

Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council,

Please support a pedestrian-bicycle trail on Ayd Mill.

Please prioritize a trail with a full 24-foot width. At its full width, the trail would be a place for all citizens -- walkers, cyclists, runners, etc.

I live with my wife and our almost 1-year-old daughter at 1315 Portland Ave, between Hamline and Syndicate/Ayd Mill Road. We would use this trail multiple times a week. With a full connection to the Midtown Greenway as outlined in the St. Paul Bicycle Plan, this trail would be an extraordinary connection throughout the Twin Cities.

I drive on Ayd Mill every weekday to get to work in Eagan. The road narrowing due to the Summit Ave bridge construction has not impacted traffic flow. We desperately need to promote non-single-occupancy-car transportation options as we combat climate change and work to make our city safer.

This is such an incredible opportunity to create a wonderful piece of transportation infrastructure in St. Paul. Please do not squander this chance.

Thank you,
Ben Swanson-Hysell
1315 Portland Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

I recently read that you want feedback from the community regarding Ayd Mill. I've lived in this area for 16 years, and I currently live on Lincoln avenue by Kowalski's. My husband and I use Ayd Mill on a daily basis to commute to work.

We have never supported Carter's idea to build in a walking/bike lane - and we still don't.

We DO support repaving the four lanes and leaving it as it is. It has become a vital short cut for commuters, visitors, and even local residents like us. Cutting it down to three lanes will increase traffic not only on the road, but in the surrounding area, which is already awful during regular rush hour. We recently got a preview of this when the Summit bridge construction cut out a lane. It was terrible, especially traffick backing up in the Kowalski/Hamline Ave area from the Ayd exit. We don't need a bike lane there; just like we didn't need one on Grand Avenue.

But I digress, we support the repaving of all four lanes. If it is going to be costly and we will lose a lane to biking/pedestrians then we don't support it.

Oh! And we walk everywhere in this neighborhood and up to midway, so speaking as a pedestrians I can say we have zero use for a walking path along Ayd Mill. Why would we want to walk down their with cars zooming by when we can walk along Syndicate or by nice houses along Edgumbe?

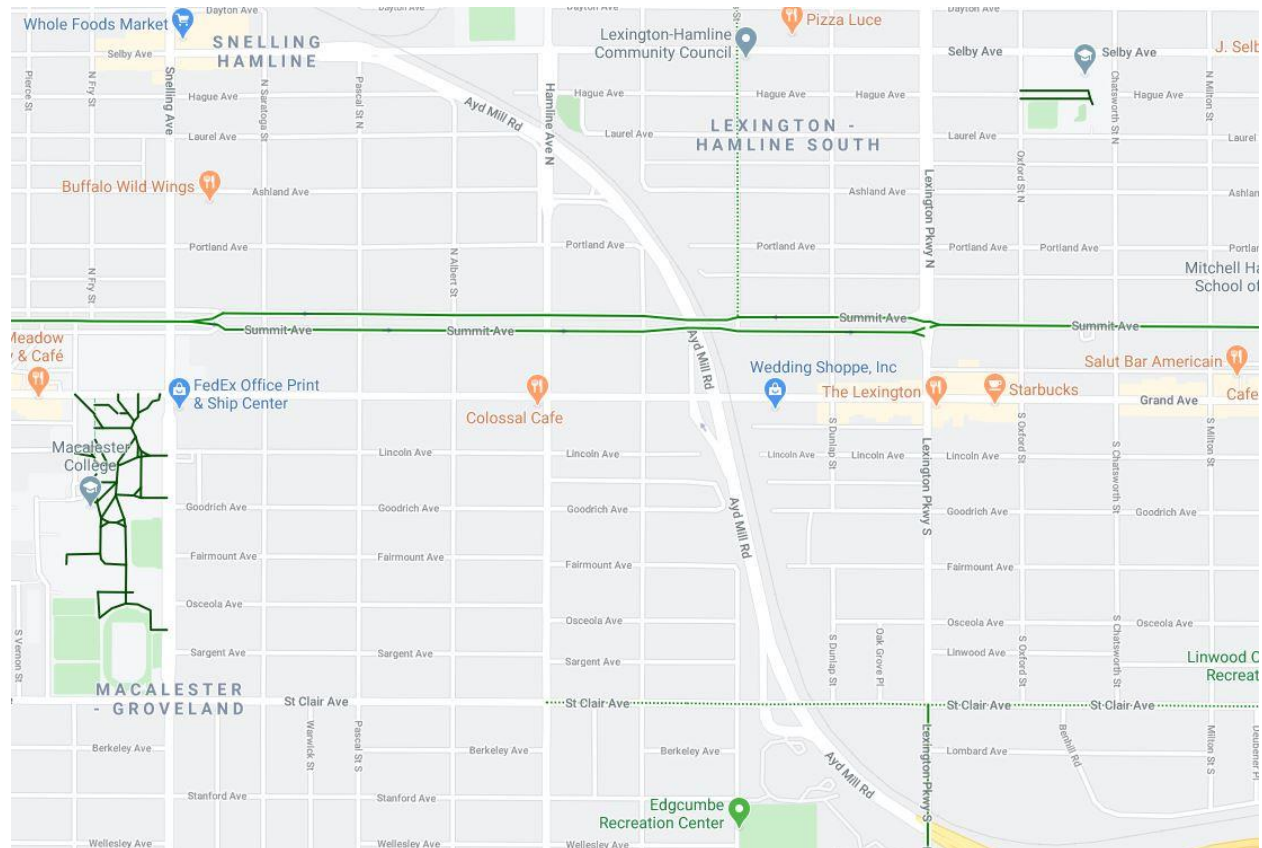
Regards,
Stephanie

From: Zack Mensinger <zack.mensinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 5:28 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Vang, Dia (CI-StPaul) <Dia.Vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill bikeway

Dear CM Yang,

I encourage you to support a full implementation of the Mayor's proposed Ayd Mill bike and walking path, as unanimously approved by the Union Park District Council. While the price tag has increased, this will still be a smart move in the long run both for increased transportation options for St. Paul residents, but also for decreased maintenance costs and time associated with the decrease in auto traffic lanes, given the huge amount of effort currently devoted to patching Ayd Mill. This area desperately needs more options (see map attached illustrating the lack of bike facilities in this area) to safely bike and walk and a half-measure is just kicking the can down the road, something we've done enough of in this city. We need visionary leaders to show us a better future, please be that leader!

Zack Mensinger
St. Paul resident



From: Steve Thie <misterthie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:39 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Ayd Mill Road is a major connecting road between Interstate 35E and Interstate 94. Anyone that uses it will state that there is a lot of traffic on it and that it makes connecting from I 35E to anywhere up to and including I 94 extremely convenient. Right now, however, Ayd Mill Road's condition is an embarrassment and a danger to all the cars that drive on it. FIXING Ayd Mill Road needs to be a NUMBER ONE CITY OF ST PAUL PRIORITY.

I used Ayd Mill Road as recently as this morning (Feb 12) and even the on ramps are pot hole infested. The patch work of the pot holes all along Ayd Mill Road is bumpy as well. I worry each time I use Ayd Mill Road that I will end up damaging my car. It's a embarrassment to all residents that Ayd Mill Road is in the condition that it currently is. I know of many people who currently do not use Ayd Mill Road because they think its too dangerous and they don't want to damage their vehicle.

In addition, Ayd Mill Road needs to REMAIN TWO LANES going each way. As I stated above, every time I am on Ayd Mill Road it is busy. Why on earth would you consider changing its current configuration? I know that a bike lane has been proposed. Why??? That would be like putting a bike lane in the middle of an interstate; it makes no sense. And what happens when a bicyclist gets hit and inured/killed ? There will be outrage over why you put a bike lane in the middle of a busy road.

Keep Ayd Mill Road FOUR lanes, just how it is currently. Repave it NOW.

Thank you!
Steve Thie
95 S Lexington Pky
St Paul MN 55105

From: Pete Steinhagen <pjsteinhagen@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 8:16 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Good morning,

We are strongly in favor of the repair/upgrade project for Ayd Mill Road. We are frequently on the road, and know that it needs constant work. And, we also strongly support the addition of the bike lane.

Thanks for your consideration.

Pete and Janet Steinhagen
St. Anthony Park

From: Zack Mensinger <zack.mensinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 5:16 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Bikeway

Dear CM Jalali,

I encourage you to support a full implementation of the Mayor's proposed Ayd Mill bike and walking path. While the price tag has increased, this will still be a smart move in the long run both for increased transportation options for St. Paul residents, but also for decreased maintenance costs and time associated with the decrease in auto traffic lanes, given the huge amount of effort currently devoted to patching Ayd Mill. I was heartened to read your comments in the Star Tribune - please keep fighting for the city we need in the future, not the damaged one we've currently inherited!

Zack

Rina Cooper - W3 Resident re Ayd Mill

Rina called saying she lives in Ward 3 near Ayd Mill. She said the expense has gotten too much and Ayd Mill should just be paved.

From: Peter Bauer <pandrewbauer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:23 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Council member Thao,

I'm writing to you regarding the plans for Ayd Mill Road. I am pleased that the city isn't charging into merely mill and overlaying the road when it appears that more needs to be done so as to find a durable repair.

I am not in support of adding a bike lane to the plans. I think it is important to note that I am an avid bicyclist and I do understand the need for planning for non-car means of transportation. However, why put a bike trail along a sunken highway that leads to and from interstate 35e? I think that would be a profound waste of tax money. If we're going to develop bike lanes, we should develop useful bike lanes. Where's the value in that particular route for bike transportation? I'd rather see that money be focused on Summit or Marshall Avenue bike lanes-two avenues that are crumbling and the bike lanes along those streets are deteriorating, too. I also harbor some concern that a secluded bike lane along Ayd Mill might lead to crime concerns that will deter non-car transportation.

These are just a few of my concerns regarding the proposal for ayd mill road. Thanks for considering them.

Best,
Peter

From: VICKI SHOFNER <vshofner@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 7:43 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Rebecca-

I wanted to let you know that I fully support Mayor Carter's plan to redo Ayd Mill Road. I have used Ayd Mill either daily or weekly for close to 20 years yet I support reducing the car lanes even if it means slower traffic.

I am also not much of a bicyclist but I know that we need to support them and make safer avenues for them to use.

If you would like to reknock Chateau Montreal - 1061 Montreal Ave - again this year, please let me know! I am planning on living here for at least 1-2 more years.

Thanks for all the hard work!

Vicki Shofner

From: Chris Mishek <chrismishek@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:20 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd mill rd.

Councilmember Noecker ,

I'm writing in support of the proposals for the Ayd mill road improvements. The time has come to do something. The road is blight on the city and is dangerous to drive on during pothole season.

Long term I support connecting the north end to I94. Right now I support either the 3 lane with a bike path or just redoing the 4 lanes along with the sewer and lighting improvements. I don't think 7 million is too much.

Thank you.

-Chris Mishek
932 Osceola ave. Saint Paul

From: Joe Shaffer <joeshaffer1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 3:55 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayde Mill Road

Please please please do not turn this road into some green walkway!

We use this road every day to get to 35E. Reducing the lanes will not help, especially in Winter when cars can get stuck in ice or snow (I have had to help push people out of it on several occasions), if there is a single lane it will be a catastrophe for people trying to get to work and get home.

Yes the potholes need fixing, but this is a major commuter road. Please keep our commute bearable, dont make us take Summit to 35E

There are numerous bike lanes in the city (I bike too) this does not need to be another one.

Thank you,

Joe Shaffer MD
1373 Summit Ave, St Paul, MN 55105

From: Andrew Wagner <awags777@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 1:29 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill — Thank you

Councilman Thao,

Thank you for your continued opposition to the Ayd Mill bike project. I wish you luck convincing your other councilmembers to please just repave the road and be done with it. Can't say I was surprised to read about its hefty new price tag in today's Pioneer Press.

Thanks,

Andrew Wagner
238 Victoria Street N
Saint Paul, MN 55104

From: Ben Swanson-Hysell <swysell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 2:33 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul) <mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Koziol, Kristin (CI-StPaul) <kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Pedestrian-Bicycle Trail

Dear Councilmember Thao,

You have an opportunity to create an amazing piece of infrastructure in our city.

Please support a pedestrian-bicycle trail on Ayd Mill. It is part of the city's Bike Plan, it is a crucial component of the future connection to Minneapolis and the Greenway, and it would be used immediately by your constituents.

Please support the trail at its full 24-foot width. This will allow both cyclists and pedestrians to use the trail safely. People of all ages will use the trail -- young adult cyclists/runners like myself, retirees going for walks without having to deal with road crossings, the local youth sports teams on training runs, etc.

Please do not squander this fantastic opportunity to improve St. Paul.

Thank you,
Ben Swanson-Hysell
1315 Portland Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

From: Ben Swanson-Hysell <swysell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 2:54 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Pedestrian-Bicycle Trail on Ayd Mill

Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council,

Please support a pedestrian-bicycle trail on Ayd Mill.

Please prioritize a trail with a full 24-foot width. At its full width, the trail would be a place for all citizens -- walkers, cyclists, runners, etc.

