruth to Winthrop during the baseball season.

Excellent “informed” points were made by Paul & Sue Moyer, 4/1/16—also Sheryl Hayne. Will property values decrease because of no on-street parking, side street neighbors will be affected by parking, increased danger of bicycle/vehicle accidents, use Lower Afton Road bike path, traffic congestion on I-94 leads more drivers to use Upper Afton Road.

It's very insensitive of city staff to say “just park on a side street”. From Burns to White Bear Avenue the side streets are few and far between and some are cul-de-sacs chopped up by driveways. No parking will force people to make parking lots in their front yards and block the sidewalks.

Dan Choma stated that on Upper Afton Road there were zero cars. When did he observe that? It doesn't coincide with other comments and from my personal “informed” observation driving Upper Afton Road every day or evening. Are we the irrational uninformed minority. We have lived in the neighborhood and have paid our taxes for over 40 years.

Comments made by Jerry Walsh are also very valid. Delivery of mail may be affected.

Are we doing this just to take advantage of federal tax dollars?

Bicycle lanes ARE NOT GOING TO SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC

Bonita Jellinek
15 Luella Street South
Saint Paul MN 55119

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Hunt, Anne (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 3:24 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact the Mayor

Making Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America

-----Original Message-----

From: *CI-StPaul_Mayor
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 3:39 PM
To: Hunt, Anne (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact the Mayor

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: webmaster@ci.stpaul.mn.us [<mailto:webmaster@ci.stpaul.mn.us>]
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 10:18 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_Mayor
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Mayor

Submitted on Friday, May 27, 2016 - 10:18 Submitted by anonymous user: 174.137.87.33 Submitted values are:

==Personal Information==

Name: Lana Schaffer
Organization / Business:
Street Address: 1458 Upper Afton Rd
City: St. Paul
State: Minnesota

Zip Code: 55106
E-mail Address: lanal@usfamily.net
Daytime Phone: 651-776-6368
Alternate Phone:

==Message Details==

Subject: bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Your Comment:

Re: Why there should only be one bike lane on the stretch between Burns and White Bear Avenue (western end).

With no parking on the western end my guests will have to walk 1/4 mile to get to my place. the study said there were enough remaining parking spots for those used on Upper Afton but the study didn't say that it is almost a mile from Burns to White Bear. I clocked the mileage from my place to White Bear (.8 miles). So the parking spots east of White Bear do me no good.

Bicyclists safety:

One of the reasons given for having a bike lane in both directions was the safety of the bicyclists. Having 2 lanes on Upper Afton doesn't take into account that the bicyclists will have to turn left onto Burns Avenue when going west on Upper Afton. Then will have the intersection of Hwy 61 and Burns to contend with.

A safer route for the bicyclists is for them to use Upper Afton to travel east and then use the trail along Battle Creek to go west. The entrance to that trail is just east of White Bear Avenue on Upper Afton. It follows the creek, goes under Hwy 61, and connects to the trail along Warner Road and the river. The bicyclist can also get back to Indian Mounds Park by following that trail.

We were told in the meeting that a survey was done of the homeowners on Upper Afton about having bike lanes. This survey asked if we would be willing BUT it didn't say anything about losing our parking. If that had been in the survey the results would have been different.

Many of the homes on Upper Afton have one car garages and short driveways. Therefore, there isn't enough room for them to park all cars of the parents and children on the property. They need the on street parking for that. Your asking residents to convert their front lawns into parking lots.

The parked car survey done in November was incomplete. It only did it for one week in the winter. There should have been a survey throughout the year to determine the number of parked cars. I have a small house so when I have parties it is in the summer when my guests and I can be outside. So more cars would be parked on the street in the summer.

There has never been a survey of the number of bicyclists that use this route. I see groups come by on the weekends in the morning going EAST. But the same group doesn't come back west. In the winter there are only a handful of bicyclists on the road. If only a few groups do this during the summer it seems excessive to have 2 bike lanes on Upper Afton.

If there are so few parked cars on Upper Afton then there is plenty of room for the bicyclists to go around them. It wouldn't have to be a dedicated bike lane.

Another safety feature was mentioned was that white lines make drivers slow down. I slow down for parked cars and bicyclists but never for a white line.

Please only put one bike lane on the western end of Upper Afton (Burns to White Bear Avenue) It is safer for the bicyclists to use the existing trail along Battle Creek to go west. Two lanes is excessive for the amount of bike traffic.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/node/5736/submission/23081>

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Karen West <karenw0214@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 8:30 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bike Lanes on Upper Afton and no parking

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Luke,

I live at 1452 Upper Afton Road in the Battle Creek neighborhood in St. Paul. I bought my house in 2001, and ever since I've been sorry I did. I have put thousands and thousands of dollars into remodeling it, and now it's really nice. However, because of my address, its value has not appreciated. My old house in Como Park (909 W. Iowa) is worth a lot more, because it's in Como Park instead of Battle Creek.

Now the city is planning to put bike lanes on BOTH sides of my street and forbid any parking at all on the street. I was so shocked by this that I told a friend who lives in Highland Park. She said in her neighborhood where they have bike lanes, it's just one side or the other you can't park on.

I thought I had misread the letter, but today I found out I didn't. If the city does this, my house will undoubtedly be worth even less. Who would knowingly buy a house where your friends and visitors couldn't park in front of your house, but would have to park on another street?

I don't have much money, but I worked hard for 34 years as a St. Paul teacher. Please don't treat me like this—like a second-class citizen. Please don't go through with this.

Sincerely,
Karen West (651-399-9571)

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Ronald Swenson <ronaldswenson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 6:49 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton Bike Lanes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Kathy Lantry suggested in her May 19th letter that we email our Council member to express our comments if we are unable to attend the public hearing on June 1st. We cannot attend the meeting and we don't know our council member. Therefore, this email is directed to you.

My wife and I live at 1955 Ebertz Court, St. paul. Mn 55119. We are both very much opposed to the bike lanes. Not so much for the bikes, but for the automobile parking. There are many evening each month when a residence has five, six or more cars parked for the overnight hours.

We aren't sure of any statistics, but the bike lanes will add to this issue and perhaps further depreciate property values.

Thank you for reading our email.

Ron and Margaret Swenson
Sent from [Outlook](#)

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: CRAIG B WILSON Owner <cbwilson1455@q.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2016 7:58 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Opposed to proposed Resurfacing/Restructuring of Upper Afton Road

Mr. Hanson:

I am opposed to the proposed restructuring of Upper Afton Road following resurfacing for these reasons:

1. **Resource Priorities.**
 - a. As a pedestrian, the Upper Afton/Burns Avenue crossing over Hwy 61 is an exceptionally dangerous crossing and a much higher priority for fixes and resources. It is the most dangerous crossing I've encountered in the City of St. Paul and is a killing zone, plain and simple.
 - b. As a pedestrian and dog walker, my highest priority would be to extensively replace sidewalks that are treacherous in the summer (large elevation gaps, sewer pipes extending into the walking path and areas subject to ponding and icing in the cold half of the year).
2. **Inconsistent Design Feature.** The design is inconsistent with bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton until going east past White Bear Avenue when it shifts to one lane. This is curious design feature that speaks to a basic inconsistent and unfair approach to the road's design.
3. **Excessive Vehicle Speed Common and Likely to Worsen.** Speed and noncompliance to speed limits will both increase with resurfacing as Upper Afton gets more connecting traffic from Maplewood and Woodbury. Vehicular traffic on Upper Afton Road typically exceeds the posted limits and frequently by quite a margin. Add to that just plain bad judgment – for example two months ago a woman in an SUV passed me on the wrong side of the double yellow/blind curve at the base of Upper Afton leading into Burns Avenue.
 - a. **Resurfacing Upper Afton will likely encourage vehicle speeds.** Smoother roads will translate into faster vehicular velocities which will not mix well with pedestrian and bicycle traffic, especially in many of our low daylight months.
 - i. As Upper Afton feeds into Burns Avenue at a very awkward/blind angle, this would suggest higher probability of nasty accidents at this corner.
 - ii. Given the road's angles and features, the proposed design seems to be enhancing the probabilities of vehicular-related injuries and deaths.
 - b. **Lack of Speed Enforcement.** With police having priority issues in other areas north of Upper Afton Road (Old Hudson Road, Suburban Avenue, etc.) I do not expect to see speed patrols dedicated to enforcement along Upper Afton. As a point of reference, I have not seen any policing of speeds on Upper Afton Road In the nearly two years I have lived in this area.
4. **No Action Option Preferred.** While I'm thankful for the City's attempt at improving this road, I am opposed to this upgrade of Upper Afton Road for the above reasons. I believe there are higher priorities as listed. I would prefer a no action alternative. Please upgrade the deplorable Burns Avenue/Hwy 61 pedestrian access and Upper Afton Road's sidewalks so that they are safe.

Bruce Wilson
5 Kennard Court
St. Paul, MN 55106

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Ilie Dinca <dincadi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2016 12:45 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Re: Bicycle lanes

With all due respect, there is no evidence or the city has not presented one to us, the taxpayers and residents of Upper Afton Rd. about any safety of the so call "bicycle travelers". Sir, I assure you that the residents of Upper Afton Rd. are not concerned with the "sentiments" but rather with an unpleasant reality. This ridiculous proposal is yours, and you should have the honesty to recognize that. It is not "our" proposal as you state in your reply.

Thank you,
I. Dinca

On Saturday, May 28, 2016 5:52 PM, "Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)" <luke.hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Ilie Dinca,

Thank you for your message concerning the proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. Your message has been received and reviewed by city staff, and will be added to the public record for this project.

Just to clarify, the City Council and Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has the authority to either approve or reject this proposal. Our updated proposal for bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton does not reflect a desire to negate the sentiment of Upper Afton neighbors, but rather a commitment to proposing the safest bicycle facility we can for people choosing to travel by bike on Upper Afton Rd.

Thank you,

Luke Hanson

City of Saint Paul | Public Works | Transportation Planning and Safety Division
City Hall Annex, Suite 800
25 4th St West, Saint Paul, MN 55102
Direct: 651-266-6146

From: Ilie Dinca <dincadi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 1:58:05 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bicycle lanes

Mister Hanson,

As a long time resident of St. Paul, would like to know your rationale for proposing the utopian project of creating bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Rd.

And more than that sir, what and who has endowed you with such power and authority to overrule the tax payers and owner residents affected by your proposed project?

We pay the taxes, the cleaning taxes, the license plates tabs for our cars, and we should have the access parking place in front of our houses.

My family and I are disturbed by the arrogance of such proposal and decision, that demonstrate total disregard for the property owners affected.

Sincerely,
Ilie Dinca
1669 Upper Afton Rd.
St.Paul,Mn.55106

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Wendy Lane <wendylaneartist@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 5:31 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; Jim McDonough
Subject: Feedback on Pubic Hearing June 1 about bike lanes on Upper Afton Road

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am writing about the pending City Council meeting on June 1 to discuss the proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road in St. Paul.

I am a resident of 1621 Upper Afton Road, the section affected by this proposal. I live in a town home among an association of 13 townhomes on this road, and I am the secretary of the Association Board of Directors. We discussed this proposal in the spring when we received the first notification of the public meeting. We were supportive of one bike lane, but not of two which would require removing all parking from our section of the street. Most of us have single or double car garages only for parking, and no public parking areas for guests, snow storage area, or places for vendors to park like our lawn service company trucks.

We think there could be a win-win solution for bikers and parkers if there was one bike lane and one parking lane. We provided this feedback before and some were present at the first public meeting. We received written notification of a second public meeting schedule for May 18 and it indicated that the proposal had been revised from two biker lanes to one, with parking on one side. Because we were in support of the revised proposal many elected not to attend the May meeting. However, we were dismayed to discover that the City Council voted to amend the resolution back to bike lanes on both sides of the road without notice. On May 19 a letter went out that because this was different than what had been previously sent in the written notification, the decision will be delayed until a public meeting on June 1.

However I will be on vacation up north all of next week and will be unable to attend the meeting. We have been encouraged if we are unable to attend the meeting to once again provide our feedback via email to our various representatives. Therefore I am writing all of you in this email.

Please consider listening to the constituents and residents most affected by this proposal who live on Upper Afton Road. You have the opportunity to provide a route for bikers while providing necessary parking space rather than deferring only to bikers' needs, many whom don't reside in the area. Regardless of the ultimate decision, I am very dismayed about how the communication about this process and decision making has been handled.

Thank you.

