

From: Amy Schwarz

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 10:17 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7; Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul); Stark, Russ (CI-StPaul); Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul)

Cc: Samantha Henningson; Kantner, Libby (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_Mayor; Xiong, Mai Chong (CI-StPaul); Maki, Taina (CI-StPaul); Renstrom, Scott (CI-StPaul); OBrien, Kim (CI-StPaul); Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul); Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); Collins, Reuben (CI-StPaul)

Subject: Cleveland Avenue Bike Lane and Parking Mitigation

Councilmembers,

I encourage you to support the implementation of bike facilities on Cleveland Avenue (RES PH 16-93) and modifications to the parking permit areas (RES PH 16-68--16-70) which will be discussed on Wednesday, March 16th.

Last fall, I was a member of the Cleveland Avenue Bicycle Corridor Community Working Group, a group established by Councilmembers Stark and Tolbert to review and recommend a north south bike route between Prior Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard. As a member of this working group, I dedicated many hours to attending meetings, researching, reading comments and suggestions and talking to friends and neighbors. I had productive and meaningful conversations with many of the business participants along Cleveland, including the owner of Davanni's, Trotters, a Child's View Daycare, Accolades Salon and the tenants in the building on Cleveland and Randolph. I also biked and drove on the roads proposed as options.

Although I had testified for the Cleveland bike lanes last August, I took a step back and looked at all the options equally while I was on the working group. It was clear that each option had different advantages and disadvantages. Based on all the information above, I voted for Cleveland Avenue as the best road for bike lanes in this corridor of St. Paul. Cleveland had the support of the majority of the Working Group members, including representatives from both St. Thomas and St. Catherine's Universities.

Our Working Group highlighted the need for some parking mitigation strategies for the business owners and customers on Cleveland. The City staff has proposed smart and fair parking mitigation strategies that address the parking concerns raised during this process.

I encourage you to support the recommendation of the Working Group, Council President Stark, Councilmember Tolbert and City Staff. There has been extensive community engagement and involvement throughout this process. Unfortunately, some residents disagree with this proposal and continue to make divisive and disappointing statements about the process and the decision. The City and the Working Group went above and beyond to solicit public comments and feedback. Although some residents disagree with the decision, roads are public spaces and need to be shared with all transportation users. Our City and its residents are moving towards multi-modal transportation and adding bike facilities Cleveland support this shift. In

addition, the bike lanes on Cleveland will become even more important as density in this area of St. Paul increases with the development of the Ford Plant.

Again, I encourage you to support the bike lanes and parking mitigation implementation on Cleveland Avenue in St. Paul this year. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Amy Schwarz, J.D.