I live with my wife and our almost 1-year-old daughter at 1315 Portland Ave, between Hamline and Syndicate/Ayd Mill Road. We would use this trail multiple times a week. With a full connection to the Midtown Greenway as outlined in the St. Paul Bicycle Plan, this trail would be an extraordinary connection throughout the Twin Cities.

I drive on Ayd Mill every weekday to get to work in Eagan. The road narrowing due to the Summit Ave bridge construction has not impacted traffic flow. We desperately need to promote non-single-occupancy-car transportation options as we combat climate change and work to make our city safer.

This is such an incredible opportunity to create a wonderful piece of transportation infrastructure in St. Paul. Please do not squander this chance.

Thank you,
Ben Swanson-Hysell
1315 Portland Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

From: Phil Soucheray Jr. <psoucheray@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:55 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Please support just the milling and repaving of this artery. It's the least expensive option and gives the city more time to examine options for making users pay for upkeep through a toll fee.

Phil Soucheray

To whom it may concern,

Please do NOT make this road into half pedestrian/half motorized traffic. This is a totally unneeded expense and will really mess up traffic there. I am astonished that anyone would consider this idea. Thank you,

Tori Jensen

From: Jay Hill <hilleng@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 6:29 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill road replacement

The proposed \$7.5 million dollar cost to repair a 1.5 mile road is way too expensive and alternative options should be explored.

Additionally, tying up 40% of the bicycle budget for the next 10 years for one project is short sighted. There are numerous missing segments of the City's trail system that will need to go on missing due to the siphoning off of the funds.

They should be looking at a full depth reclaim or in place recycle for the pavement. The sewers can be repaired using trenchless options.

Ms. Nan Fergen, Midway Neighborhood:

Ayd Mill Road should be left at 4 lanes. I use it often to run errands in the city and it is also the only way to get between 35E and I-94. As a cyclist also I don't see the value in including a bike path for less than two miles of road. I am concerned about the rising cost of the project and would like to see that money used to do needed repairs throughout the city as well.

From: Jerry Johnson <jmjohnny@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 5:34 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul) <mai.chong.xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Road Reconfiguration Councilman Thao,

This concerns the distressing situation that now envelops the proposed Ayd Mill Road repurposing. I am a retired transportation economist living in St. Paul who has written several opinion pieces on how to optimize Ayd Mill for the benefit of all relevant stakeholders. Most recently, one such piece appeared in The Villager, along with a rebuttal from St. Paul bicycle proponents. I am attaching a more recent version of my Villager submission along with my (as yet) unpublished rebuttal to the bike coalition rebuttal and a shorter thinkpiece that appeared in the Star Tribune last year.

Please consider what can be done to implement an approach like that outlined in the attached that can work for those who need it most. And please consider how state or even Met Council participation in an Ayd Mill rebuild can result in a more efficient and effective transportation infrastructure solution. Please feel free to contact if you have questions or comments.

Respectfully,

Jerry Johnson

Jerome M Johnson

December 9 Letter to Editor

Re: St. Paul's Ayd Mill Road

The City of St. Paul has proposed to divide Ayd Mill Road's four lanes into two traffic lanes and two lanes for bicycle and pedestrian use. At first glance, that seems like a good way to cut the city's road maintenance bill and benefit area bicyclists.

But a closer look raises concerns. Emissions are expected to increase on Ayd Mill and on parallel local streets as traffic becomes slower, "calmer" and more congested. That alone should be an enviro no-no in a town with its own resilience and sustainability ethos that targets a carbon neutral 2050. Moreover, the placement of the bike/hike trails over the easternmost auto lanes -- those next to the railroad tracks -- will impede trail performance and pose a safety risk for users forced to cross the active auto lanes to access the city street and sidewalk grid. And, as always, there is no provision for the elusive north end connection to I-94, meaning the current traffic mess at Snelling and Selby will intensify as the area itself becomes the economic growth magnet envisioned by planners and investors.

A greener and more efficient alternative exists by having the state, not the city, rebuild Ayd Mill Road as a two-lane, limited-access parkway fully connected to I-94 with no on/off access between Randolph and I-94. As such, it would function as an autos and transit-only "connector" deployed over the east side of the available right of way just west of the existing freight rail tracks. The parallel bike and pedestrian trails would then move to the west side to be more easily and safely connected to the neighborhood street/sidewalk grid and to trailside development opportunities.

At over 100 feet, the available right-of-way easily accommodates a two lane, 60-foot wide auto parkway that includes shoulders and center median barriers, 18 feet of bike/hike trail parkway and a 10-foot buffer zone with safety and

noise barriers. Area drivers negotiate this sort of configuration every summer during construction season and thus should easily manage single file driving over the 1.6-mile parkway connector at moderate, quiet, 45 mph speeds. The parallel unimpaired "trail parkway," with no street intersections or stop signs, will increase the reach of the bike network by several miles per hour and facilitate a seamless connection with the Midtown Greenway when it is ultimately extended east into St. Paul.

So, let's move past the short sighted, low-budget city proposal and go big with the parkway auto, transit and trail connector, where virtually all users will move from end to end faster and more efficiently. If you agree, tell your elected representatives that there is a better, safer and greener way to repurpose Ayd Mill Road.

Jerome Johnson
St. Paul

February 1, 2020

The Ayd Mill Redo: Commuters Lose Again

With the city's proposal to slow down Ayd Mill Road (AMR) from four to two lanes, we are seeing yet another local transportation infrastructure venture catering to squeaky-wheel special interests while ignoring those who actually need to get to work or school on time. The disruptive Green Line, at 17 mph, is no faster than the bus it replaces, while the proposed 15 mph Riverview Modern Streetcar will actually be slower. Very few get to work faster or gain access to more jobs using these conveyances despite the billions spent and promises made.

Sadly, the Ayd Mill plan is really no different, slowing auto and future transit traffic over another key commute corridor to 80% of current speeds and to about half of what a reimagined thoroughfare could be. All this because the city lacks resources to rebuild AMR in kind, much less connect it to I-94, but yet has the funds to repave two of the AMR lanes as trails, even though less than 10% of city commutes are bike and hike while over 80% are transit and autos. Where is the equity in that?

The AMR corridor can, however, be redone to benefit all relevant stakeholders. For starters, recognize that it is a regional thoroughfare and that the state, not the city, should rebuild it. An attractive option, then, would be a two-lane, limited access, auto/transit parkway fully connected to I-94 running just west of the existing freight rail tracks, with neighborhood on/off points limited to the Allianz Field area and Randolph Street endpoints. At quiet, 45 mph, nonstop parkway speeds, it would be more efficient than the stop-and-go city plan for AMR and more effective at keeping city and suburban cut-through traffic off nearby city streets. The parallel bike and pedestrian trails would then move to the west side of the right-of-way to be more easily and safely connected to the neighborhood street/sidewalk grid and to trailside development opportunities. As such, there would be no stoplights encountered by cars, bikes or walkers and no additional right-of-way needed except for several acres where the I-94 connection would be built.

This "Parkway Connector" concept addresses some inconvenient realities:

First, that auto traffic via the corridor is not going away because corridor jobs are not going away. Eagan on the south end has over three times the industrial and office acreage than St. Paul's Midway area on the north. That differential will only grow as Eagan fills in and the Midway converts to apartments and condos to accommodate St. Paul's growing population and changing lifestyle preferences. These residents need efficient access to Eagan jobs as much as Eagan residents will still need to reach jobs in the cities. They might be in 50 mpg cars that drive themselves or 60-foot long bus trains, but they won't be riding bikes.

Second, that the I-94 connection will help secure critical bi-partisan, regionally focused funding support that will need to go much deeper than the cash-strapped city plan. There will be faster commutes, increased mobility, transportation-oriented development and construction jobs for one political stripe; transit equity, sustainability, bike paths and construction jobs for the other. What is there not to like ... or vote for?

And finally, the city's 2050 sustainability plan will be attained through technology, lifestyle changes and the fair and full pricing of carbon emissions, not punitive road diets that further congest neighborhood streets and frustrate neighborhood drivers. Los Angeles, of all places, points the way here. Their air today is much cleaner than in 1970

thanks to catalytic converters, higher mileage cars and better transit, even though population is up 80%. That air will be cleaner still in 2050, whoever may still live there.

If you agree that an AMR parkway connector concept can benefit all users, tell your elected officials - Republicans and/or Democrats - as much. Tell them that a better, safer AMR is possible that would also, for a change, be faster. What a novel idea.

Jerome Johnson, St Paul.

From: Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition <saintpaulbike@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:46 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Ian Buck <ian.r.buck@gmail.com>; Andy Singer <andy@andysinger.com>

Subject: Please Support Mayor Carter's current Ayd Mill Road proposal (attachment included)

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:42 PM Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition <saintpaulbike@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Saint Paul City Council Members,

The Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition still supports the Mayor's proposal for an Ayd Mill bicycle and pedestrian pathway, despite its revision. While we would prefer that both of the eastern lanes of Ayd Mill Road be converted to a bicycle and pedestrian pathway, we would rather get one lane as opposed to no lanes.

This project comes to the city at a time of tight budgets. In order to save money, the city is implementing its bicycle and pedestrian plan, whenever a street gets resurfaced or reconstructed. Since Ayd Mill is being resurfaced, this is the perfect time to implement the off-street trail called for in city plans. Whether a bikeway is added to the project or not, \$3.2 million dollars will be spent resurfacing the roadway, plus additional million(s) to fix drainage issues and put in new, permanent signal lights (to replace old temporary ones). The creation of a bikeway is a small percentage of the overall \$7.5 million cost-- just curbs, lighting and a small amount of new paving to make pathways at the five exits (Selby, Hamline, Grand, St Clair and Jefferson). The bonding for this extra cost would be paid for out of dedicated bicycle funding and we think the project is important enough both in and of itself and as part of a possible Midtown Greenway Extension to warrant the use of dedicated bike funds.

While the mayor's currently proposed trail and 3-lane roadway becomes less of a linear park and more of just a protected bikeway, we appreciate that it's also \$2.4 million cheaper than having to add additional roadbed to create new left turn lanes on the west side of the road for the original 2-lane proposal. We also appreciate that the extra money from the abandoned Woodlawn Avenue project happens to be available now and probably won't be available in the future, and we appreciate that putting this project off for another year will inherently make it even more expensive, because project costs go up every year due to inflation.

Some council members have complained that there has been insufficient public process for this project but they forget that there was almost 20 years of intensive public process from the late 1980s thru the late 2000s. This included a full Phase 1, Draft Environmental Impact Statement process, in which a Citizen Task Force backed by public comments voted for a linear park. Hundreds of citizens put in thousands of hours into this Task Force and its accompanying public meetings. The city completely

ignored this public process and the mayor at the time unilaterally opened the south end of the roadway and tried to connect the north end to I-94 over intensive public opposition. So we believe that it's inaccurate to say there's been no public process. In fact there has been more public process on Ayd Mill Road than any other roadway or street in the history of the city. It's just that past councils and mayors decided to ignore the public, or we'd currently have a linear park down there instead of a roadway. Because only one current council member participated in this process and knows the history of it, we attach a historical timeline of decisions on the roadway prepared by the Union Park District Council Transportation Committee.

Other council members have expressed concerns about traffic going onto adjacent streets. We believe the revised proposal makes this even less of a possibility because it makes absolutely no changes to the road in the southbound direction and the northbound road is already just a single lane at both ends (at I-35E and where it merges onto Selby Avenue). In the unlikely event a problem should arise in the northbound direction, the Public Works Director has pledged to create a mitigation plan and funding.

More importantly, it's time we stopped making "the avoidance of traffic congestion" the focus of our infrastructure decisions. We should instead prioritize access and safety of all road users. We could put it off a year but nothing will change. Budgets will only be tighter, the project will be more expensive (thanks to inflation) and the road will be in even worse condition. The time to act is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrew Singer and Ian Buck, Co-Chairs
 Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
<http://www.saintpaulbicyclecoalition.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulbike>

Ayd Mill Road Timeline—with focus on Union Park

November 11, 2019

1960's	The Short Line Road was constructed between 1962 and 1966. It was planned to be a connection between I-35E and I-94.
	Local opposition and the delayed construction of I-35E prevented a direct connection.
1987	The City empaneled a Short Line Task Force to consider the future of Ayd Mill Road.
1988	The City undertook a \$1.5 million study to look at the feasibility and environmental impacts of connecting the Short Line Road/Ayd Mill Road to interstate 35E and I-94 on the north. The result of the Short Line Road Study: Phase I Report (1988) convinced the Task Force and the Planning Commission that an Environmental Impact Statement was required.
1992	City Council votes in May to temporarily open the south end connection of the Short Line Road to I-35E to carpools on weekdays during summer-long repairs to the Lafayette Bridge.