Wendy Lane
wendylaneartist@gmail.com
<https://wendyl1.wordpress.com/>

“There is a vitality, a life-force, an energy, a quickening that is translated through you into action and because there is only one of you in all of time,

this expression is unique.
And if you block it,
it will never exist through any other medium and be lost.
The world will not have it.
It is not your business to determine how good it is
nor how valuable nor how it compares with other expressions.
It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly,
to keep the channel open."
Martha Graham

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Elinor Auge <createnow.elinor@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 1:29 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Cc: jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward1-7
Subject: Bike Lanes vs. On-Street Parking at Upper Afton Road, St. Paul

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

On Thu, May 26, 2016 at 1:33 PM, Elinor Auge <createnow.elinor@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Jane Prince and Luke Hanson,

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf, Jane. I have forwarded the information to the district council as you requested.

Public Works Bicycle Traffic Count 2014 - please take a look at page 10 for the count for Upper Afton Road and compare that to the rest of the numbers on the page.
https://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentCenter/Government/Public%20Works/Bicycles/Bicycle%20Traffic%20Count/2014%20Saint%20Paul%20Bicycle%20Pedestrian%20Count%20Report_201501061048330499.pdf

The above link should take you to one of the items which was sent to KSTP. It is a copy of the 2014 Bicycle Count produced by Saint Paul Public Works. I was unable to locate a 2015 count. It occurred to me that materials presented to City Council included a parking count for Upper Afton Road, but did not include this information. If you look at the top of page 10, there are two entries for Upper Afton Road. Although this count is for a single moment on a single day, if you compare it to the rest of the numbers on that same page, it is pretty obvious that, relatively speaking, there is not a high volume of bicycle traffic in this area.

I'll repeat what I said in my original email, and that is that I do very much enjoy bicycling and I have never felt unsafe cycling on Upper Afton Road, even without specified bicycle lanes.

I love the path along lower Afton Road and have often come up Point Douglas Road from there. The biggest benefit I could see to bicycle trails in this area, is to create a connecting trail from the Point Douglas Road / Battle Creek parking lot to the Scenic Overlook, along Highway 61, so that it would not be necessary to choose to ride up either the winding trail in the park or to ride under 61, along Pigs Eye Lake to end up on Warner/Shepard Road. Both lovely rides, but not necessarily useful to commuters.

My impression from the presenters in support of the current proposal on May 18th, pretty much all of whom did not live on or near Upper Afton (one from Minneapolis), was not that they were eager to find their way to our lovely part of town and spend time enjoying a scenic ride throughout our community, but rather that they were looking for an expedient way to commute through the area. If the goal is to get to 3M, the Margaret Street lanes ought to be perfect for that, and if the goal is to get to Woodbury, the Lower Afton trail is a delightful way to go.

During the warm weather months, bicycle clubs seem to have chosen Upper Afton Road as a preferred route and we do see long lines of bicycles coming through on the weekends. Traffic on Upper Afton during weekend

days is not at all heavy and single lane riding along the side of the road has, again, always felt safe to me. What we tend to see happen with these casual riders, is that they will ride two, three, sometimes four abreast.

I do not feel that it should be necessary for the tax paying residents of this community to have to give up all of their on-street parking in order for these bikers to be able to disobey the rules of the road. The Lower Afton trail would be the perfect place for them to ride in this manner.

For the twenty plus years that I have lived in this neighborhood, I have enjoyed pleasant walks in the beautiful Ramsey County Open Use Space that is so easily accessible from my home. It is a wonderful resource and I have often appreciated having given up the crowded walks around Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis, for the quiet pleasure of these spaces.

Over the years, there has been increasing traffic on these trails. Fine. Good. Others are enjoying the space. Unfortunately, the off-road bikers have found their way to these trails and have been tearing them up and I'm sure costing Ramsey County some extra expense in maintenance. Generally, these bikers come in with their bikes on their cars, park and then commence to destroy the trails and the vegetation along the trails. But some of them do ride their bikes to the area.

I do not believe that these bikers need a special bike lane on Upper Afton Road, at the expense of those of us who live and pay taxes and roadway fees here. The Lower Afton trail, via Warner/Shepard Road and Pigs Eye Lake should be perfectly sufficient for them to reach the park trails.

I would like to suggest again, looking at the option of a single bike lane in one direction on Upper Afton Road with a corresponding bike lane in the opposite direction, either on Burns or Third Avenues.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Elinor Auge
1645 Upper Afton Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106

[651-771-1786](tel:651-771-1786)

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Lana Schaffer <lanal@usfamily.net>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 10:09 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Re: Why there should only be one bike lane on the stretch between Burns and White Bear Avenue (western end).

Ms Hanson:

With no parking on the western end my guests will have to walk 1/4 mile to get to my place. the study said there were enough remaining parking spots for those used on Upper Afton but the study didn't say that it is almost a mile from Burns to White Bear. I clocked the mileage from my place to White Bear (.8 miles). So the parking spots east of White Bear do me no good.

Bicyclists safety:

One of the reasons given for having a bike lane in both directions was the safety of the bicyclists. Having 2 lanes on Upper Afton doesn't take into account that the bicyclists will have to turn left onto Burns Avenue when going west on Upper Afton. Then will have the intersection of Hwy 61 and Burns to contend with.

A safer route for the bicyclists is for them to use Upper Afton to travel east and then use the trail along Battle Creek to go west. The entrance to that trail is just east of White Bear Avenue on Upper Afton. It follows the creek, goes under Hwy 61, and connects to the trail along Warner Road and the river. The bicyclist can also get back to Indian Mounds Park by following that trail.

We were told in the meeting that a survey was done of the homeowners on Upper Afton about having bike lanes. This survey asked if we would be willing BUT it didn't say anything about losing our parking. If that had been in the survey the results would have been different.

Many of the homes on Upper Afton have one car garages and short driveways. Therefore, there isn't enough room for them to park all cars of the parents and children on the property. They need the on street parking for that. Your asking residents to convert their front lawns into parking lots.

The parked car survey done in November was incomplete. It only did it for one week in the winter. There should have been a survey throughout the year to determine the number of parked cars. I have a small house so when I have parties it is in the summer when my guests and I can be outside. So more cars would be parked on the street in the summer.

There has never been a survey of the number of bicyclists that use this route. I see groups come by on the weekends in the morning going EAST. But the same group doesn't come back west. In the winter there are only a handful of bicyclists on the road. If only a few groups do this during the summer it seems excessive to have 2 bike lanes on Upper Afton.

If there are so few parked cars on Upper Afton then there is plenty of room for the bicyclists to go around them. It wouldn't have to be a dedicated bike lane.

Another safety feature was mentioned was that white lines make drivers slow down. I slow down for parked cars and bicyclists but never for a white line.

Please only put one bike lane on the western end of Upper Afton (Burns to White Bear Avenue) It is safer for the bicyclists to use the existing trail along Battle Creek to go west. Two lanes is excessive for the amount of bike traffic.

Sincerely,
Lana Schaffer
1458 Upper Afton Rd

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Gloria <giverson3@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 4:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Cc: victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us; jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us;
kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us
Subject: Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes Proposal

Honorable City Council members:

This is regarding the proposal to designate bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road and to prohibit on-street parking. As a long-time resident of a home located directly off of Upper Afton Road between White Bear and Burns Avenues, I respectfully request that you vote against this proposal.

I do not believe that Upper Afton Road is equipped to include multiple lanes that are intended to accommodate both bicycle and automobile traffic. As a resident, it has become very obvious that automobile traffic on Upper Afton Road has increased in recent years during rush hour as an alternative to Interstate 94. During the rush hour period many if not most of the automobiles that use the street to park overnight have moved (presumably the owners are commuting to work), and the traffic is using the roadway curb-to-curb, and adding two lanes for bicycles will just add to the congestion and create a serious safety concern.

Many of the homes located along Upper Afton Road were constructed post-WW II, and consistent with those times are located close to the street, with very short driveways, and have limited garage space. That is, many of the homes are limited to one stall, and have very limited parking in the driveways. And, as is the case with many modern families, both parents are working requiring two vehicles. Added to that are the vehicles belonging to driving-age children who have automobiles to attend school and/or drive to jobs. Consequently, this neighborhood *relies* on on-street parking as a necessity. The question that does not seem to be asked here is, where do these automobiles go?

The answer is not that they will just disappear. No, they will be parked, as a necessity, on the side streets just off of Upper Afton Road. Many of these side streets are already used for parking by their residents. The prohibition on parking on Upper Afton Road will just exacerbate the parking concerns that already exist on these side streets. If in fact the City of St. Paul is going to approve the bicycle lane plan as currently proposed, it *must* develop a plan as to how the City is going to address this issue. I have yet to hear a coherent response from the City Council to address this problem. At a minimum, the City must limit parking on these side streets, such as the side street on which I live, to residents of the street only and their guests. This of course does not address the problem for the residents of Upper Afton Road, and in fact pits neighbor against neighbor.

There is an alternative for the City Council to consider, and that is to construct a bicycle trail from Lower Afton Road along Highway 61 to Warner Road. It appears that the construction would have to run from the Battle Creek Park entrance to Warner Road. Yes, it may cost more than asking Ramsey County to paint two lines on Upper Afton Road and to place a few dozen no-parking signs. But if in fact the City is committed to accommodating bicycle commuters, than it should jump in with both feet.

As a longtime St. Paul resident who must rely upon her automobile to grocery shop, to travel to medical appointments, and to commute to a myriad of other destinations, I believe it is unfair to require this neighborhood to shoulder the major inconveniences as well as the safety issues all for the benefit of a discrete and limited group of bicyclists, many of whom I believe it is safe to say are not residents of the City of St. Paul. I commend the City on trying to become "cosmopolitan," but at some point the Mayor and the City Council must come to the realization that in a city with a six-month winter we are not going to become an Amsterdam or a Vancouver - the automobiles are not going to be jettisoned and the drivers become avid, year-around, bicycle commuters. Our City has been designed for automobiles, and we are going to be using automobiles for the foreseeable future whether we like it or not. Accommodating the desire of a select few - who should be emphasized can already use Upper Afton Road for their commute - will not accomplish what it appears the City Council is attempting to accomplish. Consequently, I respectfully request that you vote against the resolution as currently proposed.

Gloria Iverson

19 Miller Crest Lane

St. Paul, MN 55106

(651) 774-0153

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 3:18 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); Henningson, Samantha (CI-StPaul); St Martin, Paul (CI-StPaul); Lantry, Kathy (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Bike lane Upper Afton Rd

FYI

From: Bauer, Kelly (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Kris Callinan; #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: RE: Bike lane Upper Afton Rd

Ms. Callinan,

Thank you for contacting Councilmember Stark I'm confirming we've received your message and he will take your comments into consideration.

Please be in touch again as other issues or concerns arise.



Kelly Bauer

Executive Assistant to Councilmember Russ Stark

Ward 4 City Council Office
15 Kellogg Blvd W, Suite 310-D
Saint Paul, MN 55102
P: 651.266.8643
kelly.bauer@ci.stpaul.mn.us

The Most Livable
City in America



From: Kris Callinan [<mailto:klcallinan@msn.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 11:21 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Bike lane Upper Afton Rd

Ms Prince, Mr. Stark,

As of today May 25, 2016 the residents on Upper Afton Rd have not received any notification from Public Works about the no parking on the strip from Burns to White Bear Ave. As I stated before my concerns are not so much the bike paths but is the fact that we are losing the parking on our street. this weekend May 20th 21st and 22nd we had 2 garage sales which there was a lot of parked cars and a Graduation Party at 1596 Upper Afton Rd. From about 1:30 until after 4:30 there were a minimum of 25 cars that were parked on and off thru this time period on Upper Afton. They could not use Sigurd St as parking there is only about 9 parking spots on that short St, and that street was full due to a graduation party

there. And this is just the start of the Summer. It hardly seems fair that its a compromise to let the bikers have both sides of the street on a strip that is maybe 1/2 a mile stretch and the residents are getting their parking taken away. It is really not the neighborly thing to do. Maybe the bikers could share one side of the street on that 1/2 mile stretch.

Thank You

Kristine Callinan

1641 Upper Afton Rd

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Ilie Dinca <dincadi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 1:58 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bicycle lanes

Mister Hanson,

As a long time resident of St. Paul, would like to know your rational for proposing the utopian project of creating bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Rd.

And more then that sir,what and who has endowed you with such power and authority to overrule the tax payers and owner residents affected by your proposed project?

