

Dear Christina and Russ,

I am unable to attend the city council meeting this evening at which the proposal for Charles Ave redesign will be discussed. I do want to communicate to you my utmost support for this initiative and I hope this message will suffice as citizen input. I think it is both important and necessary for the vitality of our neighborhoods to support efforts that give non-motorized traffic modes a place to be. The Charles Ave redesign is strategically important too since it provides an East-West bike and pedestrian thoroughfare so close to University Ave. St. Paul could certainly benefit from more of these sorts of street designs, especially in the North - South directions, but this is a needed improvement and I think an important first step in creating a proof-of-concept for the Friendly Streets Initiative that can serve as a demonstration for other residents in St. Paul to consider.

I know some of the features of the Charles Ave redesign are met with controversy. In particular, I'm thinking of the medians that will be installed on Snelling Avenue, which will remove the option to make a left turn onto Charles for southbound Snelling Ave traffic. I can understand why some would find this inconvenient, but it is just that, an inconvenience and one imposed upon a mode of transportation that is speedy and nearly effortless.

I firmly believe that St. Paul can and should do more to redesign streets, especially streets like Snelling, as pedestrian- and bike-friendly transportation options and so I support without exception the Charles ave redesign as proposed by the Friendly Streets initiative.

best regards,

Dan Trudeau  
1277 Minnehaha Ave W  
St. Paul 55104