1993	The City established an Ayd Mill Citizen Task Force to develop a scoping document to identify alternatives for a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Short Line Road was officially renamed Ayd Mill Road.
1993-1995	The City's Ayd Mill Citizen Task Force met many times during this period, working with the support of city staff and city funded consulting help, on the Scoping process for Ayd Mill Road.
1996-1998	In May of 1996, the Ayd Mill Citizen Task Force begins meeting again as the Draft EIS was being developed. The six alternatives studied included: 1) No Build, 2) Transportation System Management/Travel Demand Management, 3) Linear Park, 4) Two lane, 5) Four-lane extended, and 6) Four-lane with Bridged Ramps. The community advocacy group Neighborhood's First was formed in 1997.
1999 – Spring	The Draft EIS was released for public comment by the City Council on February 10, 1999. The comment period ended April 12, 1999. Over 150 comments (written and oral testimony) were received.
1999 – August	The City's Ayd Mill Citizen Task Force, using a weighted formula, voted on six alternatives for the Ayd Mill corridor. "Linear Park" got the most votes followed by Travel Demand Management and No Build.
1999 October	The St. Paul Planning Commission did not follow the recommendation of the City's Ayd Mill Citizen Task Force and directed that "Four-lane Extended to Saint Anthony" be the Preferred Alternative for the Final EIS.
2000 April	The City Council and Mayor Norm Coleman, in resolution #00-347, selected the Two-Lane Extended Alternative as the City's preferred alternative and requested staff to develop construction and financial plans that would include traffic calming on other streets, picnic areas, a 35 mph posted speed, inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian paths, etc.

2002	Mayor Randy Kelly opens the south end connection of Ayd Mill Road to I-35E starting what the city called "a field test."
2004	Mayor Randy Kelly made the southern connection of Ayd Mill Road to 35E permanent.
2004 Winter	Because the Draft EIS was approved over three years ago, a Reevaluation of the Draft EIS was prepared by the City under Mayor Randy Kelly and submitted to Mn/DOT and FHWA.
2005 January	The Federal Highway Administration approves the EIS for Ayd Mill Road adequate to be released for public comment.
2005 February	Merriam Park Community Council submits a letter of opposition to the City of St. Paul in opposition to extending Ayd Mill Road to I-94 as proposed in the EIS (or to I-35E) and in support of the "No Build" alternative.

2005 March	City Council writes to Lexington-Hamline Community Council expressing the Council's opposition to Mayor Kelly's plan and continued support for resolution 00-347 passed in 2000. The letter estimates the cost of the Mayor's plan at \$44 million.
2006/ 2007	The Snelling Hamline Neighborhood Plan continues to include the Linear Park as its preferred option for Ayd Mill Road.
2007 October	The City passed and Mayor Chris Coleman signed resolution 07-011 stating that except for repairs and maintenance to Ayd Mill Road, no additional funds shall be appropriated for construction, the two lane extended to Saint Anthony is still the City's official position, and that the City will reconvene the Ayd Mill Road Task Force if a supplemental EIS is required.
2008 February	District Council 13 writes a letter to the City asking the City to reconstitute the Ayd Mill Task Force to discuss unresolved issues regarding the future of Ayd Mill Road.
2009 September	The City Council adopted and Mayor Chris Coleman signed resolution #09-878 calling on the Department of Public Works and the Department of Planning and Economic Development to initiate a community process around the future of Ayd Mill Road including development of a Supplemental EIS to examine the effects of reducing the existing roadway to two lanes and the effect of a possible two-lane northern connection at St. Anthony Avenue. The resolution calls for a plan to close the ramps at Grand Avenue and at the south side of Saint Clair. The resolution notes that the Council wants the road to remain a city street and that bicycles should be permitted between Selby and Jefferson.
2009 December	Union Park District Council passed a resolution asking the City to reconstitute the Ayd Mill Road Task Force to advise the city on a Supplemental EIS process.

2010 March	Union Park District Council communicated to the City about its resolution adopted in March outlining 16 issues and concerns it would like to see addressed in a Supplemental EIS.
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2010	The City of Saint Paul informs the Metropolitan Council that it will forfeit \$4.5 million in federal funding secured nearly ten years ago to construct two segments of bicycle and pedestrian trail adjacent to the CP rail line within and extending from the Ayd Mill Corridor. The city was not able to negotiate an agreement with the CP railroad to construct the trails on CP right of way.
2013	Union Park District Council submitted an unsuccessful Capital Improvement Budget proposal asking for 2014/2015 funding for a community process to identify a preferred solution for the north end of Ayd Mill Road.
2014	Green Line light rail begins service on University Avenue.
2016	A-Line bus begins service on Snelling Avenue and the Vintage development opens at Selby and Snelling.
2019	Allianz Field opens in Saint Paul's Midway area.
2019 March	City Council approves its 2040 Comprehensive Plan, titled Saint Paul for All. The plan shows Ayd Mill Road as a future bikeway (Appendix Map T-3, page 80).
2019	Mayor Melvin Carter proposes converting the east side of Ayd Mill Road to bicycle and pedestrian trails and converting the west side to two-way traffic.
2019 Oct-Dec.	Union Park District Council consideration of Mayor Carter's proposal.

Notes about an Environmental Impact Statement:

For major transportation projects, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that a range of alternatives be considered and that their environmental impacts be analyzed. This type of study is required prior to the commitment of federal funds to any major project, or prior to any action taken by a federal agency that might cause a significant impact on the environment.

Goals in Saint Paul's 2040 Comprehensive Plan:

Policy T-21. Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 40% by 2040 by improving transportation options beyond single-occupant vehicles. Policy T-22. Shift mode share towards walking, biking, public transit, carpooling, ridesharing and car sharing in order to reduce the need for car ownership

Christine Iverson (Phone Call) - Ayd Mill

Bike lanes on Ayd Mill are unnecessary; it's now way too expensive as well. Just do the basic needs / straight Mill and Overlay and fixes needed under the bridge. There's already too much traffic on Lexington affecting the homes. Get rid of the bike lanes on Ayd Mill.

From: Trek Guy <trek5200r@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 11:32 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: support for adding the bicycle and pedestrian path to Ayd Mill Road.

Ms Noecker,

I am contacting you to let you know I strongly support adding the bicycle and pedestrian path to Ayd Mill Road. Any type of major road re-construction that does not include bicycle and pedestrian paths are short sighted at best. And Ayd Mill certainly has the room for trails. It also would be a key component of connecting to the great Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis ... in fact, this area along Ayd Mill could really be the St Paul Midtown Greenway! Thank your for supporting alternative means of transportation in St Paul 😊

Tim Kramer
261 E 5th Street

From: George Henry <george.henrymn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:08 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Suggestion

Hello Rebecca,

I know as a representative of the people you love hearing from all of your Ward 2 constituents. I try not to bother you too much because I know your time is better spent governing rather than reading all of my opinions. There was one topic, since it's in the spotlight, I'd like to weigh my vote on: Ayd Mill Road. As a biking advocate I was very excited at Mayor Carters initial proposal to develop a mixed use transportation line in the Ayd Mill area. When the numbers came out for the cost of the project (10,000,000)...i was less excited. Our city has high taxes as it is. Can we look to close Ayd Mill Road and plant some saplings? The idea of Ayd Mill Park is what the city of St Paul needs.

#AydMillPark

Thank you for representing our community.
George Henry from West 7th

From: Scott Berger <scott.allen.berger@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 11:20 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill - I support reducing auto lanes and adding multi-modal infrastructure

Dear Councilmember Thao,

I have recently read in the news that you are the lone CM opposed to the improvements to Ayd Mill Road. I live two blocks from the dangerous terminus on the NW end, and I strongly believe the status quo is hazardous to me and my family. Furthermore, it is critical that we move toward becoming a more environmentally-sustainable city. This means fewer automobile miles and more share going to bikes, pedestrians, and transit. I support closing AMR to vehicles, but as a compromise, making it a significant multi-modal (bike/ped) trail is a step in the right direction. A minimum of auto traffic would be ideal, particularly since many motorists who use AMR are from outside the city and do not cover its costs in property taxes.

Therefore please support investment in AMR as a bike/ped route, and also please support the future connection of this corridor to the Midtown Greenway. I would be more likely to ride my bike more often, particularly in the winter, if St. Paul provided better, safer, and more direct options. Thank you.

Scott Berger & Family.
1452 Ashland Ave

We are writing in opposition to the proposed changes to Ayd Mill Road which will be heard by the City Council on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Ayd Mill Road started as a state or federal road to connect 35E in the south and 35W in the north by way of I-94 and Highway 280,. We believe that Ayd Mill Road should be given back to the State and connect it to I-94 at Pascal Street. We don't need any bike lanes on this road. There are bike lanes on Lexington and Summit Avenues. At the very least, this matter should be tabled until it is thoroughly studied for the traffic impacts and the costs involved. Thank you.

Barb and Joe Fehrman

From: Ben Hoganson <hogansonb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 8:05 AM
To: Councilmember Thao <daithao@public.govdelivery.com>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road Plan and Pioneer Press

Dear Council Member Thao,
I live in the North End of St Paul and was just reading Joe Soucheray's article in the Sunday Pioneer Press 2/16. I think he's right in that the Ayd Mill project should be limited to its original cost estimate of \$3.5 million for "mill-and-overlay work." The \$9.8 million cost for bike lanes and other infrastructure are unnecessary. I've driven on that road plenty of times. The pothole issue and underlying substrate need to be addressed to eliminate them from happening, but speaking as a citizen and tax-payer, I don't think I'd want to contribute to the extraneous aspects like bike lanes and lighting. We just need the road safe for drivers.

Best regards,
Ben Hoganson
North End of St Paul

From: COLE Peter <PCole@SalonCentric.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 8:25 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd Feed back

Hello,

I just want to start this email by saying that I think Councilmen Thao has done a great job as our representative. There have been few times where I have had to reach out to your office on anything, but when I did you guys got back to me very promptly. I called your office on an abandoned car in front of my house once. You had the police remove it within an hour. I called you to discuss concerns I had about the Buffalo Wild Wings going in on Snelling. That situation didn't go my way, but I definitely felt like you heard me. I can easily see myself voting for him again should he run. I wanted to say that first so you didn't think I was just some angry resident looking to unload.

I am writing today to express my opinion on the Ayd Mill proposed reconstruction project. It has been getting a lot of coverage in the paper from all sides. I want to state that I am flatly against any tax dollars being spent on adding bike lanes or walkway of any kind to Ayd Mill. Shortening roads to expand bike lanes is becoming an epidemic in Ward 1. I live near Kowalski's grocery store. You may be aware that the bike lanes have been widened considerably. I would highly recommend you send an intern down there around 5:00pm so you can see what I see every single night. You will find almost zero bikers using the bike lane. What you will find is almost every car coming within inches of ones another's bumper. You will find regular near misses between cars. You will find cars honking at one another. And you will find pedestrians unable to cross because they are tense. Whoever decided to expend the bike lanes on Grand Ave., in my opinion, should be fired for gross stupidity. People getting injured is not a matter of if but when.

I believe putting bike lanes in Ayd Mill will just create the same exact problem. It will take an already busy roadway and make it worse. And for God sake, there is nothing down there! Where is a biker going to bike to? 35E?!?!? This is nothing but a boutique, luxury project. It is unnecessary. Fix the pot holes. Make the road smoother. That is all fine with me. But for me the money would be better spent fixing already existing roads. Fix the potholes on Hamline. Or, do something really radical, do a better job plowing side streets. The last few years, St. Paul has really become the worst in the state when it comes to plowing. My street always looks like the surface of the moon in the winter. Put the money towards that.

Like I said, I fully support Councilmen Thao. But if we spend millions putting a bike lane somewhere where nobody will bike, then that will be a game changer for me. Eventually I will just pick up and go to Eagan.

Thank you

Peter Cole

From: steph horstman (stephani.horstman@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:49 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Rebecca Noecker,

As someone who appreciates all that living in Saint Paul has to offer, traffic is my least favorite aspect of the Twin Cities. I wholeheartedly support sharing some of the road and committing it to foot and bike traffic. It really does make the city a better place by making its citizens happier and healthier. Besides, that road just ends up being one of the worst for pot holes throughout the year - let's try out a bike and walking path and see if it makes people happier (because every time I hit a pot hole on that road, happy is not the feeling that is increasing!)

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. steph horstman
875 marshall ave
Saint Paul, MN 55104

From: Ed Stockmeyer <ed.stockmeyer@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:16 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill

Councilmember Noecker,

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of moving forward with the Ayd Mill redesign. Probably unsurprising that I favor the project.

I see the project as more than just a single piece of bike infrastructure. It represents a commitment to push Saint Paul toward a more environmentally sustainable transportation plan. Obviously, the project costs money and Saint Paul, unfortunately, doesn't have the resources it should for a city of its size. But at some point this city's leaders have to say, "we have to begin doing the work to limit emissions and change the way our residents commute." Doing nothing or waiting yet another 10 years to truly commit ourselves IS doing something—it resigning us to a hotter, more destructive, more impoverished, and more unhealthy world.

Also, I've heard concerns that annual debt financing for an Ayd Mill bikeway will consume a large portion of the city's annual bike infrastructure budget. That is evidence of how paltry that budget is, not evidence of how expensive this project will be. The city's until-now refusal to actually commit to transit reform (evidenced by that meager annual budget) can't be a reason for not spending in this area. That reasoning is quite unsound.

Again, I know it's hard to commit to spending. But at some point we have to bite the bullet, for the city's sake.

Thanks, as always, for your service and your time. I hope you are well.