We pay the taxes,the cleaning taxes,the license plates tabs for our cars,and we should have the access parking place in front of our houses.

My family and I are disturbed by the arrogance of such proposal and decision, that demonstrate total disregard for the property owners affected.

Sincerely,
Ilie Dinca
1669 Upper Afton Rd.
St.Paul,Mn.55106

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Elinor Auge <createnow.elinor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 1:33 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Cc: jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Bike Lanes vs. On-Street Parking at Upper Afton Road, St. Paul

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Jane Prince and Luke Hanson,

Below you will find the copy of a note which I just sent to KSTP News. I hope you will read the content and take notice, as there is a great deal of discontent in the neighborhood about bike lanes in the the proposed current configuration.

Thank you,
Elinor Auge
1645 Upper Afton Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106
651-771-1786

Dear KSTP News;

I am writing to you at the 11th hour to tell you about a situation that is quite troubling to the neighbors who live on Upper Afton Road between Highway 61/Burns Avenue and McKnight Road in Saint Paul. It involves the Mayor's Bicycle Plan and the issue stems around a serious lack of communication to the homeowners and residents who will be affected by changes to be made just weeks from now on Upper Afton Road. We were fortunate enough to have an extension of the City Council vote on May 18 to June 1, less than a week from today.

I'm not sure who fell down on the job of communicating to the residents what was coming down the pike, whether it was our neighborhood council or the city council. Or both. In doing some research, I have found that the Bicycle Plan has been underway since 2011 and I have found evidence that District One City Council did give directions to follow through with bike lanes as being proposed at this time. However, at no time do I, nor any of my immediate neighbors, recall receiving notification of the plan for our street until some time in March, less than two months ago.

The city claimed to have given an initial notice for a meeting that very few people were aware of because they never received that notice. At the May 18 City Council meeting, we were told that the first notice went out in the neighborhood newspaper, an infrequent publication which unfortunately, too many neighbors don't actually read. The second notice was in April and that was sent as a mailed letter to all residents. I was unable to attend that meeting, but apparently it was fairly well attended, with at least 85% of attendees against the proposal as it had been presented.

The initial proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road indicated that there would be absolutely no on-street parking from 61/Burns to White Bear Avenue and one-side parking from White Bear to McKnight. There

would be bike lanes on both sides of the street from 61/Burns all the way to McKnight. After the April meeting, the neighborhood concern was taken and a compromise was reached, with the decision to put one bike lane to the north and one parking lane to the south on Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight. A letter was sent to the affected community just days before the scheduled May 18 vote indicating that a vote would be taken on the proposal as having a north side bike lane and a south side parking lane from Burns to McKnight.

On May 17 (I didn't see mine till afternoon of May 18) Jane Prince, our City Council Representative, sent an e-mail to whomever had addresses registered with her, indicating that Public Works had made the decision that for bicycle safety, there must be two bike lanes all along the route, which would mean absolutely no on-street parking along the Burns to White Bear portion of the road, which becomes wider from White Bear to McKnight.

Having but two hours before the City Council meeting, my neighbor, Mike Conlin and I dashed around the neighborhood knocking on doors and asking people if they'd seen this last minute change and would they be willing go come to the city council meeting. Again, fortunately, Council President Russ Stark delayed the vote until next Wednesday, June 1, with specific instructions to mail a letter to the community prior to that meeting.

The proponents of this proposal are indicating that there are very few parked cars along this stretch of Upper Afton during various times of day. I will concede, it is not like other residential streets in parts of Saint Paul. This can be a busy street during rush hour and people often do drive faster than they should but I have never felt unsafe riding my bike in either direction along this road, other than at the intersection of Burns and Upper Afton. I also don't, believe that the way to calm traffic is to put moving human targets along the side of the road, which is essentially one of the arguments being used by proponents of the plan. Put in a stop sign instead, with a crosswalk.

The reason for this big last minute rush is because Upper Afton Road is being resurfaced, as we speak, and District One Community Council indicated in their response to the initial Bicycle Plan, that they would like implementation of the plan to take place during such resurfacing projects. Again, whether it is the district council, community council or both, communications to those of us affected by these changes has been incredibly poor from the get-go, meaning since the Bicycle Plan was initiated in 2011 or since it was adopted last year.

It almost feels like an intentional omission, in order to make it easier to pass and implement the plan as the city and county planners would like it to be. (Upper Afton Road is a Ramsey County Road).

There are other options but this one is being rammed down our throats. Those of us who live here, commute from here, enjoy walking and bicycling from our homes here, feel that this proposal will create much greater hardship for us than is being considered by the involved parties. They indicate a desire to help diverse and some lower income groups who live in the area to have access to greater commuting options without having to own or operate a vehicle. What they do not seem to be taking into account is that when it comes to garage sale season, harvest season -when large, extended families gather to put-up for winter; weddings, graduations and other cultural celebrations -when elder parents and small children come to visit; no on-street parking will cause a hardship to these hardworking, taxpaying homeowners and renters. The section of Upper Afton affected has very long blocks, and to park on a side street would cause for some lengthy walks which would be fine for young and healthy individuals but that does not describe everyone in a neighborhood.

I own a bike and I love to ride. I am home all day long, with a big picture window looking over Upper Afton Road, where I see very few bicycles cruising by throughout the day, other than one year-round commuter. The proposal as it stands is unnecessary. What might better serve these few blocks would be crosswalks and stop signs. There are other alternatives, such as putting a single west bound bike lane on Upper Afton and an east bound lane on Burns Avenue.

I will include some links and additional information. Thank you for taking the time to look this over and determine whether or not you can help us with our effort to maintain at least one lane of parking on Upper Afton between Burns and White Bear Avenue.

Sincerely,

Elinor Auge
1645 Upper Afton Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106

651-771-1786

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Kris Callinan <klcallinan@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 12:55 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Re: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Luke could you please tell me who to contact at Public Works? Also I am not so concerned with the speeds I have lived with them for 30 years. I am concerned of the fact that no one cares about the residents and family and friends not able to park by our homes. I really don't care about the traffic checks that were done as the residents have driveways to park in. As I stated I am concerned about my children and small grandchildren coming to visit. If losing parking on both sides of the street goes thru I would hope Public Works has discussed putting in painted cross walks and pedestrian signs that cars and bikes have to stop when there is a pedestrians crossing as this is what most them will now have to do. Maybe Public Works also should look at another stop sign considering over that over 1 mile stretch has none.

From: Kris Callinan [<mailto:klcallinan@msn.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2016 12:00 PM
To: District1Council@gmail.com

Cc: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Betsy,

I attended the City Council meeting last evening 5/18/16. To my surprise at the last minute the District 1 Council and another agency has decided we don't need parking on our street. I live at 1641 Upper Afton Rd. I have lived here for 30 years with my Husband and raised my 3 daughters here. So when my children come over they will have to park a block or two away from my home and haul whatever they have brought with them including their children and walk to the house or maybe we will have to drive down and get them. That makes sense. What about mail and other deliveries. What will we do in the winter when we have to clean the snow from our driveways where will be able to put park our cars. I'm sure you would feel the same way if we were able to make the decision to take your street parking away and give the total use of our street to people who are just passing thru just as the fast traffic is. As someone stated last night they felt that have a bike lane on both sides of the street would slow the traffic. This is not so as Living here 30 years most of the traffic on Upper Afton is thru traffic they can avoid the construction traffic on 94, Burns and also there are only a few traffic stops from 694 to Burns Ave. There is no stops for cars from Ruth and Upper Afton until Burns Ave that is over a mile stretch so this is not going to slow the traffic down. I am not against a bike lane on the North side of the street but just let us have parking on the South. Any of the side cul de sacs and short side streets that are quite a ways from our home already are pretty full of parked cars. I did find the dates that were used in logging the parked cars on our street. During the days most of the residents work. We do have driveways for our vehicles so the residents don't use a lot of the street parking. In the winter when the driveways have to be cleaned we do use the street. In the winter months there is not a lot of street parking with the residents due to Upper Afton is a snow emergency route. But it is used for family, friends and visitors. With this no parking we will not be able to have any get togethers at our house so periodically those people who want to bike with a bike lane on both sides of the street that are not living on this street are aloud to have their rights and mine.

In closing I believe this is going to lower the market value of my home with no on street parking and again the tax payers in this area are getting ripped off.

Thank You very letting me vent my opinion on this I truly hope you reconsider your decision.

Kristine Callinan

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Kris Callinan <klcallinan@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 2:09 PM
To: Districr1Council@gmail.com
Cc: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Betsy,

I attended the City Council meeting last evening 5/18/16. To my surprise at the last minute the District 1 Council and another agency has decided we don't need parking on our street. I live at 1641 Upper Afton Rd. I have lived here for 30 years with my Husband and raised my 3 daughters here. So when my children come over they will have to park a block or two away from my home and haul whatever they have brought with them including their children and walk to the house or maybe we will have to drive down and get them. That makes sense. What about mail and other deliveries. What will we do in the winter when we have to clean the snow from our driveways where will be able to put park our cars. I'm sure you would feel the same way if we were able to make the decision to take your street parking away and give the total use of our street to people who are just passing thru just as the fast traffic is. As someone stated last night they felt that have a bike lane on both sides of the street would slow the traffic. This is not so as Living here 30 years most of the traffic on Upper Afton is thru traffic they can avoid the construction traffic on 94, Burns and also there are only a few traffic stops from 694 to Burns Ave. There is no stops for cars from Ruth and Upper Afton until Burns Ave that is over a mile stretch so this is not going to slow the traffic down. I am not against a bike lane on the North side of the street but just let us have parking on the South. Any of the side cul de sacs and short side streets that are quite a ways from our home already are pretty full of parked cars. I did find the dates that were used in logging the parked cars on our street. During the days most of the residents work. We do have driveways for our vehicles so the residents don't use a lot of the street parking. In the winter when the driveways have to be cleaned we do use the street. In the winter months there is not a lot of street parking with the residents due to Upper Afton is a snow emergency route. But it is used for family, friends and visitors. With this no parking we will not be able to have any get togethers at our house so periodically those people who want to bike with a bike lane on both sides of the street that are not living on this street are aloud to have their rights and mine.

In closing I believe this is going to lower the market value of my home with no on street parking and again the tax payers in this area are getting ripped off.

Thank You very letting me vent my opinion on this I truly hope you reconsider your decision.

Kristine Callinan

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Kim O'Brien <kimberlyrobrien@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 2:53 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward1
Cc: Moore, Shari (CI-StPaul); Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton Bike Lanes

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing to request your support for adding bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd. during the Ramsey County resurfacing project this year. Tomorrow's agenda looks full and I'm unable to attend in person so this email is my testimony.

I live on the corner of Upper Afton and E. Sandra Lee Dr. in Ward 7 and I now have two kids who will be growing up in this neighborhood. I support the addition of bike lanes because it will provide my family a safer route to access Battle Creek Regional Park, Battle Creek Rec Center and playground, and the businesses on Suburban Ave. These amenities are why we chose to live in this neighborhood!

I'm not a strong cyclist (understatement of the year), but I recently bought a used bike and a burley for my kids to ride in. Unfortunately, I do not feel safe riding on the street without some separation from traffic and this could make all the difference. Also, Upper Afton is currently too wide and cars drive too fast. We walk our dog along the road and it makes me nervous to have my 3 year old walk with me since cars are racing down the street and the sidewalk is pretty narrow. I hope the bike lanes will calm traffic and provide a buffer for the sidewalk as well.

Finally, I'd like to make a plug for improving the pedestrian crossings on this road. Most notably, the un-controlled intersection where Battle Creek Regional Trail crosses Upper Afton. Currently, there are yellow ped signs and white stripes, but I would love to see a park-like treatment here that makes cars more aware and signals to passersby that they are driving through a park. Battle Creek makes my neighborhood really special and, if given the proper treatment, will continue to attract families who want to enjoy the convenience of city living in a more natural setting.

I'd like to thank Councilmember Prince and Stephanie for their work listening to neighborhood concerns and working through issues. I think the proposed striping treatment and resurfacing will make my neighborhood an even better place to live. Thank you for your consideration of this project. Can't wait to come back to work! (Well, in a few weeks, that is.)

