

Councilman Bill Finney  
320-C City Hall  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West  
Saint Paul MN 55102



Cc: Councilmen Dai Thao & Dave Thune

March 16, 2015

Dear Councilman Finney;

I would like to express Mississippi Market's support for the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan. While we haven't digested every detail of the 106 page report we do, in principle, support Saint Paul moving forward with a carefully planned investment in encouraging and supporting bicycle transit.

Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op has a long standing commitment to fostering sustainability at all levels of our business. Encouraging bicycle transportation has been a part of our sustainability policy since it was adopted in 2007. We were early supporters of Bicycle Benefits—a program that provides for a 5% discount for customers who ride their bike to our stores. In our last fiscal year, this amounted to over \$6,000 in discounts. At both of our existing stores we provide ample bike parking, shower rooms for staff who bike commute, and, at our West Seventh store, a permanent bike repair station.

We look forward to the opening of our third location on Saint Paul's East Side this fall. This vibrant, active community is in need of additional transportation options for its residents. We are committed to hiring from within the neighborhood, and bicycling infrastructure will provide for needed transportation equity.

With two stores located on proposed bike routes, East and West Seventh streets, we look forward to the continued development of these communities. I believe that the proposed bike plan will be mutually beneficial to our business and the city at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Gail Graham".

Gail Graham  
General Manager