Sincerely,

Ed Stockmeyer
233 Banfil Street

From: ronausen <ronausen@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 12:43 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Bike Paths

Hi Rebecca

I live on the 700 block of Fairmount Ave, and have been there for 30 years.

I feel for the next generations who will inherit our environment and its deterioration, and that my generation is responsible for the situation. My very limited action has been to bike ride to work. Last year I completed 100 commutes. The commute puts my life at risk, but I am thankful for improving bikepaths in St Paul.

I hear there is talk to add a bike path to Ayd Mill Rd, for potential future connection to the Mpls Greenway. Please consider supporting this effort!

Ron Ausen

From: Ariel Kagan <arielkagan@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 12:58 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Maki, Taina (CI-StPaul) <Taina.Maki@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Dear Councilwoman Noecker,

I'm writing in regards to this week's vote on Ayd Mill Road. I am a St. Paul resident, and grew up just a block away from Ayd Mill Road. When I was seven years old, I remember going to city council meetings to talk about adding a bike lane to AMR, which would have been great for me because that part of the city really lacks any safe recreational bike paths. I am now 30, and Ayd Mill looks the same as it did when I was growing up. It's disappointing that we as a city have been unable to figure out AMR for over 20 years.

I urge you to vote yes on adding a bike lane to AMR this week. The funding required is more than we expected, but this is an investment in our city -- by creating safe bike paths, we can promote public health, show we take our climate plan seriously, support multi-modal transit, and make AMR a destination rather than an eye sore. So many other cities have seen the economic and social benefit of bike lanes and walking paths through urban corridors -- AMR could be an asset to St. Paul, if we invest in it.

I hope you will vote in favor of this beneficial change for our city's infrastructure. This project has decades of citizen activism, planning, and support and the time is now to finally make this happen.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ariel Kagan

From: Anella Cousin <perly304@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 12:54 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please support bike lanes on Ayd Mill

Council Member Thao:

My commute would be made safer by the current proposal to add bike lanes on Ayd Mill. Currently I commute from Ashland and Victoria to Powderhorn Park neighborhood via Marshall or Summit Avenues and the Greenway. The segment along the Greenway is quick and safe, but the most dangerous parts of my commute are crossing the West River Road and Snelling Avenue. The Snelling Avenue crossing, in particular, has been the site of fatal bike accidents. If the Greenway were extended across the river and along Ayd Mill, both of these hazards would be eliminated for me and thousands of other cyclists.

Please help us commute safely, healthily, and sustainably by supporting the bike lanes along Ayd Mill.

Sincerely,
Carol Dallman
877 Ashland Avenue

From: Michael McCormick <mtmstp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Thao, Kayla (CI-StPaul) <kayla.thao@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Ayd Mill - support for bike-friendly development

Hi Councilmember Noecker and Ms. Thao,
Thank you for your response to my email from last fall (here in this string). I appreciated it and have been following the discussion on transit planning, and Ayd Mill Road in particular.

With the vote on Ayd Mill coming this Wednesday, **I am writing to express my strong support for adding bike and pedestrian lanes there.** This is a rare opportunity to make a major thoroughfare through key parts of our neighborhoods more accessible and friendly to families and people of all ages. I am an empty nest bike commuter to downtown Minneapolis and would use Ayd Mill very actively, as would my cycling friends in the neighborhood. I have also been struck by how my children and their friends from St Paul Central High, who have spent their college and early career years on the coasts, are now considering moving back to our neighborhood, coming from places where alternatives to cars are key elements of daily life and happiness in urban neighborhoods, and how they talk about whether St. Paul is implementing transit innovations to support them as young families. **I urge you to vote yes in support of bike and pedestrian lanes on Ayd Mill.**

Best regards,
Michael McCormick
844 Goodrich Avenue, 55105

From: Deirdre McKiernan <dmckiernan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 10:09 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill

Dear Councilmember Thao-

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Ayd Mill changes to include bike and walking lanes on the northbound side of the road.

Our city will benefit from the designated safe biking lanes that also encourage and support less reliance on cars.

I live very close to Ayd Mill and have watched it deteriorate for over 20 years. I had a cab driver who refused to use that route to take me to the airport! There are very needed updates that must happen and I believe our city will benefit from the proposed changes.

Thank you,

Deirdre McKiernan
1268 Laurel Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

From: Katherine Mennicke <kmennicke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 1:28 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Hello Councilman Dai Thao,

Thank you for your work representing Ward 1.

We are contacting you today to let you know that we appreciate that you have said no to the expansion of the Ayd Mill Road project. We do not need another cost overrun.

That said, we would like to point you and the entire Saint Paul City Council to a letter in the Pioneer Press yesterday, Sunday February 16. The letter from Jerome Johnson of St Paul is titled "Ayd Mill: A 'parkway connector' concept." We think that Mr. Johnson has an excellent and creative proposal, one that is could serve multiple concerns and embraces future hopes and realities.

Therefore, we would urge that Saint Paul use its currently earmarked funds to repave Ayd Mill Road but then begin to work on a collaboration with the state to make Ayd Mill Road a true parkway connector.

Again, thank you for your service.

David and Katherine Mennicke
Ward 1, Saint Paul

From: Gene Johnson <eggag@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 4:35 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: McMahan, Melanie (CI-StPaul) <Melanie.McMahan@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul) <pattie.kelley@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Ayd Mill Road (the AMR Corridor): Proposed Resolution for the Apparent Impasse

Dear Councilmember Tolbert:

I hope you have time to review my email below to Councilmember Jalali. In it, I propose the following three steps toward resolving the Ayd Mill Road (AMR) situation:

- 1) Recognize that Ayd Mill Road is a Regional Corridor
- 2) Remove the burden of AMR from St Paul taxpayers
- 3) Implement the original plan to do the \$3.5M mill & overlay to the existing AMR this year

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Gene

On Sun, Feb 16, 2020 at 4:04 PM Gene Johnson <eggag@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Councilmember Jalali,

My name is Gene Johnson and I spoke with you about Ayd Mill Road (AMR) at Mayor Carter's Birthday Party in January at the Minnesota Music Cafe. I just listened to the recording of the Public Works

Presentation regarding AMR that took place on February 12th. I sincerely hope that you have time to review the following prior to the Council Meeting on the 19th.

First of all, I support the goal of reducing the number of fossil-fuel-based cars on the streets of St. Paul. I also believe that the plan presented by Public Works Director Kathy Lantry is an appropriate redesign of the AMR Corridor. However, I support the reasons put forth by other Councilmembers regarding why this plan should not be implemented this year. Here is my reasoning:

1) **Recognize that Ayd Mill Road is a Regional Corridor** - In your comments towards the end of the meeting, you said,

"...this is part of a long-running community effort to connect Minneapolis & St. Paul through a bike network that would go across the river, through Midway, take people to and past Allianz Field. It would mitigate a lot of the car traffic because we would be connecting people between cities like an actual commuter route and this road is a key leg of it...".

The AMR Corridor could and should be part of this proposed bike-commuter route when it is finally built. However, the study done by the Midtown Greenway Coalition pegged the cost of crossing the Mississippi River on the Canadian Pacific Bridge at between \$7M and \$22M with no sign that Canadian Pacific is willing to grant access to the bridge now or in the future. I am not pointing this out to suggest that doing so is an undesirable goal; I'm merely saying that the needed work on AMR should not be deferred as long as that difficult issue remains unresolved.

The other regional aspect of this are commuters who live in Dakota and Washington Counties. Limiting northbound AMR to one lane may reduce auto traffic on it from those suburbs but not eliminate it. What we should be working toward is using the AMR Corridor as an *Express Bus connection via 35E from the Eagan Transit Station to the Metro A Line stop at Selby and Snelling*. This would support your goal of reducing auto traffic from the suburbs while giving residents of Dakota & Washington County an option on how to access St Paul, Roseville, and Allianz Field without using a car. As much as it's important to give bike riders options, we should not be excluding others in the process.

2) **Remove the burden of AMR from St Paul taxpayers and share the cost of making it a Regional Corridor with Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, and Washington Counties** The most likely way to achieve this is to work in partnership with those counties to convince the State of MN that AMR is a Regional Corridor while putting together a plan that achieves the goals mentioned above.

3) **Implement the original plan to do the \$3.5M mill & overlay to the existing AMR this year, delaying the bike lane & trail, lighting, sewer, traffic lights, etc. while the above efforts are undertaken**. This would free up resources within Public Works for the maintenance of other streets in St Paul. It would also remove the need to commit \$500,000 from the Bike/Ped Fund over the next ten years as currently proposed by Public Works. If AMR is ultimately transferred to the State, future costs will be shared with others and not just covered by St. Paulites alone.

I sincerely hope you will give this proposal serious consideration. Copies will be forwarded to the Mayor and other Councilmembers so they also have an opportunity to consider this option as a realistic resolution. I look forward to seeing you at the 5:30 meeting on Wednesday.

Gene Johnson
1123 Edgumbe Road

From: Manny C. <mannyone1961@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 12:56 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: LeAnn Castillo <leann.castillo@comcast.net>; ward1@ci.stoauk.mn.us
Subject: Ayd Mill Road
Councilman Tolbert,

As a home owner who has lived on the south end of Ayd Mill I urge you to vote no on major changes.

Reducing lanes to add a bike a route(to nowhere) will increase accidents on the road. It will also push traffic on to Lexington Avenue, and other N-S routes, have schools and rec centers nearby. This increased traffic will lead more accidents on those routes.

Vote to only pave the road and make it safe for the neighborhoods and drivers.

Manuel Castillo
[1070 W Jefferson Ave, St Paul, MN 55105](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1070+W+Jefferson+Ave,+St+Paul,+MN+55105)

From: Michaela Ahern <michaela.ahern@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 12:03 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Councilmember Tolbert,
I was initially on board with the City's plan to convert Ayd Mill Road into a 2-way road with bike/ped paths on each side. The newest configuration (2-lanes plus turn lanes) is just more creep towards prioritizing car infrastructure in the city at huge cost. It's a compromise that leaves no one happy and does nothing to solve the problem of Ayd Mill Road. This roadway is built on a spring and will forever need thousands of dollars just to keep it in semi-drivable shape. It's a 2-mile connector that benefits suburban drivers and is a drain on St. Paul city resources.

My new wish? Shut the whole thing down. Close the road, stop pouring money into what has become a literal money pit. Take bold action and stop just following the status quo.

Michaela Ahern
864 St. Paul Ave

From: Peter Mitchell <ptmitchell049@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 4:17 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: And Mill Road

Hi Chris,
I must write in support of creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road. This objective is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan. This is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul. This strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. I understand it

would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road. An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul *for over a decade*. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this for improving the lives of St. Paul residents. Symbolically, it takes our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Don't let this opportunity for progress slip away.

As ever,
Peter

Peter Mitchell
Ward 3

From: Tom Eyre Sr <tweyresr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:59 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd Vote

Chris,

My wife (Elaine Eyre) and I were dismayed to see that there is actually a vote approaching on Melvin Carter's Ayd Mill Road proposal. Please do not vote in favor of that proposal.

We believe that if money is spent on Ayd Mill it should be to make it a true connector to I-94 on the north end (with 2 lanes each direction). That is, it should connect to go west on I-94 from north bound Ayd Mill Rd and connect from east bound I-94 to Ayd Mill going south.

Elaine and I are avid bikers (but not in the winter as we are seniors), so we do not oppose Melvin Carter's proposal because it is supposed to be bike friendly, but rather because we believe that St Paul Streets will be much better and safer if Ayd Mill is utilized as a connector between I-35E and I-94. That will reduce the phenomenal amount of traffic on the Snelling exit of I-94, Selby Ave, and I even believe it will reduce traffic on Lexington and Fairview Ave, making both of them safer for bikers.

Please DO NOT VOTE IN FAVOR of Melvin Carter's proposal.

Thank you,

Tom & Elaine Eyre
530 Fairview Ave S
Ward 3
St Paul, MN 55116

From: Janet Munson <jlmunson44@gmail.com>
> Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2020 3:47 PM
> To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
> Subject: Ayd Mill road

>
> I am writing to strongly object to this road being changed from two lanes each direction to one with the addition of bike lanes. I rarely see bikes using designated lanes with the exception of Summit Avenue. Many of our N/S streets have gone from 4 lanes to two. The gridlock on Fairview, Cleveland, Hamline and Lexington causes huge backups. I never see bikes using Jefferson which has been designated for bikers. That is a natural entrance to Ayd Mill Road. Ayd Mill if rebuilt or resurfaced as 4 good lanes where one doesn't dodge pot holes would help move some of the N/S traffic efficiently. Please maintain Ayd Mill as it is currently used.

>
> Jan Munson
> 1745 Eleanor Ave.

From: GARY FIFIELD <garyfifield@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul) <chris.tolbert@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd.

Chris,

I support the current plan, as I understand it, to have two south-bound lanes and one north-bound lane with a 12' bike/ped lane next to the north-bound lane. Preserving a bike/ped lane is critical. I think an even wider lane would be optimal as there will be bikes in two directions. Pedestrians need a nice wide lane too. The bike/ped lane should be protected, I would think with concrete barriers. I encourage you to approve the plan.

