

MACALESTER COLLEGE



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March 12, 2015

Council President Stark and Members of the City Council
Saint Paul City Council
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, #310
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Council President Stark and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of Macalester College I write to encourage you to vote in favor of the proposed Saint Paul Bike Plan on your agenda for March 18, 2015.

Macalester College sits at the crossroads of two major transportation arteries and within biking distance of Saint Paul's new Green Line LRT. In partnerships with HourCar, NiceRide, Saint Paul Smart Trips, Transit for Livable Communities, Metro Transit, the City of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota, Macalester College has developed a rich multimodal hub to serve 2000 students, 600 faculty and staff, and thousands of neighbors, including nearly 1200 alumni in our adjacent neighborhoods. We know there are increasing numbers of people in all of these groups commuting by bike from near & far. Macalester continues to develop programs and policies that encourage staff and faculty to avoid the single-occupancy vehicle for commuting. Macalester students, in particular, rely on biking for transportation to jobs, internships, community events & recreation.

Because of its desirable quality of life many of our most recent graduates choose to settle in the Twin Cities. Public spaces, such as the visionary downtown loop & spur, will make Saint Paul more attractive to these well-educated "Millennials." Once the bike plan is in place, we encourage prioritizing north-south routes from Highland through Mac-Groveland to the Midway and beyond. We also encourage prioritizing implementation of well-marked street-separated lanes throughout the city.

Macalester College strongly supports improving biking corridors in Saint Paul and is pleased that Mayor Coleman and city planners have proposed a comprehensive plan that increases safety and accessibility for ALL people on bikes. Voting for this plan is one small and necessary step toward transforming Saint Paul into a 21st century city.

Sincerely,



Tom Welna
Director