

I am writing to voice my family's opposition to the Wilder median on Marshall Avenue for several reasons.

While this has been planned for a while, most of the neighbors in the immediate area did not know about it until very recently. The main concerns are #1 more traffic on the side streets (and since I live on Iglehart Avenue - the only through street between Fairview and Cretin north of Marshall I can attest to the already higher traffic on the side streets), #2 medians create danger for bicyclists on Marshall Avenue and, as my neighbor Matt Robinson wrote in a message to you, bikers in the area have actually been hit by cars (his niece almost died when she was struck by a car trying to walk her bike from a new median on Snelling in front of Coastal Seafoods). While numerous bike routes are being planned around the city - it's ironic that Marshall Avenue, a long-time main artery for biking commuters, is becoming less safe for them because of cars moving into the bike lane when they are passing medians. This is very dangerous, especially in the winter when snow is plowed into the bike lanes. #3 the proposed median is truly a few hundred feet down from a traffic light and safe pedestrian crossing at Marshall and Cleveland. One only has to walk a very short block to get to safe crossing. And #4 stores along the north side of Marshall that actually OFFER parking (allowing nearby businesses that don't offer parking more street space) will be blocked! I find the latter the most ridiculous. I believe there may be some compromise that allows traffic to turn in to one of the entrances at Marshall Liquor at this point - I hope so!

I strongly urge the City of St. Paul and the Macalester High Winds Fund not finance this unnecessary and unwanted problem in the community. And to ensure my city leaders know of my concerns, in case they aren't posted on the official public record, I am copying them on this message. If there is another "official" way to get comments onto our public records please advise.

Sincerely,

Deborah McLaren  
Merriam Park