Gary Fifield
1893 Berkeley Ave.

From: William Jones <willpjones3@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 8:43 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please support bike path on Ayd Mill

Dear Councilmember Tolbert,

I hope you will vote in favor of the bonding for the Ayd Mill project with a bike lane. It will provide an important throughway for bikers and help extend the Greenway into St Paul. We don't have enough safe biking routes in our ward.

Sincerely,
Will Jones, 292 Warwick

From: Al Davison <davison.alexander@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:12 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Public Comment on Ayd Mill Road (RES PH 20-50)

Hello,

My name is Al Davison, and am a past resident of Ward 2 (and soon to be resident again in March). I drive, walk, bike, and take transit around St Paul, and visit the area around the Ayd Mill corridor on occasion (mainly along Summit and Grand). Council Member Noecker requested more feedback from her constituents regarding the future of Ayd Mill, so I would to provide my opinion about Ayd Mill Road.

I strongly support adding bike and pedestrian infrastructure in the Ayd Mill corridor, along with reducing the total amount of lanes from 4 to 2.

Given that Ayd Mill Road is just a Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS 195), and not a county or state trunk highway - the city should acknowledge that they can't support maintaining an expressway, nor should they encourage to do so. The city alone can't afford to maintain an 4-lane expressway, and it's unlikely that Ramsey County or MnDOT would take over jurisdiction over Ayd Mill. Therefore, we don't have the funds to keep it as a divided 4-lane roadway over the long-term.

MnDOT currently has a "super-2" layout for US Highway 12, which is a 2-lane highway that bypasses Orono and Long Lake which carries a similar amount of traffic to Ayd Mill (24,500 AADT in 2018 via [MnDOT's Traffic Mapping Application](#)). While people in that area tended to prefer a 4-lane option, MnDOT did not have the funding for it - so they did what they could with their limited funding. We need to acknowledge that we can't always keep maintaining nor building wide roadways, and we need to make the best use of balancing out our funding for roadways. At times we have overexpanded roadways that we can't truly afford from a long-term perspective, and Ayd Mill is a prime example of that.

With a lane reduction of Ayd Mill, there will be some traffic switching over to other minor arterials and collector routes nearby such as Lexington Ave. It is likely most traffic would stay on Ayd Mill though as even with a two-lane layout, the endpoints of Ayd Mill at Selby and 35E are only two lanes anyways. With it's few access points, two lanes is adequate if turn lanes are able to still exist at the intersections with ramps to Hamline, Grand, and St. Clair. It is better to keep regional commuters on trunk highways anyways, as suburban commuters from Dakota County can take Highway 55 instead if they are heading towards Minneapolis and beyond. Two lanes is adequate for Ayd Mill and it would better promote it as a local access route than a commuter route used as a shortcut to avoid stoplights on other nearby roadways.

I used Ayd Mill often to get back to a warehouse on Pierce Butler when I was doing traffic counts around the metro. While I liked being able to use it to to access Hamline easily from 35E, the four lanes seemed unnecessary. It promoted unsafe behavior such as aggressive lane changes and speeding rather than being used to support the minimize traffic congestion (which reminds me of what I constantly see on 4-lane undivided roadways such Dale and Rice St).

Adding a route for people walking and biking would help add a safe route for residents and visitors in this part of Saint Paul, and potentially could connect with the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis in a long-term scenario. A mixed-use path would be an asset to the city and would help improve the city's

goal to become more multimodal. Having a bike route between Marshall and Jefferson would be a great crosstown bike corridor. It would be great to walk/run along Summit and then be able to walk along a rehabbed Ayd Mill.

Reducing Ayd Mill from 4 to 2 lanes along with adding bike and pedestrian infrastructure isn't to penalize drivers (as some may think), it's to create a multimodal corridor that would improve safety for everyone. It would benefit both residents and visitors to the area as it would add more parkland (as a linear park) for the surrounding neighborhoods.

I hope that the Council votes for a multimodal Ayd Mill.

Thank you,
Al Davison

From: James Slegers <james.slegers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:28 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support the Ayd Mill Road project

Councillor Noecker,

As a resident of Summit Hill, a vehicular user of Ayd Mill Road, a bicyclist, and an advocate for St Paul's climate goals, I urge you to support the updated plan to refurbish Ayd Mill Road, removing at least one traffic lane and adding a multi-use path in the Right of Way. Ayd Mill, in its current condition, is unsustainable - it is a massive sink of road repair dollars, and simply re-paving it will at best delay its wear. Any project which reduces the number of vehicle lanes is a good financial goal, reducing the scope of any annual repairs. As long as we have heavy vehicles traveling on a roadway in a creek bed, we will continue to send good money after bad.

Secondly, the construction of a multi-use path in the freed right of way is consistent with the long term plan established for Ayd Mill Road over 10 years ago, and consistent with St Paul's climate action plan. Ayd Mill Road would represent a valuable North-South connector between my friends, bicyclists, recreators, pedestrians, and car-lite families in Mac Grove and W7th. It would support the creation of a St Paul greenway, and provide one of only a few safe off street facilities in St Paul where people can bicycle. Meeting climate goals requires reducing car trips and encouraging non-car modes of transportation. Surveys have shown that one of the main impediments to bicycle use by normal people is a lack of safe infrastructure. If we want to meet our climate goals, we have to become serious about investing in that infrastructure, and Ayd Mill Road is a good place to start.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

James Slegers
183 S Chatsworth St

From: James Slegers <james.slegers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:53 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Support the Ayd Mill Road project

As an addendum, if it was on the table, I would fully support closing Ayd Mill Road entirely, given the ballooning costs to repair.

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of newcoventry@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:37 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Noeker:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul for over a decade. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this that take our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously.

The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jason DeBoer-Moran
961 Eleanor Ave

From: Patrick Williamson <patrick.dean.williamson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 11:53 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road Reconstruction

Councilmember Noecker,

I am writing in regards to the Ayd Mill bike path proposal. I am in strong support of bike paths being added to Ayd Mill Road. Since becoming Saint Paul residents, my partner and I have had a difficult time biking in this city. I am a seasoned year-round cyclist and have felt more unsafe in Saint Paul in recent years compared to Minneapolis. Part of Saint Paul's 2040 Comprehensive Plan is promoting different modes of daily commuting and increasing multi-use pathways. This can be seen in Policies LU-18, LU-39, T-24, T-34, and part of the long-term transportation implementation plan. This bike path would be extremely beneficial to cyclists and pedestrians navigating north or south in this area of Saint Paul as there currently are few safe options. Reducing northbound traffic to one lane will not create a drastic increase in congestion on Ayd Mill Road. If there is congestion in this direction, it is likely coming from the intersection of Selby and Snelling. Bike paths constructed on Ayd Mill Road should be used as an example on how multi-use streets are an effective and sustainable tool in transportation planning and beneficial to communities.

Thank you,

Patrick Williamson
West 7th Resident

From: Benjamin Fribley <benjamin.fribley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 12:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Input on Ayd Mill Road

Hi Rebecca,

While I don't live in St Paul but I bike commute daily, year-round from Minneapolis to work in your ward. I'm writing to strongly urge you to reject a solution to Ayd Mill Road that keeps car traffic along that corridor.

St Paul is in desperate need of proper bike infrastructure that allows people to imagine their lives without cars. By closing Ayd Mill Road to cars, St Paul has an opportunity to create a vibrant public space that will provide value for generations to come. Keeping cars next to it will ensure it's always an orphan—a path like Shepard Road that people will use because they have to, not because they want to.

Beyond that, the financial viability of the project is on the face of it quite poor and the future of St Paul's public works budget depends on rejecting projects like this. Spending millions of dollars to repave an otherwise crumbling road just kicks the can down the road even further, throwing good money after bad.

The city's been trying for almost twenty years to fix Ayd Mill Road. Just shut it down for good.
Thanks,

From: kosfe001 University of Minnesota <kosfe001@umn.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:02 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Dear Councilwoman Prince,

We are residents in the Battle Creek/Highwood Hills neighborhood, voicing our support for reconfiguring Ayd Mill Road so that its bikepath can connect with the planned Greenway Bikepath extension across the river and through St. Paul. We think it would be a much-used community enhancement.

Thank you,
Bill & Jeanne Kosfeld

From: Julian <julian@ballparktours.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 10:15 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: NO ON AYD MILL ROAD

Adding another underused bike /pedestrian route on Ayd Mill Road makes no sense when scrunching lanes will only send more traffic onto other streets like Hamline/ Lexington / Snelling – Currently, I can't access Lexington after 430 at night. Do mill & overlay & someday figure out north end problem!!!

Julian Loscalzo
JEL Consulting / Ballpark Tours
1141 Portland Ave.

From: Becky Palapala <rlpalapala@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Jane Prince <janeprincew7@gmail.com>
Cc: Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Heintz, Polly (CI-StPaul) <polly.heintz@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Ayd Mill Road Project

Thank you, Jane, for your timely and considered response.

I don't personally find the argument that an Ayd Mill redesign will reduce car dependency compelling. My perception is that the street exists primarily for--and is used by--people who are trying to connect to major freeways. That is, people who are passing through in an effort to get to places further away, both within and outside of the city, for whom a bike would not be useful.

I am curious about use studies, if they exist, that show redesigns of this sort would actually result in substantial numbers of people ditching their cars, or if this argument is primarily theoretical/aspirational in nature. My perception is that data-driven arguments are scarce on this issue. It certainly seems

people who are *already* avid cyclists, particularly in Minneapolis, would like the redesign for the potential to connect to the greenway, but that is not the same thing as getting current drivers to ditch their cars and become new cyclists.

Working-class people with families who cannot simply choose to work where they live but must go where the work is are rarely-discussed casualties of commuter-hostile policies. I can't commute between E St. Paul, the U of M, and West 7th on a bike, and certainly not with a small child and her associated gear in tow.

If I may be frank: The level of social capital and economic privilege required to live and work car-free and maintain one's independence is quite high, and it's not a level most of the city is at. It is difficult not to wonder who exactly a project like this serves.

The East Side especially is not a place that can currently accommodate employing all of its residents, so the economic health of the area and opportunities for its residents are dependent on people being able to get to other areas of the Twin Cities with as much efficiency, flexibility, and independence as possible.

Contempt for commuters is growing at the same time living close to good jobs in the city is becoming increasingly unaffordable. It seems to me that environmental and class politics are in very serious tension in St. Paul, and it is not likely those across the city most negatively affected by an Ayd Mill redesign and similarly-motivated projects will be able to muster their voices well enough to compete with the likes of the Sierra Club and its proxies. I am not particularly assured by the promise of public processes, but I hope I am wrong.

I appreciate you connecting me with your colleagues and look forward to hearing about developments as they happen.

Sincerely,
Becky

From: Richard Osborne <rosborne15@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:34 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

I have been a St. Paul resident for almost 40 years and the redesign of the Ayd Mill Road is the most wasteful use of my tax money yet. I am a biker and I can tell you no one is going to use the bike lanes there because they go nowhere. I am a firm believer in alternative transportation, and the redesign is one thought, but not a good one.

Please just resurface the Ayd Mill road and move on with more important road issues, like repaving Edgecumbe/Fairview Avenue.

Richard Osborne
1866 Beechwood Ave

From: Beth Wegener <bwegener@bitstream.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:32 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

I am a recreational bicyclist and my safety is a primary concern as I ride and explore the neighborhoods of St. Paul. Dedicated lanes or paths to get from point A to point B are critical to ensuring this safety. Please take these thoughts into consideration as you work to make Saint Paul all that it can be, remembering that an Ayd Mill Road bike/walk trail has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It's included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

From: Jake Rueter <jake.rueter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:16 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Privratsky, Matt (CI-StPaul) <Matt.Privratsky@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support for Ayd Mill Road Proposal

Hi Mitra,

Just writing to express my support for the proposed curb-separated trail being proposed on Ayd Mill. I appreciate this effort to build safe and comfortable places for people of all ages to walk and bike in what is a challenging corridor.

Thanks for the great work you do!

Sincerely,

Jake Rueter
1347 Blair Ave

From: Jeb Rach <jeb@jebrach.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 8:44 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Public Comment regarding Ayd Mill Road

Councilwoman Mitra Jalali,

I've been following the recent developments regarding the plans of Ayd Mill Road. I'm deeply concerned that we're going to spend far too much money to make what are essentially short-term repairs on a road that needs a long-term solution. The cost for the city to even do the short-term changes proposed are extremely high, especially for a city with as tight of a roads budget as St. Paul's.

Given the high cost, and the current workload that even day-to-day maintenance requires, I would urge a vote to close down Ayd Mill Road, at least temporarily. This will give us time to step back and imagine what this land could be best used for. Instead of spending millions on a band-aid that simply kicks the

can down the road a few years. This would also allow us to immediately see what impacts closing Ayd Mill permanently would have to surrounding neighborhoods and where mitigation efforts may be necessary.

Thanks,

Jeb Rach
1688 Sherburne Ave

From: Brad Engelmann <brad@engelmann.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 8:17 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul) <russ.stark@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd

Mitra, Russ,

I agree with Bill on Ayd Mill. I would shut it down. Save the money. Turn it into a park.

