



CHURCH OF
SCIENTOLOGY
OF TWIN CITIES

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St. Paul, MN 55102

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May 11, 2021

St. Paul City Council

15 Kellogg Blvd. West

St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Capital City Bikeway Plan

Dear Council Members,

The Church of Scientology is opposed to the creation of a bikeway on Wabasha Street.

Our Church abuts three downtown streets:

10th Street. At the rear of our building all parking has been eliminated between St. Peter and Wabasha for a bikeway.

Exchange Street. The parking area in front of our church is currently classified as No Parking.

Wabasha Street. There are currently 12 parking spots just alongside of our building on the west side of Wabasha. These spots are currently used by our parishioners, as well as delivery trucks delivering to us and the neighboring school and housing unit. The parking on the east side of the street has been completely eliminated, with all parking meters either removed or capped off.

If you remove parking from the west side of Wabasha, we will literally have no on-street parking available to our members. Given that we pay annual street maintenance fees based on our substantial linear footage, we should have access to at least some on-street parking. Parking on Wabasha is currently

the lowest cost option for parishioners who come to take religious courses or to receive pastoral counseling. Those wishing an introduction to our church always park in the current spots on Wabasha. Removal of the parking spots on Wabasha between Exchange and 10th streets will force everyone to park in a very expensive parking ramp, or walk a long distance to and from ground-level parking elsewhere. Many of our parishioners come to church up to five times per week and this will have a profound effect on our members and our religious activities.

Very few members, if any, bike to our location. Most of our members travel to downtown St. Paul by car from remote locations of St. Paul, or from Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs. When they are in downtown St. Paul, they frequent neighboring stores and restaurants, adding to the vitality of the City. Discouraging them in any way from coming to downtown due to lack of affordable parking will impact downtown businesses, and create a negative impact to our church.

Today, after receiving the notice from the Department of Public works regarding the May 12 Public Hearing, I drove around downtown St. Paul. I noticed that the east side of Wabasha already has very restricted parking along its length for multiple reasons, including frequent bus stops. The left turn lane from Wabasha onto 7th street is in constant use, yet would be eliminated by this plan. Throughout my drive I observed one person on a bicycle.

While we are not against providing safe travel routes for those that ride bicycles downtown, we believe that accommodating all visitors to downtown is important. Wabasha Street is very much the center of activity in downtown and limiting its use will have a profound impact to this thoroughfare and the businesses and facilities located along it. We encourage you to consider less travelled streets for the bikeway.

Sincerely,


Nancy Schumacher

Public Affairs Director