

From: [Jack Byers](#)
To: [Taina Maki](#); [HRAHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Noecker](#); [Nelsie Yang](#); [Ploua Yang](#); [Rebecca Nelson](#); [District 5](#)
Subject: RE: Draft Commercial Corridors Fund - Testimony for HRA Public Hearing Item #4 on November 20, 2024
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 3:47:32 PM

Related to the HRA item #4 on tomorrow's agenda concerning the public hearing on the proposed City Commercial Corridors Initiative:

The Payen Phalen Community Council is in strong support for advancing this initiative and creating a fund to help local businesses on commercial corridors. PPCC has been working in close collaboration with our colleagues at ESNDC and ESABA to package a business mitigation fund for businesses on Arcade Street who are facing MnDOT reconstruction project in 2025. While the community and MnDOT have worked very well together in the design of the project, we are deeply concerned that by the time the new improvements are completed a year from now, many of the businesses may go under because of the intense construction period and the inability for their customers to easily get to their businesses. With ESNDC at the lead, our three organizations submitted an application to the Ramsey County Corridor Initiative in 2023 and we were rejected. So we submitted again in 2024 and we were rejected again. In both cases, it seems that the review team did not fully consider that while the street right of way is under MnDOT jurisdiction, the actual businesses along Arcade street pay City and County property taxes (or their landlords do) and that all of the business along Arcade Street collect City and County sales tax. When the business suffer, the City and County suffers too. For these reasons, we are concerned that neither the City nor the County has a full appreciation of what these businesses will endure in the coming year and how the MnDOT construction process will impact their bottom line. This is probably not the ideal time for businesses to pursue capital projects; what they need is some sort of income replacement or relief. If outright grants are not possible, then hopefully low cost or forgivable loans would be possible. Thank you for keeping the Arcade Street businesses in mind and supporting our efforts to help get them through to the brighter future after the street construction is completed. Please feel let me know if there are questions or clarifications and if our organization can be helpful as the initiative advances. Thank you for your

consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Byers

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From: Taina Maki <Taina.Maki@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
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Subject: FW: Draft Commercial Corridors Fund

District Councils:

Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, as Chair of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), is seeking your feedback on the attached **draft** proposal. The HRA is considering the creation of a fund for business organizations to improve commercial corridors. It's still in pencil, and they are eager for your feedback to shape the proposal.

There will be a public hearing on November 20 at 2 pm; individuals can testify in person, leave a voicemail at 651-266-6808, or submit a written comment to HRAHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us. We look forward to your thoughts.

Thank you,
Taina

Taina Maki | Legislative Aide to City Councilmember Rebecca Noecker

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