It's not materially affecting auto congestion. Therefore it is foolish to further invest in this street when we have so many other pressing needs.

You folks need to stop spending money thinking you're going to solve social issues namely giving homes to able bodied adults.

This is a city. It's not a state, we live in a country of 350 million people. Yes do our part with climate change but be reasonable; understand that 2 billion people live in China and India so what a few in St Paul do isn't making a dent, materially or symbolically.

Keep it simple. If either of you become governor, then we can talk energy policy and what Minnesota can do.

<https://streets.mn/2020/02/18/facing-dire-straights-saint-paul-should-pull-the-plug-on-ayd-mill-road/>

Brad

From: Bill Siegel <billsiegel.29@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:27 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Facing Dire Straits, Saint Paul Should Pull the Plug on Ayd Mill Road | streets.mn

Hi Mitra,

I live in Midway at Blair and Griggs. I know you're busy but if you have 10 minutes you should read this post.

I occasionally use AMR, but Lindeke is right. If Saint Paul is serious about climate change and spending money responsibly it's time to stop throwing money at this boondoggle.

Thanks!

<https://streets.mn/2020/02/18/facing-dire-straights-saint-paul-should-pull-the-plug-on-ayd-mill-road/>

From: Lisa Nelson <lisa.clare.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:26 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Dear Councilmember Jalali,

Mayor Carter's original proposal for Ayd Mill Road was really exciting, and represented an actual change to the road. The current plan of turning only one lane into a trail right next to a lane of traffic is far less exciting, particularly with the much higher cost estimate.

If the choice is between resurfacing the road either with or without adding a bike lane, I would vote to include the bike lane. Ayd Mill Road is on the bike plan. The Climate Action Plan adopted last year includes buildout of the bike plan as a priority. If the Climate Plan and the Bike Plan are supposed to be meaningful documents, they should be followed when the opportunity arises.

That being said, at this price I don't think a relatively temporary fix for Ayd Mill Road is worth it, even if that means no bike infrastructure for now. Close it. See how much people actually miss it after it's been closed for a year, and in the meantime come up with some more exciting and meaningful alternative plans.

I think with some public engagement and explanation of the actual long-term costs and benefits involved with the various options, you would be able to get a lot of people really excited about making a radical change to Ayd Mill Road.

Thanks,
Lisa Nelson
--
Lisa C. Nelson
432 Herschel Street

From: charissa <charissakeiko@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 12:23 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road funding

Dear Ms. Jalali,
I'm your constituent, and am writing you to express my appreciation of your support for funding the improvements to Ayd Mill Road. I use this road regularly to travel to the assisted living on West 7th

where my family member lives, as well as to access I35E, and I am so thrilled to see the plans for improving it moving forward. I hope you will vote yes to approve the budget's additional \$1.6 million to redesign and re-engineer this stretch of road.

Thank you for all you do for Ward 4 and our community.
Charissa Uemura
1239 Blair Ave

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of catrinaciccone@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:38 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Brendmoen:

One of the things we love about living in the Como neighborhood is the easy access it provides to much of St. Paul's bike infrastructure. We are eager to see even further investment in and development of this infrastructure, creating greater car-free connectivity throughout the city. Thus, as your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul for over a decade. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this that take our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously.

The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Catrina Ciccone
925 Nevada Ave W

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of carolyn.szczepanski@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 6:32 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

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The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Szczepanski
427 HERSCHEL ST

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of ssullivan@greatriverschool.org

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 10:28 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

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I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sheila Sullivan
1653 Ashland Ave.

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of phoenixfyre1313@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:48 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

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I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Richard Franco
1480 Van Buren Ave

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of Warre371@umn.edu
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:37 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

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I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Claire Warren
454 Herschel Street

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:13 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul for over a decade. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this that take our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously.

The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kyle Anderson
825 Berry St

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of cr4day@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 5:04 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul for over a decade. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this that take our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously.

The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Catherine Day
2168 Sargent Avenue

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of jhaskard@hotmail.com

Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 3:52 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

Hi Mitra!

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul for over a decade. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this that take our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously.

The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Joel Haskard
1191 Edmund Ave

From: Beth Leurquin <beth@leurquin5.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:31 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Dear Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson, I am hoping you will be voting against putting a bike/pedestrian path along Ayd Mill Road and instead vote to simply have it resurfaced. The road needs resurfacing, period. We in St. Paul do not have the money to cover extras like a path. I'm doing all I can to keep my husband from wanting to sell our house and move out of St. Paul due to our HUGE taxes!

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Leurquin
Como Park resident

From: Matt Decuir <decuirm@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 4:25 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Bike/ped trail on Ayd Mill

Hi Mitra - I'm a constituent of yours, and I hear there's an upcoming vote on adding a bike/pedestrian trail to Ayd Mill Road. From what I understand, you're already voting yes on this, which I really appreciate.

I just wanted to say you're doing a fabulous job of representing our car-free & renter household. Thanks for being so wonderful!

Matt

From: Brian C Martinson <brian.c.martinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 3:46 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: AMR?

Dear Councilmember Jalali,

Until I learned of the increased price estimate and proposed 1-lane separated bike/ped proposal for Ayd Mill Road, I had been fully in support of Mayor Carter's proposal for AMR. At this point, I'm less convinced that this is the best move to make at this time.

Seeing Public Works Director Kathy Lantry's observation that the road is unsafe for driving on at this point without millions of dollars of investment for a mill and overlay that is quite likely going to need to be redone within 5 years anyway, it seems that another option may have presented itself. Perhaps the City should consider taking the road out of service altogether at this time, as a public safety effort. Let it lay fallow for now. Perhaps this has already been proposed to the Mayor, but perhaps not?

Save those millions of dollars in immediate (and future) repair expenditures. Use the bicycle-fund portions for working on the Capital City Bikeway if possible. When and if the train-trestle from the Mpls Greenway to St. Paul is more fully in play, re-activating AMR as an exclusive bike/ped corridor then might be an option.

I'm really just spit-balling here, but wanted to share the thought with you.

Thanks for all you do for the City!

--

Brian C. Martinson, PhD

From: Luke Walbert <lukewalbert@mac.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 3:03 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Yes to Ayd Mill Road Reconstruction

Hello, Mitra. I am writing to ask for your support for rebuilding Ayd Mill Road. I've lived in the Midway area since 1989 and in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood since 1995. I have used Ayd Mill to commute to my job in Eagan since 2013. But the surface has gotten so bad that I've taken to using Lexington to get down to the Randolph/35E ramp. I've tried using Hamline Avenue to Montreal/Shepard Rd/35E but Hamline is only slightly less bumpy than Ayd Mill.

It doesn't matter to me whether it's rebuilt as a four-lane or two-lane with bikeway. I think the two-lane will work just as well. The 1.5-mile length doesn't provide much passing time. Phalen Parkway and Pierce Bulter are also two lane (with boulevard in one case and center left-turn lane in the other), so having Ayd Mill also with a two-lane solution would be consistent. As long as its north-bound left turns and south-bound merges into traffic are handled in a way that prevents backups, I don't think we need to cater to pass-through drivers trying shave seconds off their commute by providing a passing lane.

A definitive long-term solution to Ayd Mill Road is way overdue. It's been studied to death. In 1997, when the Ward 4 seat was open and several candidates were running, I served on the candidate information committee for the DFL endorsing convention. One of our questions to the candidates was about solutions for Ayd Mill Road. I can't believe that 23 years later, we're still talking about the problem instead of solving it. Mayor Randy Kelly's actions around 15 years ago were definitive, but only regarding the traffic flow. We have to fix the structure, too. Please, support the mayor's plan or some version of it to make Ayd Mill Road the road it deserves to be.

Thank you.

Luke Walbert
1411 Blair Ave.

From: Jeff Bowar <jbowar@mostlybrass.com>
Date: February 19, 2020 at 7:21:38 AM CST
To: "Koziol, Kristin (CI-StPaul)" <kristin.koziol@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road resurfacing

Hello, Kristin,

I am writing about my concerns over the escalating expenses of the Ayd Mill Road project. It seems to me that the best course of action would be to return to the original plan of simply resurfacing the existing roadway. I fail to see the need for a bikeway in that corridor, especially considering the added expense that would incur. And there are so many other streets that need desperate attention, for example Summit Avenue between Victoria and Fairview, and Victoria north of Summit. The condition of those roadways is deplorable! I drive them often as I live just east of Victoria on Laurel and it feels like my car is being slowly damaged by the potholes that have been patched too many times. And I am ashamed that the runners of the Twin Cities Marathon have to endure the surface of Summit each fall.

I have lived in St. Paul since 1982. My wife and I purchased our first home in about 1985, then bought the Laurel property in 1992. I went back and looked at my property tax statements for the last nine years, just to get a sense of the increases that have happened. The market value of my house (as determined by the county) has gone up about 20% since 2011. The amount of my property taxes for St. Paul have increased more than 50% in that same period of time while inflation has remained quite low. And during most of that time, street maintenance fees were a separate bill. I don't believe we can really afford high end projects when the basics are in shambles, and that is the case based on the reports of the city's own departments.

I am now retired and living on a fixed income. I really like living in the city and have never minded contributing to what I think is a good quality of life, but lately it seems we are getting less and less of a return for the investments we are asked to make. And now in addition to the property tax increases, there is going to be a request for a sales tax increase, which is a regressive tax that disproportionately impacts lower income people.

Is this really the best we can do?

Please pass my concerns along to councilman Thao.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bowar

From: Thomas Kottke <tkottke@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 5:30 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: I'd like you to vote to redo And Mill

It needs to get done sometime and will only get more expensive over time.

Tom

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH
571 Otis Avenue

From: "Stuart T. Alger" <sta@mgmlp.com>
Date: February 18, 2020 at 10:24:38 PM CST
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Councilmember Thao:

I write to express my support for the proposal before the Council tomorrow February 19 regarding reconstruction of Ayd Mill Road. I am not convinced that the reconfigured road would result in increased vehicular traffic on neighborhood streets, while a three-lane road with a pedestrian and bike way is a significant improvement over the current road and moves us in the right direction away from Ayd Mill becoming a full interstate connection. I'm guessing our neighbors on Selby would appreciate some relief occasioned by a single north-bound lane. And we need north-south bicycle ways in the City. The \$7.5 million price tag is high and will likely grow, but I understand the work would fix underlying issues that should be addressed and are not likely included in the mill and overlay estimate. And, we would have something closer to a parkway in the corridor, which is an amenity that a mill and overlay will not provide. I have wondered if restoring the old mill stream might be possible, but for now, I hope you will support the reconstruction proposal from Public Works.

Stu Alger
1143 Portland Ave

-----Original Message-----

From: Pam Guthrie (pamela@umn.edu) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:22 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

Making this change to Ayd Mill Road would go a long way to creating a transit way that would address the needs of two under-served constituencies. There are few dedicated bike and pedestrian paths in this neighborhood and they would be well-used.

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Pam Guthrie
1546 Selby Ave

From: Michael Daigh <michael.daigh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:29 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Mr. Tolbert,

I'm writing to urge you and the rest of the council to consider simply closing AMR. If you haven't read Mr. Bill Lindeke's outstanding essay regarding this recommendation, I highly recommend it.

This is an exorbitant expenditure on a highway shortcut for suburban commuters. It makes far more sense for the city to spend the money to pull the rest of the city back from the crumbling infrastructure cliff we are currently at the precipice of. In an ideal world we could just turn it into a greenway that might (eventually) connect to a now notional Midtown Greenway extension. However, simply closing it with some jersey barriers and taking some jackhammers to it would be a far more fiscally responsible thing to do than even spending money on a basic "mill and overlay".

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Daigh

From: Scott Walters <swalters@halsaadvisors.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:00 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill – Again

Good morning, Councilmember Noecker,

With the recent budgetary bad news, I feel the need to write you again regarding Ayd Mill. Previously, I was in favor of either do nothing, or the Mayor's plan to turn half of Ayd Mill into a bicycle and walking multi-use path.

With the latest budget numbers, I think the calculus has changed. That's an awful lot of money for a plan that, as I understand it, only buys about a decade until the entire road needs to be essentially replaced.

It's time to rip off the band-aid. There is no possible way Saint Paul can afford the full replacement in a decade, and it's foolish to throw \$10 million good dollars after bad on that road now. If Saint Paul can't afford a \$100,000 fireworks show, it can't afford this pathway to Dakota County. I'd ask you to recommend to the Mayor that he do a reverse Randy Kelly, and just send public works out to close it late one Friday night. Either that or put up signs that Ayd Mill is now considered a minimum maintenance road, and drivers can enter at their own risk. After posting those signs, just stop all maintenance, snowplowing, etc. No Saint Paulite lives on that street, so it's of little concern to any of us if it falls apart.

After closing all of Ayd Mill to vehicular traffic, the conversion to a multi-use path should be far simpler, less expensive, and able to be completed over time. I understand it would also likely qualify for federal funding.

