

**From:** [Brenda Lamb](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Capital City Bikeway Path  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:06:19 PM

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Hello City Council Members.

My partner Douglas Lamb and I have owned Candyland on Wabasha Street for 40 years.

If you do not know of Candyland, we have been on Wabasha Street since 1932. We have only moved once in 1979 to the location we are presently doing business and we are still on the same block. We are open 7 days a week, 10 - 12 hours a day.

Being in the downtown area for some many years, we feel we have first hand experience what works downtown. We have seen many businesses come and go. We have seen thriving businesses move to the skyway system. Most of those, if not all are now gone. The key factor of our success for so many years, is convenient parking in front of our location for our customers.

We are now told that the parking in front of this small business is in jeopardy and possibly could be a bike path. This would be devastating to Candyland and any business that would want to open and survive downtown.

Parking is 365 days out of the year. No matter if the days are sunny, rainy, freezing (20 below!!) snowing, ect. A bike path on the busiest traffic street in Downtown St Paul, would not be used when- Raining, Snowing, Freezing, ect. This is many months out of the year. I have spoken with many cyclist, and their bike is there only transportation. They have stated they would not use a bike path.

The most often complaint from our customers is parking. This is quote we here every other day on the average "if there is not a spot, I just keep going" This means our customers would just keep going most of the time if there is no parking on the West side of the street.

How about the Handicap, elders, families with small children? There are times when we see our patrons getting out of their vehicle and they need assistance, we are there to help. We could not help across the street.

What about our customers picking up large orders? Where do they to park? Convenience is one of the very important keys to a success of a business.

What about delivery trucks, UPS, Post office, delivery services such as Grubhub? Where are they to park to do their business with us or any other business. Just this past Holiday season, we had 150 - 300 packages a day being picked up by PO and UPS. It is a lot of work for the carriers.

Again there will be a no parking in front. There will be a bike path that will be not in use.

Candyland had some exciting news for expansion. We had come to an agreement with the building landlord on acquiring 6000 feet of space from the vacant space directly north of Candyland.

This expansion was going to be mix of many components to expand this business for

generations to come. We guarantee this would have been an attraction for downtown.

With the word that Wabasha street is going to be the recommendation for taking out parking and for a bike path that would not be in use for many months of the year, this project has come to sudden stop. It would be too risky to invest this kind of money when we know not having parking can lead to failure. Again this is devastating.

I guess I could gone on and on, but I and hoping you respect the business that has gone through it all in the almost 90 years on Wabasha. We were looking to the future in downtown St Paul, now we have very little expectations we will be here another 90.

Thank you for reading my email and if you would like to discuss this further, please do call or send me an email.

Regards,  
Brenda Lamb

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