Sincerely,
Kim O'Brien
11 E Sandra Lee Dr.
651-276-4696

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Jeff Zaayer <jeffzaayer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 9:19 AM
To: Jim McDonough; Lantry, Kathy (CI-StPaul); jim.tolaas@co.ramsey.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; Rafael Ortega; janice.rettman@co.ramsey.mn.us; victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us; Toni Carter; dan.bodelson@co.ramsey.mn.us; blake.huffman@co.ramsey.mn.us; district2@co.ramsey.mn.us; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); Collins, Reuben (CI-StPaul); Connie Bernardy
Subject: Upper Afton Rd

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings,

I am writing to express my support for in street separated bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd. This corridor is called out in the city plan with in street separated lanes as well as in the County plan as a county wide connector corridor. Upper Afton provides access to a school, regional park, recreation center, and when coupled with existing and planned facilities connects downtown St. Paul with other major destinations like Sun Ray Shopping Center, 3M and beyond.

I was extremely discouraged to see the revised plan showing in street separated lanes on only the downhill Westbound side of Upper Afton. Not having a dedicated uphill Eastbound lane leaves cyclists exposed when they are moving slow going up hill and are more vulnerable. As to why staff chose to only include a downhill lane does not make sense and is about as clear a decision as the Mississippi waters seen through a pigs eye.

This section of the city needs and deserves safe bicycle infrastructure and on a street with know speed issues that means dedicated space. I hope that you will all support bicycle lanes on both sides of Upper Afton Between Burns and White Bear Ave.

Thank you for your time,

Jeff Zaayer

1750 Saunders Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Andy Singer <andy@andysinger.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2016 5:57 PM
To: Collins, Reuben (CI-StPaul); Kathy.Jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; Lantry, Kathy (CI-StPaul); paul.m.sawyer@gmail.com; District1Council@gmail.com; stephanie@stpaulwomenonbikes.org; sonn.michael@gmail.com
Subject: Upper Afton Road bike lane proposal
Attachments: upper_afton01_uphill.jpg; upper_afton02_kennard.jpg; upper_afton03_west_from_kennard.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Ms. Jaschke, Mr. Collins and Mr. Hanson,

As you may be aware, bicyclists from a broad array of different groups are unhappy with the final proposal on Upper Afton Road. They feel that the final design being proposed for approval at Wednesday's City Council public hearing is unsafe.

On Saturday, I attended an east-side community ride on the Margaret Street Bikeway with about 20 or 30 other people. Saint Paul City Council member Jane Prince was there, as was Paul Sawyer of the District 1 Community Council, and a couple people from the 3M bike commuter group. We all talked about the problems with Upper Afton. When the Margaret Street Ride reached McKnight Road, a few of us biked south on McKnight and back on Upper Afton (to Burns Avenue). I took several photographs which I attach.

I think the top choice for bike advocates would be buffered bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton, west of White Bear Avenue. If this is politically impossible, we decided the next best option is to put the bike lane on the UPHILL portions of that stretch of Upper Afton because this would give slower-moving bikes a safe place to ride.

This would mean putting a bike lane on the north/westbound side of Upper Afton from White Bear to Kennard Court, as is currently called for in your proposal. From Kennard Court to Burns Avenue, however, we thought the bike lane should switch to the south/eastbound side of Upper Afton. This is because Kennard Court is the summit of long or steep slopes in both directions, and having a bike lane to bike slowly uphill/eastbound from Burns is safer than having nothing-- particularly given the curves in the road and bad sight-lines. Going downhill in both directions, bicyclists can ride much faster (in excess of 20mph). On these downhill portions, we recommend sharrow pavement markings and "Bicycles may use full lane" signs.

Council Member Prince and the other folks I mentioned expressed a willingness to meet up prior to Wednesday evening's Public Hearing to discuss changing the proposal and perhaps ride this portion of Upper Afton with you. They asked that I CC them all in this letter (which I have done). Would any of you (Kathy, Reuben or Luke) be willing to meet with us and revisit the proposed final design? If so, what are some good times?

Thank you for your consideration.

Andy Singer (former co-chair)
Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
651-917-3417

andy@andysinger.com

The attached photos show (in order): Going westbound from White Bear uphill to Kennard Court; The Kennard Court summit; Looking west from Kennard Court.

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Ilie Dinca <dincadi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:35 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bicycle lane proposal on Upper Afton Rd.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear sir,

The city of St. Paul proposal to build a bicycle lane or lanes, it is a decision that lives many of us victims of unintended consequences.

First of all, it is the property owners who pay the already out of control taxes, and not the bicycle users.

Then, the city council is going to be the decision maker in who's going to be the winners and the losers of this proposed or already decided project.

And the losers sir, are some of us who are located on the North side of the street. Sir, with all due respect this proposed project does not make any sense.

What is the purpose and the scope of such project, and who benefits from it? Seems more like an utopian project at our expense, the property owners on the North side of the street.

Therefore, I am opposed to such project.

Respectfully,

Ilie Dinca

1669 Upper Afton Rd.

St. Paul, Mn. 55106

Please make this letter a part of the record for the May 18, 2016 City Council hearing regarding resurfacing and bike lanes on Upper Afton Road which will eliminate on-street parking.

April 29, 2016

St. Paul City Council
310 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear City Council Members:

Re: Upper Afton Road Resurfacing and bike lanes which will eliminate on-street parking

1. No need for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road.

--already have bike paths to downtown

- x we are surrounded by bike paths
- x Millions of dollars were probably spent on the beautiful bike path along Lower Afton Road, which stretches from Woodbury, going west, to Hwy. 61 and connects to downtown St. Paul avoiding any contact with traffic or cars

--bike lanes we have on Ruth Street not being used

x since bike lanes were put on Ruth Street (at least 2 years), I have not seen any bicyclist--none!

--very few bicyclists use Upper Afton Road [see Attachment 1]

2. Inconvenience for homeowners.

--176 homes vs. handful of bicyclists

- x There are 176 homes along upper Afton Road between Hwy 61 and McKnight Road. Many of these homes have 3-4 cars. Some of these homes are double bungalows and 3 plexes, which increases the amount of cars for each home. Where is everyone supposed to park!

--mail delivery blockage

- x we have curbside delivery of mail on both sides of Upper Afton Rd. and people will be parking in front of them which means we won't get our mail
- x if boxes are moved across the street that means we would have to cross a busy Upper Afton road to get our mail--safety concern.

--not being able to park in front of your own house

--having to play musical cars on driveways by moving one car to get out another--very inconvenient.

3. Unsafe.

- having to cross a busy Upper Afton Road to get to homes and to get mail.
 - x Residents and friends of the families living on Upper Afton will have to struggle to find parking spots and then will have to cross a busy street. This would be a safety concern.
 - x me being 74 yrs. old and having to cross busy Upper Afton Road to get my mail or to get to my house would be very dangerous, and it would also be dangerous for children to be crossing Upper Afton more often than before
- blocking sidewalks (cars trying to squeeze cars on their driveways) would make it unsafe for children when they go into the street to try to go around these cars
- unsafe to be walking at night if you can't park close to your home

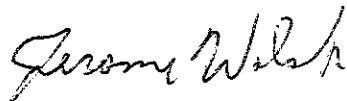
4. Expense to homeowners.

- loss in resale value of a home without on-street parking in front of their house
- additional cost to add off street parking, if possible, on their property, such as cost of cement or blacktop

This proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road is unnecessary as I have stated above. All the homeowners of the 176 homes along Upper Afton Road are going to be inconvenienced for years to come just for a handful of bicyclists. This is not right and doesn't make any sense at all.

This letter might sound like I am against bicyclists -- I am not. I have four bicycles and two motorcycles of my own and enjoy biking, but not at the expense of having on-street parking eliminated just for a few bicyclists of whom don't even live in the neighborhood and won't be inconvenienced like the homeowners on Upper Afton Road. Again, we are surrounded by bike paths in the Battle Creek area that can safely be used to go downtown St. Paul. This makes bike lanes on Upper Afton Road unnecessary.

Yours truly,



Jerome Walsh
1966 Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55119

3 Attachments

Attachment 1 - Traffic Count

Attachment 2 - District 1 Community Council February 2016 letter

Attachment 3 - Responses to District 1 Community Council's February 2016 letter

ATTACHMENT 1

Traffic Count Chart

3-7-16 -- 101 vehicles 4:15 - 4:30 p.m.--93 cars, 5 school busses, 2 city busses, 1 motorcycle,
0 bicycles

4-28-16 -- 93 vehicles 4:05 - 4:20 pm--86 cars, 5 school busses, 2 city busses, 1 Northfield bus,
1 bicycle

4-29-16 - -81 vehicles 7:40 - 7:55 a.m. 38 degrees -- 76 cars, 5 school busses, 1 city bus, 0
motorcycles and 0 bicycles

4-29-16 -- 53 vehicles 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sunny --51 cars, 1 school bus, 1 city bus, 0
motorcycles,
0 bicycles

As you can see, a greater number of cars versus bicycles use this street. And remember, this count was just for 15 minutes each time. Imagine the amount of vehicles in a 24 hour period.



District 1 Community Council

2100 1/2 Old Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55119
www.district1council.org district1council@gmail.com
 Community Council Office Youth Programming
 (651) 578-7400 (phone) (651) 578-7400 (phone)
 (651) 578-7404 (fax) (651) 578-7404 (fax)
 district1council@gmail.com district1council@gmail.com

February, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

The District 1 Community Council is excited to see that the City and Ramsey County are investing our tax dollars in neighborhood improvements right here in Battle Creek! The proposed bike facilities are the result of a lengthy community process we have been engaged in to bring our fair share of transportation investments to the East Side of Saint Paul.

Beginning in 2011, we convened a neighborhood task force to work on a transportation plan for the district. This task force was made up of a diverse group of people with very divergent interests who spent the next 2 ½ years talking with and surveying neighbors about their transportation concerns. We held many public meetings, published surveys and results in the newspaper, and talked with literally hundreds of residents. The result of this process was our first-in-the-city neighborhood transportation plan, dealing with cars and parking, bicycles and pedestrians, commercial transportation, and transit. It laid out our neighborhood goals for assuring that we are well-connected to the rest of the city through whatever means of transportation each of us chooses. Building streets that meet everyone's needs is vital.

Bringing bicycle connections to this part of town has been a top priority of our planning process for a variety of reasons: 1) to assure that the East Side receives its fair share of tax funds towards public improvements – to date the vast majority of these bicycle improvements have been on the western side of town; 2) to help in slowing traffic along key streets in the district and increasing safety for everyone as a result – our number one complaint from people is the speed of cars on neighborhood streets; 3) to provide neighborhood children a safe way to get to parks and rec centers; 4) to increase the number of eyes on the street to prevent crime – more bicyclists traveling slowly mean they are seeing what is happening all along their routes; 5) to provide transportation options for residents, particularly youth and low income residents without access to cars; 6) to increase opportunities for incorporating healthy activities in people's daily lives; and 7) to assure that people who want to get to places all over the city of Saint Paul, without resorting to driving, can do so safely.

The District 1 Community Council has been involved in planning many transportation projects for our neighborhoods and the East Side – from dealing with park-and-ride and rail traffic problems, to Gateway and Red Rock Corridor transit planning, to mapping out bicycle routes that make sense for people, to putting in sidewalks and lighting for pedestrians. We welcome this opportunity to help plan for a significant east-west bicycle connection for the East Side, and to implement important traffic calming along this vital neighborhood street.

Please join us March 3 in seeing how we can make our neighborhood a safe and vibrant place to live! The reverse side of this letter includes meeting information.

ATTACHMENT 3

District 1 Community Council's reasons for having bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. My responses to their reasons are in red.

Bringing bicycle connections to this part of town has been a top priority of our planning process for a variety of reasons:

1. to assure that the East Side receives its fair share of tax funds towards public improvements - to date the vast majority of these bicycle improvements have been on the western side of town.

Already have bike paths in Battle Creek area. No need to have bike lanes.

2. to help in slowing traffic along key streets in the district and increasing safety for everyone as a result - our number one complaint from people is the speed of cars on neighborhood streets.

Put in more stop signs!!!! Don't see how bike lanes would reduce speed. Also I don't think there is a major speed problem on Upper Afton.

3. to provide neighborhood children a safe way to get to parks and rec centers.

Didn't know that was even a problem!! Won't work. It will increase danger for children because of people blocking the sidewalks because they are trying to fit their cars on the driveway because of the lost on-street parking.

4. to increase the number of eyes on the street to prevent crime - more bicyclists traveling slowly mean they are seeing what is happening all along their routes.

never see ANY bicyclists to begin with so don't see how that would help. I also have never seen ANY bicyclists using the Ruth street bike lanes since they were put in. They do not police our neighborhood.