In other news, my partner and I are excited to be investing in Railroad Island. We'll be building a new Work/Live office/house on Payne Avenue as it runs through the Island, and relocating our company. I think it will be only the second Passivhaus built in Saint Paul – meeting stringent energy use requirements and with solar panels on the roof, it will be carbon negative – generating more electricity than it requires, burning no fossil fuels for heat, and eventually replacing the carbon it took to construct the house. Construction is slated to begin in spring of 2022.

Thanks and best regards,
Scott Walters
101 10th St. E.

From: Josh Metcalfe <josh@clayjars.com>
Date: February 19, 2020 at 10:28:45 AM CST
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Supporting reduction of Ayd Mill traffic lanes

Councilmember Thao,

I'm writing as a Ward 1 homeowner/resident in support of reducing traffic lanes on Ayd Mill Road and creating a new bike trail.

Too much suburban traffic use our neighborhood as a connector between the 35E and 94 freeways - all at a cost to us, St. Paul tax payers. Traffic studies have shown how much extra traffic Selby at Snelling sees because of this lack of freeway to freeway connections.

We want safer roads. We won't get them with people in a hurry to get to Eagan by speeding through our neighborhood as their extended onramp.

Regards,

Josh Metcalfe
1559 Summit Ave

Council Members,

I'm writing to you asking for your support to configure Ayd Mill Road as two lanes for motorized vehicles and with separated bike and pedestrian trails. It's your duty as council members to implement city policies, and we don't have time to waste in addressing the climate crisis. Our own Climate Action Plan calls for reducing driving demand and increasing mode share. We need to do this sooner rather than later, and now is the time to change Ayd Mill for the better. We need you to act for the future. If the costs for the motorized vehicle portion are too great for the budget to bear, I support closing Ayd Mill to motorized vehicle traffic and repurposing it for nonmotorized use and public space.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Heidi Schallberg
Highland Park

From: Russ Yttri (tumbleweedweed@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:32 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

I moved into St Paul from a ring city so I would be less reliant on my car. I drive a lot less relying on my bicycle, walking, and transit. I love being out in the city I live... without driving. BUT, we have a ways to go before many feel safe being out of the car. The more of us that are out there the more attractive it will be to many. Ayd Mill plan for pedestrian lanes will move us in a healthier direction. Less health care and less wear on roads. Thanks.

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Mr. Russ Yttri
658 Greenbrier St

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:27 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Timothy Jung
1489 Sargent ave

From: Matt Tykeson (mtykeson@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:13 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

Biking/walking is better for our health, environment, our community.

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Matt Tykeson
737 Dayton Ave

From: Keith Thompson (keithclockt@icloud.com) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:02 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project! This is a public safety project that is long overdue. Please help make it easier for those of us who choose to bike instead of drive an automobile.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Keith Thompson
1544 Minnehaha Ave East

From: Beth Wegener (bwegener@bitstream.net) Sent You a Personal Message
<automail@knowwho.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:30 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

I am a recreational bicyclist and my safety is a primary concern as I ride and explore the neighborhoods of St. Paul. Dedicated lanes or paths to get from point A to point B are critical to ensuring this safety. Please take these thoughts into consideration as you work to make Saint Paul all that it can be, remembering that an Ayd Mill Road bike/walk trail has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It's included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ms. Beth Wegener
1768 Hewitt Ave

From: Lisa Roe (lisa.roe.lv@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message <automail@knowwho.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:36 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote YES on funding Ayd Mill Road's transformation!

Dear Ms. Nelsie Yang,

This compromise plan best meets the needs of our city and it's residents. Ayd Mill is an important artery and this transformation addresses that while also providing additional eco-friendly transport routes.

I'm your constituent, and writing you to express my strong support for funding Ayd Mill Road! Transforming Ayd Mill Road to a high quality bicycling and walking amenity for Saint Paul has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It is included in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remain a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is one key leg of what can eventually be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our city. Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away.

I hope you vote YES to fund the Ayd Mill Road project!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lisa Roe
737 Dayton Ave

From: Nita Hanson <nitahanson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 6:22 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Chris Tolbert

I understand there will be a city council vote tomorrow about the redesign of Ayd Mill Road. I also understand you are in favor of including a bike/pedestrian path with this reconstruction. I would like to thank you for that.

I can't make it to the meeting tomorrow but wanted to state one of many reasons why the bike/ped path should be added. Because the Climate Action & Resilience Plan basically says so. In this plan it states that the city needs to reduce car travel and increase transit, walking and biking. Rebuilding Ayd Mill Road as a car only road would go against this plan. We need more walking and biking infrastructure throughout the city. The more we make walking and biking easier and safer, the more people will start reconsidering using their cars every time they want to go someplace.

Thank you again for supporting the bike/ped lane.

Nita Hanson

From: Christina Morrison <christina.n.morrison@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:45 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Close Ayd Mill

Councilmembers Tolbert, Jalali, and Noecker:

I am writing you again today to express my support for a meaningful transformation of Ayd Mill Road into a bike/ped trail. The recent news of ballooning costs for maintaining auto uses on AMR show how quickly it can drain our citywide streets budget if it is focused on moving autos instead of providing a safe and high-quality trail connection. As a resident of Ward 3, I have no interest in keeping cars on Ayd Mill, and certainly not in three of the four lanes. Please focus street repairs and safety improvements on our neighborhood streets, not on an urban freeway that doesn't generate value for our community.

Rather than implementing a more expensive, auto-oriented improvement, the council should consider closing the road immediately. I was told in 2019 (below) that Ayd Mill needed funding because it was not safe for driving or even for city staff to repair due to the paving condition. Facing that situation, why not close it? The road was closed for many years, and only reopened as a "test condition" without council approval. Is it so unimaginable to consider closing it again for a period?

I recognize that the council has concerns about traffic spilling onto local streets. Instead of being driven by fear and speculation, a closure period would allow staff to collect actual data on traffic changes. If local street traffic calming is deemed necessary, it could be meaningful and strategic.

As I noted almost a year ago in my March 2019 email below, closing Ayd Mill won't be easy now, and it certainly won't get easier the longer you wait. Please consider deferring this auto-centric design and close AMR until the City can present a cohesive, informed vision that is consistent with the recently-adopted Climate Action Plan.

Thanks for your consideration,
Christina
2110 Highland Parkway

From: Christina Morrison <christina.n.morrison@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 22, 2019 at 12:22 PM
Subject: Strong support for Mayor's Ayd Mill plan
To: ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us <ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
CC: Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul) <russ.stark@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Councilmember Tolbert,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Mayor's plan for Ayd Mill. As a resident and taxpayer, I am thrilled to see the city making street design changes that counter climate change, reduce our auto dependence, save money, and could save a life of a person on foot or a bicycle. Ayd Mill Road will transform walkability, biking, and transit use in Saint Paul, and be a legacy project for this council. Like the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, people will wonder how we ever lived without this major trail connector.

As we see at National Night Out, Grand Old Day, and Highland Fest every year, community flourishes when we take back our streets and give them to people. What if we prioritized community over cars more than a couple days a year? I support you in any work you pursue to narrow streets, provide more usable space for people, reduce impervious surfaces, and lessen wear and tear on our roads.

As a transit-reliant household, I can also see the great potential for improved bus service on the A Line and future B Line due to less traffic at Selby at Snelling. I can even envision a future where my kids and I can ride bikes on Ayd Mill to Allianz Field, along with thousands of other fans.

As you know from previous emails, this is something that I feel strongly about and would like to see you support. I have lived in Saint Paul for 19 years, and it's safe to say I've never been as excited about a street project as I am about this improvement!

Thank you,
Christina Morrison
2110 Highland Pkwy

From: Steve Subera <ssubera@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:30 AM
To: #Ci-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill

Dear Councilmember Jalali,

I've lived near Ayd Mill for 20 years and have followed the ups and downs of that road. It's been useful and useless for me at various times. I recently watched the video of the meeting last week with Director Lantry and I'm aware of the new options for the road. I think it will be a waste of money and shows extremely poor planning on the city's part.

I think the city should shut down the road and conduct a valid traffic study to end debate about where all the traffic will go. My hope is we'll find out that we can do without the Ayd Mill connection and that would provide great clarity for its future.

Sincerely,
Steve Subera
1644 Laurel Avenue

From: Mark Thieroff <thie0030@umn.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:19 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: AMR

Hi Mitra,

This is just a quick note to tell you I really hope we can make changes to Ayd Mill Road that improve biking and pedestrian conditions.

Thanks!
Mark Thieroff
1438 Chelmsford St.

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 9:43 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Dear Councilmember Jalali,

I write on the topic of the proposed construction on Ayd Mill Road. This article by Bill Lindeke from streets.mn does a good job of summarizing my thoughts:

<https://streets.mn/2020/02/18/facing-dire-straights-saint-paul-should-pull-the-plug-on-ayd-mill-road/>

I agree strongly with this article and demand the City Council stop allocating city resources into dangerous and damaging fossil fuel infrastructure in the face of climate catastrophe and ecosystem collapse. Sinking our resources into roads built for private cars, an unjust form of transportation, is therefore unjust. Below is a direct quote from the article,

"In an era when Saint Paul is so desperate for street maintenance dollars that it's turning to a regressive sales tax to fix streets, we can no longer afford to coddle suburban commuters with huge expenditures from the city's tax base. Instead of doubling-down on a sunk-cost 1950s freeway that will make the city's climate goals all the more impossible to achieve, Saint Paul leaders should make a win-win decision: simply close the road, let the cars fall where they may, and let's have a straightforward conversation about Saint Paul's priorities."

Thank you,
Sienna Nesser

Ward 4 constituent
1178 Gibbs Ave

From: Stephanie Martineau <lcedancer_sjm@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 8:29 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd

Sir:

I live on Summit Avenue near Hamline and use Ayd Mile often. Many from elsewhere use it, too, as a way from I-94 to 35E. The condition of the road is terrible and way overdue for the mill and overlay that was scheduled for this coming season. I fear that it will deteriorate to the point that it will be closed indefinitely if the re-surfacing is delayed. The studies done 20 years ago do not take into account current traffic conditions, such as demands made by Allianz field. Please vote to proceed with the resurfacing planned for this season and delay a decision on the proposed conversion to bike lanes until a study is done. I'm all for alternative transportation—I take the bus to the fair and the green line to Target Field. I drive an electric vehicle. But I question the expenditures on bike lanes without more information. I have yet to see a bicycle on the stretch of Grand at Kowalski's converted to bike lanes while the Summit bridge is being replaced. I think the greater good will be served by fixing the road this season and making plans for bike and walking paths after due consideration.

Stephanie Martineau
1474 Summit Ave

From: Rebecca Tryon <tryon019@umn.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 11:29 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd

Hello Council Member Yang,

I am reaching out as a resident of Ward 6 to ask for your support of the Ayd Mill Rd Bike/Pedestrian Trail. I am both a bike commuter and car commuter who regularly uses this road and feel I can speak to both sides of this issue.

Increasing biking and pedestrian infrastructure is critical for this city. I support this project for the following reasons:

- 1. Public Safety:** I support any project that makes commuting safer for drivers, busers, walkers, and bikers alike and the data demonstrates that this type of infrastructure not only makes biking/walking safer, it makes driving safer as well.
- 2. Equity in Access:** It is an important move for equity in our neighborhoods as car-focused systems exclude the needs and safety of communities that are unable to drive for financial, health or mobility reasons. It is also a critical juncture for the efforts to connect the Twin Cities with one united bike highway (the greenway) which would move bikers and pedestrians away from congested roadways to safer transit where they can engage with the environment more promoting mental and physical health for our communities.
- 3. Climate Change and Health:** The effects of climate change from transit are detrimental to the health of our citizens (for example, air pollution is linked by our own department of health to thousands of respiratory and cardiovascular deaths) and these effects are most impactful to the communities closest

to highways/interstates. Car-centered transit also contributes to climate change which again disadvantages communities with the least financial means to mitigate the effects both in our city and in the larger, global community.

I personally feel a moral obligation to help address these issues in our community and I hope you do as well. If so, please vote YES for improving the biking/walking infrastructure on Ayd Mill Rd.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal and thank you for serving our community.

Best regards,
Rebecca
Best wishes,
Rebecca Tryon MS, MA, LGC

From: Amber Dallman <amber.dallman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:05 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill

CM Tolbert,

Please know I support the Mayor's plan for Ayd Mill, and ask that you do too.

Ayd Mill is a connection that is close to my family. It's a place we mostly walk and bike across, and I'm constantly reminding my kiddos to watch out for people driving turning on and off.

Thanks for all you do.

Take care,
Amber

From: Stuart Knappmiller <stuartknappmiller49@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 11:56 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Nelsie Yang <nelsieyang@gmail.com>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

As a Sierra Club Bike Tour Monitor and Midtown Greenway member I ask you to support the current plan for an Ayd Mill Road bike/walk trail which has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by residents and city leaders. It's included in our Saint Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of our City's Comprehensive Plan.

Creating off street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remains a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone.

The Ayd Mill Road trail is a critical piece of what someday will be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi River, and into Saint Paul. This green corridor will connect many neighborhoods from the River, all the way to West 7th.

This is a significant climate action step for our City.

Thanks for your support for all St Paul citizens on this vote.

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a prior commitment, but look forward to meeting with you in March. Thanks for setting that date.

