

From: grlong30@gmail.com
To: [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Robert St Reconstruction Project Public Comment
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Greetings,

My name is Gretchen Long. I am the owner of and reside at 506 Robert St S – the property MnDOT will acquire as part of this project.

I'm writing today in support of the project and to convey my thanks and appreciation for the efforts and consideration the MnDOT team has shown me, especially Chris Bower.

First, this project is desperately needed. My property overlooks the intersection of Robert St and Cesar Chavez. I witnessed accidents at this intersection within the first month I moved in 10 years ago, and I've seen many more since then. The most concerning development I have seen over those 10 years ago is the increase in the speed of the vehicles travelling through the intersection, and an increase in confusion about how to navigate the intersection. Both of these contribute to making an already difficult intersection even more dangerous. The plan MnDOT has developed will address many of the issues I've witnessed, and, I believe, substantially increase the safety of everyone – pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles moving through this area. Safety is the essential to building a thriving community, and I believe this plan substantially increases the safety of the community.

As part of this plan, I will lose my home. That is no small thing. I was contacted by Chris and members of his team well over a year ago. They meet with me many times, answered my many questions, drew up many different plans, and answered even more questions. In the end, the decision regarding the fate of my home was mine. I don't think anyone ever plans to lose their home in this way, but, after considering all the information and options, I believe this is the best plan for everyone. I have no doubt, based on the conscientiousness and responsiveness that I have received from Chris and his team, that my transition will be smooth and fair. I wouldn't necessarily say I'm looking forward to it, it is my home after all, but I believe the outcome, primarily a safer community, is worth it.

Chris and members of his team have been in regular contact with me throughout the design process, and for that, I am deeply grateful. They have shown concern not just for me, but for the entire community. Their goal is a project and process that respects everyone who is impacted. I believe they will succeed, and, in doing so, make this a better community.

I urge the council to consent to the project and allow it to move forward for the safety and wellbeing of all those impacted.

Sincerely,
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