5. to provide transportation options for residents, particularly youth and low income residents without access to cars.

I don't think too many people have the option of choosing other options -- most people need their vehicles to pick up children at day care after work. A bicycle would not work.

6. to increase opportunities for incorporating healthy activities in people's daily lives.

Are you also going to tell me when and how I should do these Healthy Activities. I can take care of my own health. What other things are you going to decide for me???

7. to assure that people who want to get to places all over the city of Saint Paul, without resorting to driving, can do so safely

We are already surrounded by bike paths which to me are much safer than putting in bike lanes on the streets.--There is a beautiful bike path along Lower Afton Road, which stretches from Woodbury to downtown St. Paul.

4-29-16

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Sue & Paul Moyer <spek1930@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 8:37 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Cc: district1council@gmail.com; #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: Feedback on propsoed bike lanes on Upper Afton Road & other issues

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Jane and Betsy, we have included you on this email related to bike lanes on Upper Afton Road because there are some issues we would like to see addressed. Particularly the number of parking pads being granted, the use of asphalt curbs vs. concrete and asphalt sidewalk "patches" that have been around for over five years. Let me know if you have any questions.

Feedback on proposed bike lanes for Upper Afton Road:

1. In the area around the Battle Creek recreation center it would be enlightening for city staff to observe the amount of on street parking used during sporting events. There is very heavy usage and addition of bike lane will have significant impact.
2. There was a comment from city representatives that bike lanes help tame speeding issues. If there is a problem with speeding this should be addressed with more frequent monitoring by law enforcement. The question of bike lanes should be separated from traffic speed issues.
3. Usage of Ruth Street bike lanes in our personal observations seems extremely low and repositioning of auto lanes forces cars to drive over manholes when cars are centered in new lanes. I find this annoying.
4. Concern was expressed by some residents living along Upper Afton about loss of parking spaces. In recent years there has been a shift in demographics that brings in an increase in the number of vehicles per household. We have also seen an increase in the number of expanded parking pads visible from the street and increase in on street parking. Our theory is that this growth in on street parking will continue to increase further. Our concern is if you take away the on street parking, residents will park on their lawn, when sited they will request permission to put in expanded parking pad. We took an informal study of the neighborhood between Burns Avenue and White Bear Avenue which showed that of the 74 properties with access to Upper Afton Road, 59 have already incorporated some sort of expanded parking pad, widened drive, added garage or just parking on the lawn as a routine habit. If you take away on street parking our concern is that more homeowner will be given permission to pave their front yard. Viewing the current expanded parking situations, our perception is that much of it has been done under the radar and with unsightly outcomes. The long term effects will include a decrease in property values and related loss of tax revenue for the city. A sustained downward spiral is a real possibility. This problem will be need to be addressed whether the bike lanes are implemented for not.
5. Related to the project as a whole, we are DEEPLY disappointed that Upper Afton Road will be resurfaced, but will continue to have those unsightly asphalt curbs. PLEASE spend the extra money to have concrete curbs installed. They are more durable, sustain impact from snow plows and have a much more aesthetically appealing appearance. In other parts of St. Paul when road work is done they put in concrete curbs. Why is our neighbor being treated like the ugly stepchild? Once again this adds

to the decrease in property value and tax venue for the city. On a related note, at the corner of Upper Afton and Battle Creek Road, a few years ago changes were made to that corner to change the traffic flow. The center island was removed and the corner was brought out to create a hard turn which slows down traffic. As a part of this project, ASPHALT sidewalks were put in. We assumed that this was a temporary patch that would be converted to concrete when the weather changed. Hello!!! It is now about 5 years later and we still the ugly asphalt patches. When will we get concrete sidewalks? When the crew replace the asphalt sidewalk/patches along Burns Avenue this spring, please send them down to Upper Afton and Battle Creek Road to have them replace the asphalt patches there too. Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Sue & Paul Moyer
spek1930@aol.com
651-739-8027

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: District 1 Council <district1council@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us
Subject: Fwd: Bike Lane

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI, from a UA neighbor...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carpenter, Jennifer A** <jennifer.carpenter@co.ramsey.mn.us>
Date: Mon, Mar 7, 2016 at 3:47 PM
Subject: Bike Lane
To: "district1council@gmail.com" <district1council@gmail.com>

Hi Betsy

Just wondering whats a done deal with the “proposed” bike lane that was discussed last Thursday at Battle Creek Rec Center

I live at 1631 Upper Afton Rd and it looks like they want to take away all of our on street parking from Burns to White Bear Ave

I really would like a bike lane; but I would also really like on-street parking.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Carpenter

--

Betsy Leach

Executive Director/Cmtty Organizer

District 1 Community Council

2105 1/2 Old Hudson Rd.

Saint Paul, MN 55119

651.578.7600 (office); 651.578.7404 (fax)

www.district1council.org (website)

www.district1council.blogspot.com (blog)

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Sheryl Hayne <svhayne@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 8:57 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton Road Bike Path - Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

COMMENTS:

As a follow-up to the meeting held on Thursday, March 3rd, concerning Upper Afton Road bicycle lanes, I would like to offer the following comments for consideration:

I understand the District 1 Committee Council is “excited” to see the proposed bicycle paths on Upper Afton; however, as a homeowner on Upper Afton for the last 24 years (have lived on Upper Afton Rd. for 57 years), I do not share their enthusiasm.

Property Values

Has anyone done a survey to determine if not having on-street parking effects the value of the homes in the proposed area?

Side Street Neighbors

What is the feedback of the people who live on the side streets who would be impacted by the additional parking? Have you checked with these neighbors and gotten their feedback, i.e., Dora Court, Afton Road Terrace, Kennard, Miller Crest, etc.?

Congestion at the Intersection of Upper Afton/Burns Ave.

In my opinion, the bicycle lanes on Upper Afton would add more congestion down by the intersection of Upper Afton and Burns Ave. There is already a bottleneck and this is just going to compound the issue. Anyone who travels this road daily is aware of the congestion problem during peak hours.

Increased danger of bicycle/vehicle accidents

The majority of homes on Upper Afton have one-way driveways where the residents need to back out into the street; with the proposed plan, I see a potential for a higher risk in car/bicycle accidents.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

1. As a compromise, put one bicycle lane on Upper Afton vs. two. One lane would allow residents to have access to on-street parking, while giving bicyclist a dedicated lane of travel.
2. As an alternative plan, I would propose having a bike path on **Lower Afton** from Hwy 61 to McKnight. It is a much more scenic stretch of road, there is no housing on that street and therefore no residential parking would be affected, it would connect to Battle Creek Park; and if speed is an issue, consider reducing the speed limit to accommodate the bikers' concerns.
3. In the larger picture, with any of these alternatives, an overpass or underpass from one side of Highway 61 to the other would be more beneficial for bicyclists and pedestrians alike than the changes you are proposing on Upper Afton Road.

Please take these comments into consideration and keep the residents informed of upcoming meetings to discuss this issue by letter vs. the District 1 paper.

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Ace Vandriver <acevandriver@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 11:59 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton bike lane proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Luke, my name is Dave Langford, I live on Upper Afton Rd. and I was at the community meeting on March 3rd. Thank you for taking some time to explain the proposed bike lanes that will be added to my street.

First off, I'm really hoping the city will implement the alternative plan for the Burns-Whitebear part of Upper Afton. I think shared parking on one side and a bike lane on both is a great idea. I live on this section and I don't want to lose on street parking.

As a resident of Upper Afton with a single car driveway and garage I rely weekly on street parking. Predominately street parking is used for guest but I do need to use it for my own vehicles a few times a month. I also see several neighbors using street parking on a daily basis and can understand their dependence on it. Nobody likes to lose something they depend on.

However, I do understand the need for a bike lane. I believe that Upper Afton is a thoroughfare for many drivers that don't live in Battle Creek and this tends to lead to speeding. I have been passed more than a few times while driving the speed limit. I also know that Upper Afton is a thoroughfare for bikes so there will just be an increase in usage as time goes by. If a bike lane helps with the speeding I'm all for it. Maybe radar speed signs could be posted along with an increase in speed enforcement.

According to your data the parking is fairly minimal, probably used by the same people who depend on it, if a shared road can work it seems like the best option.

Thanks for taking my input.
Dave Langford
1679 Upper Afton Rd.

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: peter grasse <petergrasse@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 4:05 PM
To: Kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul);
Jim.McDonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: Bike Lanes on Upper Afton

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Greetings:

I plan to attend tonight's public meeting at the Battle Creek Rec Center to express my strong support for the proposal to add bike lanes along Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight. I live in Woodbury and regularly use Upper Afton as part of my return loop on weekend rides. I also co-lead the 3M Employee's Bicycle User Group with over 800 members at the Maplewood campus. Upper Afton is an important east-west commuting route for 3Mers from St. Paul. In addition it is a great connection for Woodbury commuters to downtown. Thanks for your consideration and support of this important piece of infrastructure.

Peter Grasse

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Amy Schwarz <amy.z.schwarz@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 3:56 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us;
Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton Bike Lanes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in support of the east side bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. This street is an important east-west connection that would make a big difference for biking on the East Side. Because of the historic disinvestment and huge disparities in access to bike lanes on the East Side, I see this as a high-priority project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Amy Schwarz, J.D.

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Andy Leitz <leitz.andy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 7:42 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Upper Afton Bike Lane Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi,

I am writing you to **SUPPORT** the bike lane proposal on Upper Afton. I work at 3M and this route is a critical connection for bike commuters back to downtown and to 3M. Please make sure to support this proposal. I choose to live in Minneapolis for it's walkability and bike friendliness, but I still commute through downtown Saint Paul to 3M. I am hopeful that with projects like this, Saint Paul will become a safer more livable city with equal transportation options for all modes. Please help make this happen.

Thank you so much for your support!

Best Regards,
Andy Leitz
leitz.andy@gmail.com
[651-285-9430](tel:651-285-9430)

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: DAVID RUDOLPH <drudolph@mmm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:00 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us
Subject: Upper Afton Road Bike Plan - SUPPORT!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello

I am a resident of St. Paul and employee at 3M. I am also a year-round bicycle commuter and frequent biker through the East Side, specifically Upper Afton Road. As such, I am a big supporter of the new bike lanes on Upper Afton Road and I hope I can count on you to support this plan. It's my daughter's birthday on Thursday, so I have other priorities and can't make this open house. But I do hope that I can count on you all to support this plan

Thank you!

David

ACTION ALERT: **Support East Side Bike Lanes on Upper Afton Road**

Do you live, work, or travel near Upper Afton Road? Would you like safe, easy bicycling on the East Side of St. Paul? Join us at an upcoming open house and show your support.

Upper Afton Open House
Thursday, March 3
6:00 - 7:30 PM
Battle Creek Recreation Center: 75 S. Winthrop, St. Paul

Women on Bikes is excited to support bike lanes on Upper Afton Rd. This street is an important east-west connection that would make a big difference for biking on the East Side. Because of the historic disinvestment and huge disparities in access to bike lanes on the East Side, **we see this as a high-priority project.** [Learn more about this event and the project.](#)

Can't make the meeting? You can still make a difference!



David Rudolph | Account Manager
Liaison Design Center
3M Center, Building 225-2N-19 | St. Paul, MN 55144 USA
Office: 651.733.0420 | Mobile: 651.775.1718 | Fax: 651.733.9454
drudolph@mmm.com | <http://www.liaisoncreative.com/mmm>

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Ronnie Slager <veronicaslager@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 4:06 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bike Lanes - Upper Afton Road - No, we do NOT support them

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPad

Open Saint Paul Statements Received:

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

All On Forum Statements sorted chronologically

As of May 16, 2016, 12:46 PM



Open Saint Paul is not a certified voting system or ballot box. As with any public comment process, participation in Open Saint Paul is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

As of May 16, 2016, 12:46 PM, this forum had:

Attendees:	151
On Forum Statements:	22
All Statements:	32
Hours of Public Comment:	1.6

This topic started on March 4, 2016, 12:54 PM.

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

Scott D inside Ward 7

April 25, 2016, 2:29 PM

I support the proposed bike lanes on Upper Afton road. This will provide a critical east-west link in this part of the city. This project combined with the trail improvements being constructed on McKnight and 94 this summer will greatly improve the access to 3M and the surrounding neighborhoods. Take advantage of this opportunity and install the bike lanes.

