

To whom is my concern:

I am all for making more bike paths for bikers of all abilities and ages, but this proposal is absolutely ludicrous. First of all, why would you make bikers (I'm guessing mostly inexperienced one) cross Snelling Avenue, which is an UNLIT intersection? These people are going to have to cross a four lane state highway? I happen to know there is a funeral home there on the corner. That will prove to come in quite handy for the biker casualties that are sure to happen at that intersection. Nearly half a million dollars seems like an extreme amount of money for a path that doesn't make sense from a safety perspective. My understanding of a pedestrian/bike "path" is a space for just those folks....bikers and pedestrians, not vehicles. This proposal has these people sharing the road with vehicle traffic on Charles Street. Why would those bikers, want to share the road with cars when just a few blocks away they can travel on Minnehaha where there is an actual lane for bikers? From a tax payer stand point this seems like a complete waste of our tax dollars. Has all thought been given to the impact this will have on both the residents and businesses in the area? Traffic will ultimately be re-routed which will cause problems for those who have been living or working in that area for years (and who I might add are those tax payers I previously mentioned.) Although I do not live in the immediate area, I frequent this area for a number of reasons and am therefore familiar enough to know the hazards this proposal will create.

While I applaud the city for wanting to make biking more accessible for people, this is NOT the right place to do this. I would think safety would be at the forefront of decision such as these. Asking people to cross a MAJOR, UNLIT intersection is NOT making safety a priority. I know there are alternatives that can be given consideration that would not prove to be such a safety hazard, and would not impact the businesses and residents of that area. As a tax payer of this area, I would be in completely opposed to such an insane proposal.

(Anne O'Brien)