Stuart Knappmilller

From: Maggie Druschel <maggie.druschel@gmail.com>

Date: February 19, 2020 at 12:49:43 PM CST

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Rd.

Dear Council member Thao,

With the vote on the future of Ayd Mill Rd. occurring tonight, I want to again add my voice of support for you to please vote in favor of the current proposal, to keep the two southbound care lanes and the one northbound lane, and converting the other lane into a 12 foot bike and pedestrian trail. This bike/walk trail has been studied, planned, and supported for decades by the residents of the city, and is included in the St. Paul Bicycle Plan, which is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Creating off-street paths is one of the best ways to ensure that bicycling and walking remains a convenient, safe, and accessible option for everyone. The Ayd Mill Rd. trail is a critical piece of what someday will be a transformative connection from the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis, over the Mississippi and into St. Paul. It would help create a green corridor connecting many neighborhoods from the river all the way to West 7th. It would also be a significant climate action step for our City.

Please don't let this once in a generation opportunity slip away!

Thank you for taking action,

Maggie

From: DALE A JOHNSON <johnsondale1@msn.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:27 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Road

Dear Sir, I oppose the plan for Ayd Mill Road. The bike and pedestrian idea doesn't fit, we need to resurface and keep all four lanes. We have spent enough money on bike lanes and I ride a bike. Please quit sucking up to the Mayors Ideas and represent the people you are supposed to serve. Thank You Dale

From: warren bartholomew <wjbartholomew@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:36 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: bike/ped trail to Ayd Mill Road

bike/ped trail to Ayd Mill Road. Please vote Yes

From: John Gappa <johngappa@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:59 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Resurface Ayd Mill Road

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Council Member Tolbert,

Please vote for resurfacing Ayd Mill Road and not the conversation to any bike or walkway options. I see the resurfacing as the only fiscally responsible choice in light of the significant infrastructure needs our city is facing.

Sincerely,

John Gappa
1480 Edgcumbe Road

From: Dmsp Dmsp <dmsp52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 12:02 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Oppose Ayd Mill Road plan

Dear Councilman Tolbert and Council President Brendmoen,
I have been a St Paul resident for 35 years living in MacGroveland. I live between Snelling and Ayd Mill Rd so am very aware of the history of Ayd Mill. I **strongly oppose** plans to reduce the roadway to 2, or now 3 lanes. I oppose it for a number of reasons:

- Yes, Ayd Mill is in need of major repair, if not reconstruction. It serves a much needed artery to move traffic through the neighborhood, not into the neighborhood. It also serves as a valuable artery for moving residents of St. Paul to work and to locations for other life needs in the south metro (it is not only used by suburban commuters!)
- The logic of the proposed changes just aren't there without more study/statistics to demonstrate that reducing lanes will reduce auto use or that a bike lane and pedestrian walkway would be used enough to merit pushing traffic into the neighborhoods. (Simply reducing traffic lanes will not automatically insure drives will go out of their way to find alternate routes that aren't on city streets.) Especially with the increased cost of the current proposal this would be a short-sided and poor investment of taxpayer investment.
- I am a biker, as well as an auto user, so I understand the desire to have a bike lane, but not at the expense of the traffic lane reductions. In the past, there was a plan or study that said there was room for a bike/pedestrian way along that stretch even with the four-lane roadway. Why has that not been considered? Could that not be added when funding is more available?
- I hate to say it, but St. Paul residential streets are an embarrassment. We need to be investing in real street improvement instead of cutting everything short and only patching

pot holes year after year (And, pot holes on my street weren't repaired last year until Sept.!). I grew up on a farm and drove on field roads that were better than many residential streets here. Over my years in St. Paul I have seen a gradual decline and neglect of decent street maintenance and reconstruction. We are about at a point of no return. I understand Ayd Mill is city funded, but why not at least explore making it a county or state artery that would make it eligible to be tapped for county or state transportation funding?

I believe that moving ahead with the proposed plan, especially with the significant additional cost added to the proposal, would be a poor decision. Fix the current four-lane Ayd Mill Rd artery and keep the traffic moving through, instead of into, the neighborhood. Add bike and pedestrian access as real statistics merit that addition and funding is available.

I strongly oppose the current proposal and urge you to consider opposing it as well.

Thank you,
David Moen
1451 Sargent Ave

From: Kathy Lamp <lampkathy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:12 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

I do not support making the road two lanes and multi purpose. I do support fixing the deteriorated condition for the thousands of cars that use the road to connect to 35E or to connect 35E and 94. The traffic congestion at Selby and Snelling, at Randolph and other points of access to use Ayd Mill is not going away by wishing it away. The lack of connection between the two freeways should be addressed before placing more barriers to access.

From: Andreas Hipple <andreas_hipple@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:23 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: RES PH 20-50
Dear Councilmember Jalali:

Many thanks for your continued strong representation of Ward 4. I am writing in strong support of the plan to turn two of the Ayd Mill Road lanes into bicycle/pedestrian lanes. While I'd eventually love to see the whole road shut down to autos, I believe support for moving to two lanes is an important step at this time.

Many thanks for your consideration and leadership.

Best Regards,
Andreas Hipple
1685 Englewood Ave.

From: Kari <kari@coadworks.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 2:22 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Rd

We support the proposal to reduce traffic lanes on Ayd Mill Rd and add protected bicycle and pedestrian paths. Ayd Mill Rd clearly needs attention and if money is to spent on this road, we would prefer to see it include infrastructure for safe cycling/walking. Please vote to fund this project.

Kari & Amy Coad
MacGrove

From: Howard, John <john.m.howard@medtronic.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:23 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill
Mitra:

Please fix Ayd Mill. It is no longer passable as a road. I don't care if its 2, 3 or 4 lanes. It just needs to be fixed.

I've been in St Paul for 24 years and there has been no tangible, permanent improvement of this vital roadway.

Please get this done in 2020.

Thank you.

John & Colleen Howard
1641 Laurel Avenue

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com <mailagent@thesoftedge.com> On Behalf Of henaov@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 12:04 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: It's Time to Transform Ayd Mill Rd - Please Vote YES

Dear Councilmember Jalali:

As your constituent, I want you to know I am excited about plans to create a new off-street path for people biking, walking, and rolling on Ayd Mill Road. I ask that you vote YES to fund this transformative project.

Creating a new biking and walking trail along Ayd Mill Road is already part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, is an important step toward a Greenway Extension in Saint Paul, and strengthens the overall bicycle

network by connecting existing bike facilities. It would happen as part of other scheduled maintenance work on the road.

An Ayd Mill trail has been discussed in Saint Paul for over a decade. It's time to act on transportation improvements like this that take our climate crisis and local mobility challenges seriously.

The current proposal to keep three lanes of car traffic on Ayd Mill and convert one lane into a protected 12-foot trail will help bicyclists and pedestrians move safely and easily through the city. At the same time, it is already a scaled-back version of what had previously been proposed.

I don't want this opportunity for progress to slip away or get watered down even further. Just maintaining this road as it is isn't good enough. Please vote yes and ensure the Ayd Mill bicycling and walking trail has the funding it needs to move forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Victor Henao Navarro
1967 Grand ave

From: Peter Dahl <dahl.pete@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:45 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Funding for Ayd Mill Rd
Hello,

I live on Laurel Ave in your district, I vote in every election, and I think we need to fund a fix for Ayd Mill Rd.

I know this project is getting a lot of attention, as it should due to the condition of Ayd Mill Rd.

My family uses Ayd Mill Rd on a regular basis, and I find it essential to connect our neighborhood with the South metro.

I urge you to support funding for the Ayd Mill Rd project.

If you'd like to discuss further, or if I can be of assistance in advancing this project, please let me know.

Thanks,
Peter Dahl

On Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 8:16 PM Brad Engelmann <brad@engelmann.us> wrote:
Mitra, Russ,

I agree with Bill on Ayd Mill. I would shut it down. Save the money. Turn it into a park.

It's not materially affecting auto congestion. Therefore it is foolish to further invest in this street when we have so many other pressing needs.

You folks need to stop spending money thinking you're going to solve social issues namely giving homes to able bodied adults.

This is a city. It's not a state, we live in a country of 350 million people. Yes do our part with climate change but be reasonable; understand that 2 billion people live in China and India so what a few in St Paul do isn't making a dent, materially or symbolically.

Keep it simple. If either of you become governor, then we can talk energy policy and what Minnesota can do.

<https://streets.mn/2020/02/18/facing-dire-strights-saint-paul-should-pull-the-plug-on-ayd-mill-road/>

Brad

From: Brad Engelmann <brad@engelmann.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 2:23 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul) <russ.stark@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Ayd Mill Rd

I will add that if the state wants to take over the road, that could be an option. If you have to close it for the state to step up and provide direct aid for it or take over completely, then shut it down. Has the city approached MNDOT about this? Or people at the legislature? I would think the legislators from Dakota county would at least be receptive to a conversation.

You can't responsibly keep pouring money into this municipal street when our PW budget is a black hole. If it's true 1/3 of our pothole resources are spent on this one road, that's ridiculous.

At some point things have to be about money and fiscal responsibility. If we can't afford it, shut it down. Lay out this argument to the neighborhoods around it.

From: James Larson <laronjames1000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 2:47 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road and Street Violence
Council Person Tolbert,

I am strongly opposed to the plan to reconstruct Ayd Mill road with significant cost for pedestrians and bikes. You politicians continue to ignore the reality of the low percent of people who walk or bicycle

and bicycling is only a viable mode of transportation for all but a few hardy fools for about 6 months of the year. To spend large sums of money for the benefit of the few is irresponsible and not fair to the tax payers. Also, I have a hard time thinking of who would choose to walk this route given the heavy traffic as well as the likelihood of being target for crime.

St. Paul is increasingly not an affordable city for those of us who pay taxes. My property tax for 2020 is around \$6000.00 for a 1.5 story house with about 1500 square feet of house on a 40 ft. wide lot. This is excessive. It's more than double what my siblings in suburbs with big houses pay and they have excellent streets with excellent street maintenance and snow plowing. The extravagant spending for Ayd Mill Road would be better spent on our major city streets. I think that the road should just be reconstructed as is without any improvements.

The city should also prioritize money for dealing with the crime wave sweeping large portions of Saint Paul. The recent car thefts by minors who have used those cars in commission of violent crimes by suddenly jumping out and attacking people. Another example is multiple teens ambushing a jogger and beating him severely with a billy club just to steal his cell phone. These crimes are truly frightening since none of us are capable of defending ourselves from these types of attacks. It's pretty bad when you no longer feel safe to walk in your own neighborhood due to the threats from marauding band of teenagers making use of stolen cars. St. Paul is well on the path to the type of decay that happened in Detroit. The city council had better get a grip on street crime rather than on extravagant spending for road upgrades,

I find St. Paul to be increasingly non-livable, non-walkable non-affordable city. The only reason that I don't move is that I can't afford the costs associated with moving. Perhaps I will be killed by one of the thugs in your city and that will take care of my problems.

Jim Larson
1231 Highland Parkway

From: Diane Bell <diane.bell22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 2:59 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Ayd Mill Road

I am contacting you today to say we do not need another high cost project in the city of St. Paul while basic services are substandard.

In a letter in the Pioneer Press on Sunday February 16, Mr. Johnson had a comprehensive and collaborative proposal, one that is could address many concerns and dreams for future use of AMR.

He proposed the following:

- 1) Recognize that Ayd Mill Road is a Regional Corridor
- 2) Remove the burden of AMR from St Paul taxpayers
- 3) Implement the original plan to do the \$3.5M mill & overlay to the existing AMR this year

My choice would be to close it now and move to #1 and #2 and then create a new plan for the use with the State of MN and other involved entities. I don't know if that will be an available option tonight at the meeting.'

I don't believe we can really afford high end projects when the basics are in shambles and property taxes keep rising.

Therefore, I would urge that Saint Paul City Council to close it now, if that isn't possible, use its currently earmarked funds to repave Ayd Mill Road but then begin to work on a collaboration with the state to make Ayd Mill Road a true parkway connector.

Diane Bell

1802 Beechwood Ave

From: Stephen Rubis <stephenrubis@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 3:00 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3 <Ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Ayd Mill Road (No Bike Lane)

Councilmember Tolbert,

Please do not approve the plan for a bike lane on Ayd Mill Road. If the city of St Paul is truly out of money and intends to go for a 1% sales tax to pay for roads, then we need to use our money more wisely. Why would we pay double to repair a road when so many other roads in St Paul are a disaster. Last year when you were doorknocking, we spoke about the roads and how you supported getting more funding for our roads. Since then, the road out front of our house (Sheridan Ave between Prior and Edgumbe) is a disaster. My mom and stepdad were in town last weekend and were making fun of terrible the road was. I invite you to drive this road, and tell me your honest opinion.

If you truly care about the wear and tear on people's vehicles due to poor road conditions, then we need to maximize our dollars.

Gregory Tieder re Ayd Mill Road

Lives in Ward 3 and called to express his opposition to excessive amount of spending for Ayd Mill other than what was originally proposed. Spending has gotten out of hand, and city needs to keep in mind maintenance of streets.