Jeff Zaayer inside Ward 3

April 20, 2016, 7:11 AM

Installing the lanes on Upper Afton Rd will slow traffic by marking the true width of the travel lanes and providing dedicated space for cyclists to travel to and through that part of St. Paul. There are very few options for traversing that part of the city and Upper Afton is an ideal on street route. I support this project.

Andrew Singer inside Ward 3

March 26, 2016, 3:30 PM

I support these proposed bike lanes, especially between Burns and White Bear where sight lines are poor, and car traffic is fast. These proposed lanes would make it easier to bike to 3M and the Battle Creek Trail. I urge the city to include some additional traffic calming measures like additional speed limit signs, including one or two "dynamic" speed signs at the beginning and ends of the corridor and possibly raised concrete bump-outs with cut-thrus for bike lanes at more heavily used pedestrian crossing points (like near the Battle-Creek Recreation Center).

Ed Jacobson outside Saint Paul

March 25, 2016, 12:43 AM

As a bike commuter traveling through the length on Upper Afton, from Burns to McKnight, and beyond, I am amazed at the difference in riding feel there is east of McKnight, once the bike lanes appear. Traffic is much slower when passing. They tend to stay in lane, as there are marked lanes. Overall, a good place to ride.

By adding lanes on both sides from Burns to McKnight, that same benefit will be had for the entire length of Upper Afton - making it a true link in the city's and county's infrastructure.

Some have noted that with the low parking numbers that having just a marked parking lane that the bikes use would be a good option. However, that does put the bicyclist at a higher risk, as they move in and out of the driving lane. Drivers will have the open road ahead of them occupied by cyclists as they move around the odd parked car, and even a single cyclist at that time would "block" the road, as the marked driving lanes would not be wide enough to legally allow a car to pass a bike. This would be especially true on eastbound Upper Afton at the west end. The long, curving hill there makes it the most hazardous part of the ride right now as far as I'm concerned.

Perry Logan inside Ward 3

March 24, 2016, 8:48 AM

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

Please add bike lanes to Upper Afton Road!!! Currently it is not safe enough on my commute to work. Installing bike lanes would make my commute to 3M much safer. Several years ago I began biking to work so I could burn more calories, save gas \$ and reduce my CO2 footprint. It has been one of the best things I have done for my health.

I have reduced the risk of early death from health related risks but have increased my risk of death from safety standpoint. These bike lanes would help reduce my safety risks. Thank you for your help!

2 Supporters

Brent Peterson inside Ward 2

March 24, 2016, 12:53 AM

I support the plans by Ramsey Country PW and Saint Paul to install bike lanes in the project area of Upper Afton. This will provide a critical link in an area of the East Side/Battle Creek that has very few options for continuous connections for bicyclists. I would feel much safer bicycling between my home in downtown to friends who live in the Battle Creek and Highwood area if these lanes were installed.

1 Supporter

Eric Saathoff inside Ward 6

March 23, 2016, 10:04 PM

Please implement the PW preferred bike lane arrangement on Upper Afton. The data on parking usage shows that for the most part parking demand is very low. Currently the traffic is at such high speeds that few cyclists would want to share the road with cars without already riding in a parking lane. This, however, is unsafe. We should have separated space for those who wish to travel this route for work or leisure, whether by car or bicycle.

4 Supporters

Peter Grasse outside Saint Paul

March 23, 2016, 8:38 PM

Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight will become an important addition to the metro area's bike network with the addition of on street bike lanes. In the winter, it is the southern most reliable connection to the city from the East. You could take Lower Afton down to 61, but you can't cross 61 in the winter because the park trail is too icy. This will be an important route for 3M employees commuting from St. Paul. The next reliable East West route is Third Street, which can get very busy.

Parking should be removed from both sides of the street. This will allow plows to keep this route open an ice free in the winter.

Once this reaches McKnight, it fills the Network connections to trails going North, South and East. This is a vital gap to be filled. Thanks

4 Supporters

Wendy Moylan inside Ward 5

March 23, 2016, 2:02 PM

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

I used to live in Ward 7, and currently rent my property there. I support the proposed bike lines, with on-street parking near the Rec Center. When I was considering moving to the area, I rode my bike to the property to get a better feel for the neighborhood. The Battle Creek /Upper Afton Road area is a beautiful part of the city, and makes sense as a bikeway for commuters.

If it effectively slows down traffic on Upper Afton as well, that is a great benefit. I moved to the area right after the stoplight was put in at Lower Afton (due to a pedestrian death). While driving home at the speed limit on Upper Afton, I was regularly passed by angry/aggressive drivers.

An added benefit will be to redirect bike commuters from the path along the creek. As both a pedestrian and a rider I observed people tearing through the woods down the pathway, endangering and disrupting the experience of others.

2 Supporters

Dave Falde outside Saint Paul

March 22, 2016, 4:11 PM

Overall, I support the addition bicycle lanes to the entire length of Upper Afton Road. As several others pointed out, not only will they promote access to schools, parks, and recreational facilities, but they will serve to improve the overall bike infrastructure to the eastern portion of St. Paul which fits with the overall bicycle plan.

I spent some time reviewing the parking counts and though I expected to find much more parking along the western portion of the road from Burns to White Bear Ave., that was not the case. Only one time, on a Saturday morning, was there more than a few cars parked in each block or segment, causing it to show as 'yellow'. And, that one case was right near Burns Ave. which made me think that a special event was being held not simply residents needing the street parking for cars at their residences. During other times and days, the heavier parking counts were on the eastern section of the road from Ruth to McKnight which is where parking will be changed.

I do live just outside St. Paul, just east of McKnight but my wife and I use Upper Afton to reach downtown St Paul or the Mounds Park area on our bikes.

Steve Yetter inside Ward 4

March 22, 2016, 9:36 AM

I support the proposed Upper Afton bikelanes. Upper Afton is key east-west transport for bikers especially youth biking to Battle Creek Elementary School and Battle Creek Recreation Center. That drivers routinely exceed the posted speed limits for Upper Afton is well-documented and makes the current situation unsafe. Bike lanes like the ones proposed were added to Raymond Avenue in my neighborhood, a road that was also in need of traffic calming, and have worked well to improve the safety for all.

2 Supporters

Jerry Porter inside Ward 2

March 21, 2016, 2:45 PM

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

I bicycle commute to work regularly all year-round from my home in Lowertown. One of my favorite routes includes Upper Afton road from Burns to Battle Creek park trail. I support the plan for Bicycle Lanes from Burns Avenue to McKnight Road. I believe this project is another critical step for the implementation of the St. Paul Bike Plan. This route enables access to/from the Eastern neighborhoods, parks, and businesses to downtown.

4 Supporters

david rudolph inside Ward 4

March 21, 2016, 2:45 PM

As an avid biker and year-round commuter and I am very much in support of these bike lanes. Being that I work on the East Metro, I will frequently use these roads on my commute. I would feel much safer having dedicated bike lanes while commuting. I also feel that it is important to build off the momentum of the widely adopted city-wide bicycle plan.

More impotently, I would like to see more children and other less-experienced bicyclists get out and enjoy the sport and benefits cycling provides. I also support the traffic-calming effects of adding the lanes. striping and ultimately more bicyclists to the road.

I definitely want you to move forward with this initiative so that all citizens can enjoy the benefits bicycling and safer streets.

4 Supporters

Andy L outside Saint Paul

March 21, 2016, 2:43 PM

Although I don't live in the area, I bike commute through the area on a daily basis year round. I fully support the addition of bike lanes on Upper Afton. It is important to make our streets complete meaning they are safe and useful for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians. This is one step towards that direction. It is a critical connection to downtown from Woodbury and other east side neighborhoods. The bike lanes will have a calming effect on traffic making it safer for everyone. Please help make this happen for safer streets in Saint Paul. This is especially important for the east side of Saint Paul which lacks important connections to other bicycle networks throughout the city.

Thank you.

3 Supporters

John Hesterberg inside Ward 3

March 19, 2016, 3:17 PM

I support bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road. Biking is my primary mode of transportation, and I bike to visit my father who lives on Upper Afton Road. The safety and utility of this route would be greatly improved by bicycle lanes, especially for less experienced riders.

More generally, I encourage the move in Saint Paul to become more friendly to multiple modes of

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

transportation, creating a city more friendly to all residents, and not just car drivers. Our world is in transition, and it is important for Saint Paul to be part of that, and not be left behind.

3 Supporters

Andrew Petriussi inside Ward 1

March 19, 2016, 11:04 AM

Although I live in a different area of St. Paul, I ride through this area often, as my wife and I commute almost exclusively by bike (aside from transit days); she works at a nearby school and I work at 3M across 94, so I am quite familiar with the roadway.

Obviously, we would appreciate bike lanes and the accessibility they provide, but in all honesty, the reason I would like to see bike lanes is not for myself. My wife and I are young, early 20s, and we fit the somewhat stereotypical image of two young middle-class cyclists. There is a common misconception that these lanes only benefit people like myself, and I would like to address that here.

I do not need these bike lanes. I probably would be obviously happy without them. I comfortably (and safely) ride on crowded streets, feet from traffic that is often moving 30-40 miles an hour, and can honestly admit that sometimes I even enjoy the thrill of it. I do this understanding that this is a privilege afforded me by my age, health, and yes even education. So given that, adding bike lanes to a small stretch of a route that I take on occasion is not really something that is high on my personal list on necessities.

The people who benefit from such infrastructure are those without my privileges. When I ride with my mother, we stay on streets with lanes or she feels uncomfortable and unsafe. The same would go for children, elderly, differently abled, or even just bicyclists within my age range and physical ability who are not entirely comfortable on a bike.

We often lead group rides to and from work at 3M, and one of the primary feedback items we get from riders is that they would bike more often, they just don't entirely feel safe and comfortable on the busy streets around 3M. Bike lanes are not a silver bullet for this, I know, but they are a step toward streets that are accessible to everyone. The more accessible the streets are to bicycling, the more empowered people will feel to get out and ride, to seek more healthy and sustainable alternatives to motor vehicle transportation, to get closer to their surrounding neighborhoods. This is a win for all, in my humble opinion.

6 Supporters

Elizabeth Wefel inside Ward 2

March 19, 2016, 9:07 AM

Though I live in a different neighborhood, I am a resident of St. Paul and very supportive of these lanes as someone who would use them. Our neighborhoods thrive when they are safe and welcoming for those who live within them, and those who visit them. As someone who bikes frequently around the city (and drives), to visit friends, to work, to eat, to shop and for other reasons, I see the need for safe infrastructure to protect people who bike and people who walk.

These lanes will benefit the residents who live near there as well as the rest of the city. The east side of Saint

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

Paul deserves some of the same infrastructure improvements that the rest of the city is receiving. Equally important, these bike lanes will benefit many people who probably aren't as likely to be following these issues in on-line surveys - the poor and the young. For them, biking is a necessity not a choice and it's important that we continue to build out our infrastructure in Saint Paul so that it serve more than just those in cars.

Please move forward with this project so that all citizens can travel safely around our city.

6 Supporters

Wendy Lane inside Ward 7

March 17, 2016, 10:35 PM

I live in a townhome on Upper Afton Road between White Bear and Burns Avenue. We polled our town home association and we are all supportive of one bike lane but not two. We need on street parking on at least one side of Upper Afton Road

1 Supporter

claire simonson inside Ward 7

March 11, 2016, 3:46 PM

I attended the March 3 meeting and have read the other public comments posted already.

I live on the east end of Upper Afton, just east of Winthrop - the street is really wide and most houses have 2-lane driveways so containing the onstreet parking to one side in exchange for marked bike lanes seems OK. I ride bike in the summer and always feel a bit safer with a painted lane. But I think that removing onstreet parking completely from the western half of Upper Afton is a wrong idea.

As people at the meeting pointed out, those properties tend to be narrower, with single lane driveways so they cannot easily absorb the onstreet parking on their own property. I thought it was rather callous of the staff at the meeting to simply say 'park on a side street', and here's why:

Five minutes of browsing the county GIS will show that the density of households between Burns & White Bear is significantly greater than between White Bear and McKnight, with only HALF the side streets.

I counted the built parcels on the GIS map and came up with 101 households between Burns & White Bear, not counting the Afton Court townhomes (117 if you include them) and only 8 side streets - and 3 of those side streets are cul-de-sacs that offer very few parking spots because they are lined with driveways for the houses on those streets. Compare to the stretch between White Bear and McKnight: 82 households and 17 side streets. Plus, as I mentioned above, the farther east you go, the houses tend to be of later construction with wider lots and double-lane driveways.

