

5/10/2021



To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to outline the problems and issues with the proposed bike lane on Wabasha Ave as we see it. We have operated the Amsterdam Bar and Hall located on Wabasha between 5th Street and 6th Street since 2011. The way the bike lane will impede our ability to do business is in our ability to accommodate for touring bands. The proposed bike lane will also be a safety hazard making the corner of 6th and Wabasha a dangerous intersection for pedestrian, bike and vehicle traffic.

Myself and Amsterdam owner Jarret Oulman have been working closely with Public Works in detail about how the bike lane would impede our ability to operate as a business as it will get rid of our access to load bands safely from Wabasha into the backstage area of Amsterdam located at the middle of the block. The new bike lane will create a situation where some artists who travel with busses and trailers or multiple busses and trailers will not be able to have shows at our venue because of the amount of contiguous space they need to park and unload. Other shows that just have busses without trailers or vans with trailers will have to unload from half a block away and at times across a busy street. This poorly designed accommodation will result in artist management deciding to have shows at other venues who can accommodate for professional tours. Particularly at comparable sized venues in Minneapolis, drawing people and livelihood away from our wonderful city.

Outside of our business being hurt, we also believe that the decision to put the bike lane on Wabasha is a mistake because it is logistically wrong and much less safe than St Peter. Wabasha Ave is a busier street than St Peter and the busiest north/south street in all of downtown other than Robert. Eight parking ramps let out onto Wabasha or are off of Wabasha intersections that will be more congested and made less safe. The bike lane will eliminate turn lanes on 4th and 6th and make an already dangerous blind intersection at 6th and Wabasha much worse. If our loading is moved off of Wabasha and onto 6th, it will put larger busses and trucks between the Lawson ramp exit and oncoming traffic moving up the blind hill on 6th with no more turn lane on Wabasha. The 6th and Wabasha intersection will become hazardous, especially if you throw increased bike and pedestrian traffic into that mix.

Another important difference between Wabasha and St Peter is that Metro Transit Busses travel on Wabasha and not St Peter. This makes an already logistically congested and dangerous intersection more complicated on Wabasha that would not exist on St Peter.

On Wabasha, there will be more vehicle traffic, more bus traffic, more blind intersections, and a less safe situation for bicyclists, pedestrians and drivers than on St Peter. We ask that you please do not support the proposed bike lane on Wabasha. It logically makes no sense at all, it will hurt our business, make traffic worse and more people will be put in unsafe situations and get hurt than need to be.

We appreciate your time and consideration in this very important matter. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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