Someone at the meeting criticized the research that went into the recommendation and I thought at the time that the guy was just being a NIMBY ('not in my back yard') - but, I have to agree. It doesn't take an engineering degree to see that more people have less space to park right now along the western half of the road. It seems probable that shutting down their onstreet parking completely will push a lot of people to make parking lots of their front yards and block the sidewalks trying to get their vehicles off the street. These are

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

code violations and they happen now, I suppose out of carelessness or maybe some kind of defiance. It can only get worse when there is NO option to park on the street.

I'm trying not to anticipate the worst, but as a bike rider, I would not like to be the target of the anger of those residents, whether there's a painted bike lane or not. I'd rather share the road with a lane of parked cars and allow everyone a chance to park legally and maintain civility toward each other.

The other point I'd like to make is that there was a glaring lack of diversity at the March 3 meeting - the audience did NOT look like the neighborhood! I think both more research and more outreach are both needed - due diligence!

1 Attachment

<https://pd-oth.s3.amazonaws.com/production/uploads/attachments/13vcb3qva6w0.46n/UpperAftonParcels.JPG> (158 KB)

1 Supporter

C Radloff inside Ward 7

March 7, 2016, 12:18 PM

There are many people biking to Battle Creek park in the summer to take advantage of the trails there. The bike lanes would strengthen and encourage more bicycle commuting and fitness. I think this would create a nice connection to other existing bike routes to the East Side. I am concerned that street parking is completely eliminated on stretches of the road as part of this plan. While the parking counts are indeed low, many homeowners on this stretch have friends and family visiting at times when parking isn't being counted. Where are they to park if driveway space isn't available? Side streets on this stretch of road can be far apart and it seems unfair to the homeowners along this stretch to take away all on-street parking. The current plan maintains parking at least in front of Battle Creek Rec Center which is a MUST otherwise the side streets in the neighborhood would be inundated during events at the fields. I'm also concerned that the plan doesn't address the intersection at Upper Afton and Burns. This intersection happens at an odd angle with traffic entering Burns from multiple directions. This is a VERY tricky intersection for cars to negotiate (especially at commuting times). Some thought must be given (or traffic studied) to understand how a bicycle will negotiate this intersection when fighting with cars for space, right of way, and safety.

2 Supporters

Shevek McKee inside Ward 7

March 7, 2016, 11:18 AM

I attended the recent meeting. I was disappointed in the lack of consideration and compassion both sides had for the other. The young man who I believe was an engineer from the city described one of the primary benefits of the bike lanes is to slow down the traffic, which has apparently been clocked over 40mph on a regular basis. He said the painted lines would make the road 'feel faster' as the road would then appear to be narrower, thus traffic would slow. He also very briefly described an alternative plan that would maintain street parking on one side by having a painted parking lane, thus still slowing the traffic down.

Materials were available showing street parking surveys performed at various times of various weeks, I accidentally left my papers at the meeting so I can't specifically reference them. They had the entire length of

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

Upper Afton segmented out between streets and driveways and showed how many cars were parked vs how many spaces were available for each section. Overall it was clear that the amount of street parking utilized is very low.

My one issue with the parking report is the larger sections at the very western end of Upper Afton (near Burns). Since the sections are so large they have a high parking capacity, so even though there were several instances where there were more cars parked in those sections than most of the entire rest of the length combined, they still showed very low percentages simply because those immediate areas were so large.

That western end also came to my mind a lot because, as an Upper Afton commuter, I've become familiar with a few cars that I very often see parked on the street in that final bend.

I'm a lifelong District 1 resident(except for 2 years I lived downtown St. Paul), I grew up on a street that didn't have street parking (but had a very large driveway), and bought a house near Upper Afton 6 years ago. I work across the river from Downtown St. Paul. I consider myself very fortunate that I can commute to work on my bicycle during part of the year, but I'm not a fanatic. I celebrated the warm weather today with my first bike-commute of the season, but on cold days and rainy days, I consider myself very fortunate to be able to drive a vehicle to work.

Because we have a narrow driveway and different work schedules, I typically park my vehicle on the street while my wife utilizes the driveway. We tend to be pretty social people and at least every couple weeks we have friends over. Most of them do not bike, nearly all. We can fit a couple cars in the driveway but inevitably several cars end up parking in the street. When I was shopping for a home 6 years ago having street parking available was an important factor. It would have been a deal breaker, in fact. I loved living downtown and it was very convenient for work, I probably could have sold my car, but one of the reasons I decided not to buy downtown is because friends often had parking issues when they were visiting.

I do not live on Upper Afton, luckily I think my street is rural enough that bike lanes will probably never be considered, and a parking survey would also show a much higher street utilization.

I understand the need to slow traffic. I've seen the memorials along the road where drunk drivers have made those final mistakes. Bike lanes seem like a great option that serve multiple functions at a low-cost...but only if they fit.

I'm okay with restricting parking to only one side of the road, the parking survey and my own personal observations more than support that decision. I have friends who live on Burns which only has parking on the south side for a large part of it and it's never been an issue for us. But removing parking completely when there's another option that still slows traffic seems to lack all consideration for the residents. Some of the callous comments I heard some bike supporters make at the meeting made my stomach turn. Low percentages don't justify removing parking for me, even if only one resident were affected I would feel pretty bad. The meeting attendance clearly showed that this affects more than one resident. Even if it only drew parking for families gathering on holidays I would feel bad taking it away, and my personal commute and the parking report clearly show that it's used by some more frequently than holidays.

I've never been afraid to bike on Upper Afton as it currently is. If parking is as under utilized as the survey

Upper Afton Bicycle Lanes

Please share your thoughts about the proposal for bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road.

suggests (and it is), then a painted parking lane would virtually double as a bike lane for a majority of the length of the road. So why take away all the parking? To spite the "antiquated" residents in the name of progress? How about a true compromise in the name of democracy instead.

I'm not anti-bike lane, in fact I consider myself pro-bike lane. But I'm also pro-resident, I want people to like living on the Eastside. So I have to weigh the minor inconvenience of biking outside a designated 'bike lane' (which I have to do once I get to Burns anyway) against the minor inconvenience of not being allowed street parking. Putting myself in both shoes, having to tell people to park blocks away and walk to my house is the bigger issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak into this issue. I'm doing so with optimistic thought that this decision wasn't made behind closed doors months ago.

2 Supporters

Paul Sawyer inside Ward 7

March 4, 2016, 4:14 PM

I think these bike lanes will make Upper Afton so much safer for kids biking to the rec center, walkers trying to cross the street, and for people biking to jobs in downtown. It's unacceptable that people are driving over 40 MPH on this neighborhood street. The bike lanes should absolutely have painted buffers to better separate bikes from cars. We should make the bike lanes continuous on both sides of the road the entire stretch from Burns to McKnight.

[!\[\]\(3d45e2a16830e5defe0afbd8598e69a8_img.jpg\)](http://imgur.com/9tjopsJ)
[!\[\]\(873782fd26906a9c87069c68b7d337fb_img.jpg\)](http://imgur.com/bLwov8z)

10 Supporters



UPPER AFTON ROAD Open House

What is the Proposal?

Ramsey County is planning to resurface Upper Afton Road in 2016. The project area is between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. The resurfacing project allows us to consider other changes to the road at the same time.

Adding bike lanes to Upper Afton Road during the street resurfacing is being considered. The City of Saint Paul Bicycle Plan recommends bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. Adding bike lanes will impact on-street parking. Adding bike lanes and resurfacing the street will not result in a cost to property owners.

Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul are hosting a meeting to share information on the bike lanes and to take public input. The meeting is **Thursday, March 3 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Battle Creek Recreation Center.**

Changes to On-Street Parking

To add bike lanes, some on-street parking would be removed on Upper Afton Road. Between Burns Avenue and White Bear Avenue, on-street parking would be removed on both sides of the street. From White Bear Avenue to McKnight Road, on-street parking would be removed on one side of the street.

At the Open House

- The meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. A presentation will begin at 6:30 pm followed by time for questions.
- Preliminary layouts will be shared. Design alternatives will also be shared.
- Ramsey County and City of Saint Paul staff will be at the open house. They will answer questions and address concerns.
- Comment forms will be provided to collect public input on the proposed plan and alternative layouts.

After the Open House

- You can also share feedback on the proposal here: www.stpaul.gov/open
- County and City staff will review the feedback collected and may update the proposed plan based on your input.
- The proposed changes to Upper Afton will be presented to City Council. **This will be a public hearing.** The date and time of the public hearing will be mailed separately once these details are finalized.
- After the City Council Public hearing, Ramsey County staff will present recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners. The information from the open house, public hearing, and all public feedback received will be provided to the County Board.

Project Map



**Thursday, March 3, 2016
6:00 to 7:30 PM**

**Battle Creek
Recreation Center**

**75 Winthrop St. S. | Saint
Paul, MN 55119**



An example of bicycle lanes on Western Ave

Project Contacts:

Ramsey County
Kathy Jaschke, PE
651.266.7192
Kathy.Jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us

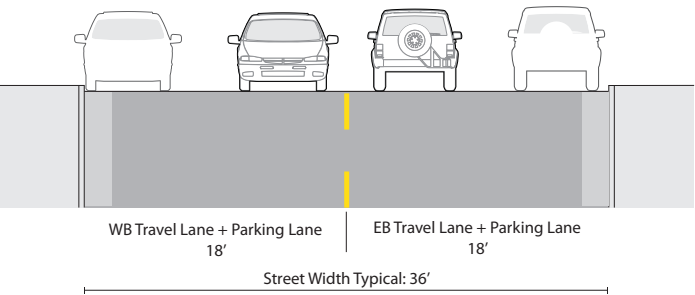
City of Saint Paul
Luke Hanson
651.266.6146
Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

For more information on the project and to view the materials that will be presented at the open house, please visit the project website at:

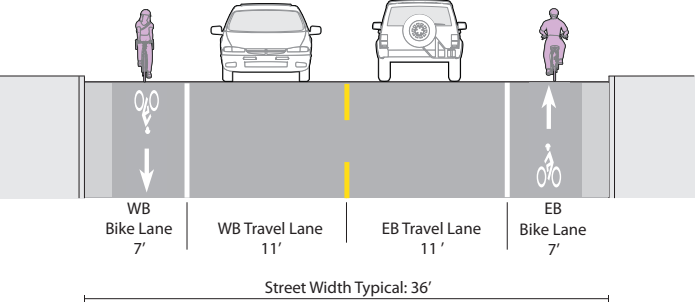
www.stpaul.gov/bikeprojects

Upper Afton Bike Lanes
(Burns Ave to White Bear Ave)

Existing:

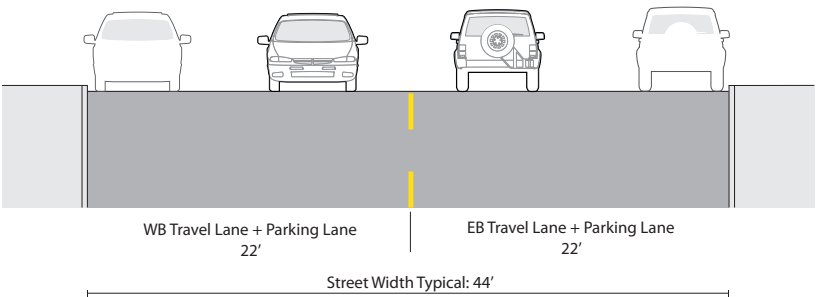


Proposed:

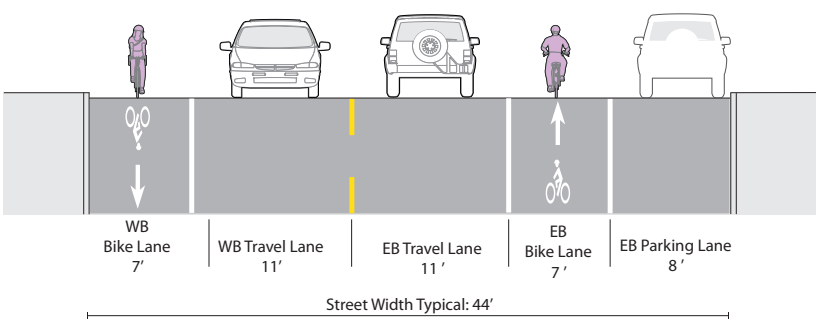


Upper Afton Bike Lanes
(White Bear Ave to McKnight Rd)

Existing:



Proposed:





CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

1500 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660

Fax: 651-266-6222

April 28, 2016

Dear Saint Paul Resident / Property Owner:

Bicycle lanes are proposed for Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. This project will be presented to the Saint Paul City Council on Wednesday, May 18. **This will be a public hearing.** The City Council will consider a resolution recommending that Ramsey County implement the proposed bicycle facilities on Upper Afton Road.

This hearing will be held at:

**5:30 PM, Wednesday,
May 18, 2016**

**City Council Chambers
300 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd, West
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

Project Details:

Ramsey County is planning to resurface Upper Afton Road in 2016. The project area is between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. Adding bike lanes to Upper Afton Road during the street resurfacing is proposed.

To add bike lanes, some on-street parking would be removed on Upper Afton Road. Between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road, on-street parking would be removed on the north side of the roadway. Parking on the south side of the road would be maintained.

Project Updates:

A public open house was held on Thursday, March 3 at the Battle Creek Recreation Center to present information and receive feedback on the project. Feedback was also received online on Open Saint Paul and via email to city and county staff. If you have not submitted a comment already and cannot attend the public hearing, you may email your Councilmember to have your comments entered into the public record.

At the open house, two concepts were presented for Upper Afton Road between Burns and White Bear Avenues: an option that removed parking from both sides of the road with bike lanes in both directions, and an alternative option that removed parking from one side of the roadway with a bike lane in one direction. The alternative option that maintains parking on one side of the roadway is being proposed.

To review the proposed project in more detail, please visit the project website at: **www.stpaul.gov/bikeprojects**



Project Schedule:

Ramsey County will resurface Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road in summer or fall of 2016. No permanent changes to the operation of the roadway or parking will be made before the City Council Public Hearing on May 18, or without further authorization from Ramsey County to implement the project.

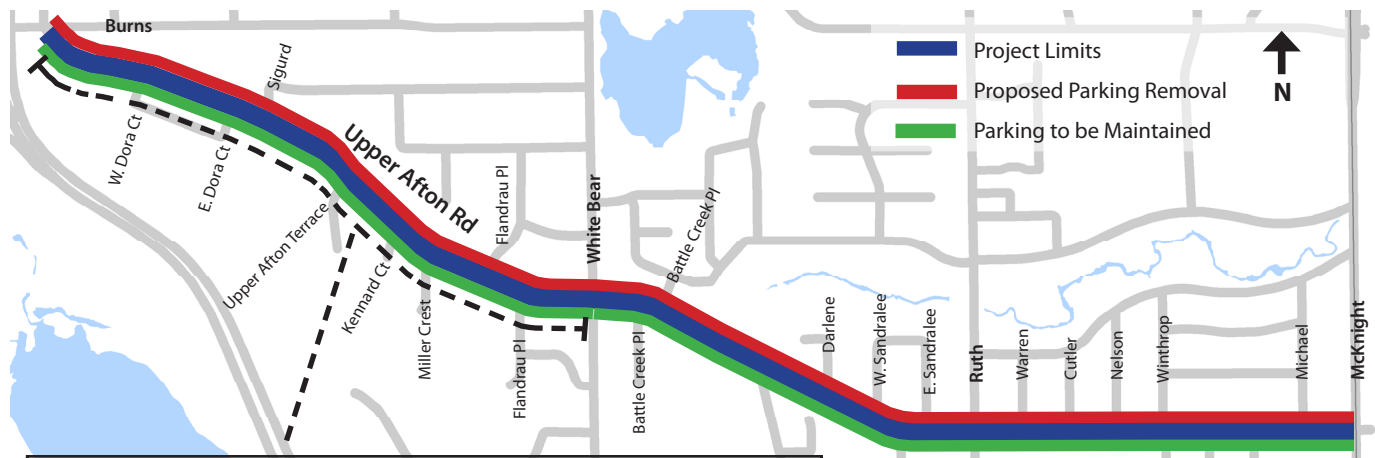
Project Contact:

Luke Hanson, Transportation Planning and Safety Division

Phone: 651-266-6146

Email: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Project Map

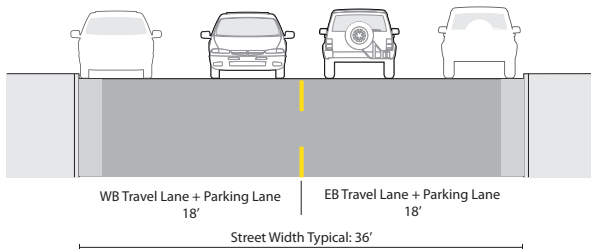


Proposal:

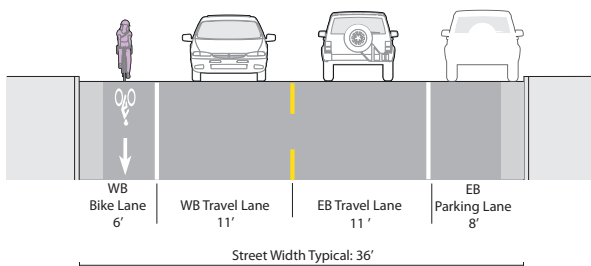
Between Burns and White Bear, stripe a westbound bicycle lane and an eastbound parking lane.

Upper Afton Bike Lanes (Burns Ave to White Bear Ave)

Existing:

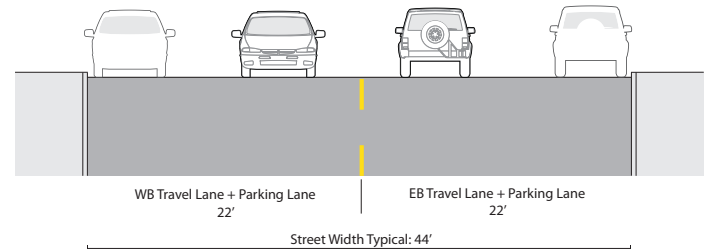


Proposed:

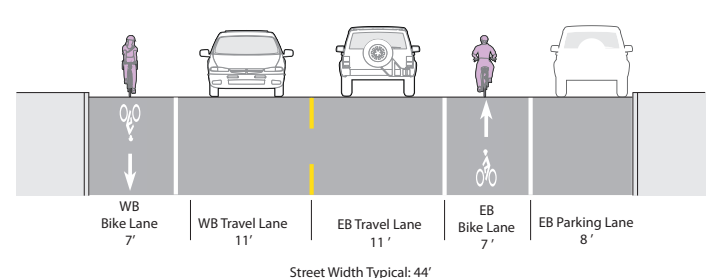


Upper Afton Bike Lanes (White Bear Ave to McKnight Rd)

Existing:



Proposed:





CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

1500 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660

Fax: 651-266-6222

May 19, 2016

Dear Saint Paul Resident / Property Owner:

At the City Council Public Hearing on Monday, May 18, Public Works presented an updated proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. This proposal includes implementing bike lanes in both directions between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. This requires parking removal on both sides of Upper Afton between Burns and White Bear, and on the north side of Upper Afton between White Bear and McKnight. The City Council then voted to amend the resolution for Upper Afton bike lanes to include bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight.

Since this proposal is different than what was messaged in the notification letter dated 4/28/2016, the City Council delayed a decision on bike lanes on Upper Afton until **Wednesday, June 1. This will be a public hearing.** The City Council will be asked to approve a resolution recommending that Ramsey County implement the proposed bicycle facilities on Upper Afton Road. If you have not submitted a comment already and cannot attend the public hearing, you may email your Councilmember to have your comments entered into the public record.

This hearing will be held at:

**5:30 PM, Wednesday,
June 1, 2016**

**City Council Chambers
300 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd, West
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

Project Details:

Ramsey County is planning to resurface Upper Afton Road in 2016. The project area is between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. Adding bike lanes to Upper Afton Road during the street resurfacing is proposed.

Public Works updated proposal includes implementing bicycle lanes on both sides of Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road. This requires parking removal on both sides of Upper Afton between Burns and White Bear, and on the north side of Upper Afton between White Bear and McKnight.

To review the proposed project in more detail, please visit the project website at:

www.stpaul.gov/bikeprojects



An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer



Project Schedule:

Ramsey County will resurface Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road in summer of 2016. No permanent changes to the operation of the roadway or parking will be made before the City Council Public Hearing on June 1, and without further authorization from Ramsey County to implement the project.

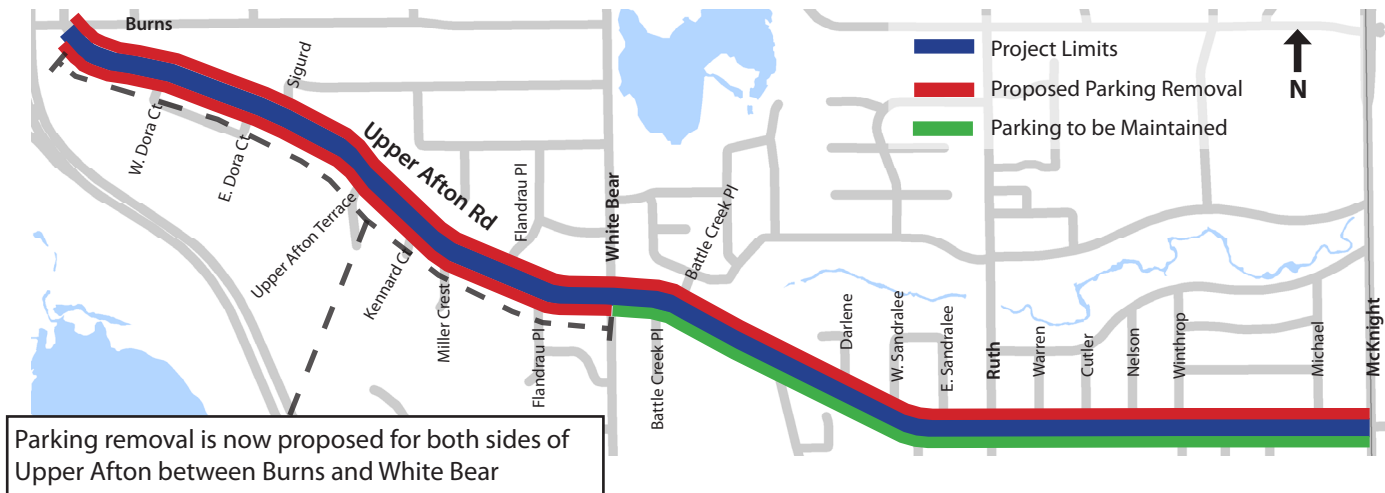
Project Contact:

Luke Hanson, Transportation Planning and Safety Division

Phone: 651-266-6146

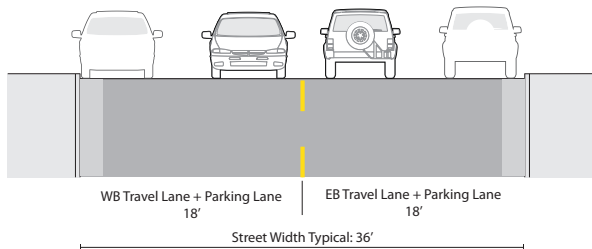
Email: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Updated Project Map

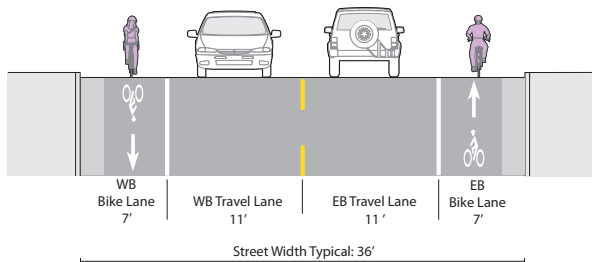


Upper Afton Bike Lanes (Burns Ave to White Bear Ave)

Existing:

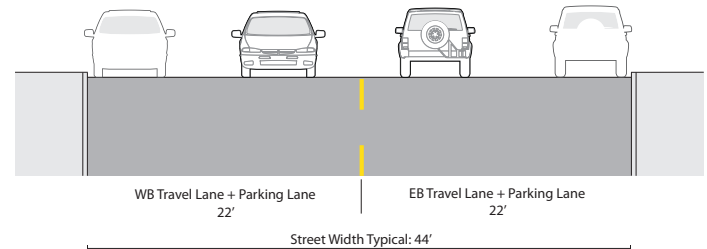


Proposed:



Upper Afton Bike Lanes (White Bear Ave to McKnight Rd)

Existing:



Proposed:

