### **April 13, 2023 - Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Recap**

The information below summarizes feedback heard at the April 13th, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. City staff gave a presentation to Commissioners on the Summit Avenue Regional Trail Plan. A representative from both SOS (Save Our Streets) and the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition gave 4 minute remarks to the Commission, followed by a comment period where over 60 individuals provided comments.

# 1 Safety

- **Priority for Safety** Points about safety brought up by people who both support and oppose the Regional Trail Plan
- **Engineering & Safety** Questions about whether or not a separated facility is safer than the current conditions on Summit Avenue
- Vehicle Conflicts Safety of crossing driveways and intersections; safety for drivers
- More Vulnerable Users Safety of trail for people who are young, elderly, or living with disabilities. Interest for those who are not currently using the bikeways on Summit Avenue

## 3 History

- **Historic Preservation** Concern for the effects relative to historical elements along Summit Avenue with the implementation of a trail
- Historic Destination Importance of Summit Avenue as a historic destination

### 5 Process and Community Engagement

- **Frustration** Concern that voices in opposition to the trail are not being taken into consideration or heard.
- More Time Desire among some for more time to engage with more of the local community; concern that the length of time and amount of engagement has not been sufficient
- Inclusion People at the meeting advocating for people who are very young, elderly, and disabled or those for that could not attend the meeting
- **Process Clarity** Feeling that Plan has been predetermined input and responsiveness is not being seen in the Plan
- **Priorities** Why is this being proposed here and not somewhere else in the City? General concerns about funding priorities and equity

#### 2 Tree Canopy

- Data Discrepancies Concerns about discrepancies between City estimate and independent arborist estimate regarding potential tree loss due to construction
- Value of Trees Importance of trees in for history, shade and cooling, climate resilience, and the aesthetic beauty of the roadway
- **Balance of Needs** Balance of tree loss and once in a generation opportunity for infrastructure upgrades to meet future needs
- **Priority for Preservation** General consensus that tree preservation is important.

# 4 Parking

- **Economic Impacts** Concern about how a parking reduction will negatively impact businesses and institutions along Summit Avenue.
- **Safety and Accessibility** Discussion about safety of residents having to walk farther distances from their car to their home if parking is reduced
- Land-use Priorities Ideas about alternative parking strategies private partnerships, prioritizing parking for residents, better snow plowing

#### 6 Climate Change and Future Planning

- **Investment in Climate Resilience** Importance of investment in climate resilient infrastructure that allows residents and visitors to be less car dependent and feel safe in all modes
- **Future Infrastructure Planning** Think about infrastructure in the future when cars may not be the most viable transportation option
- Youth and Future Generations Discussion about infrastructure investments that benefit the youngest generations, and future generations that will bear the greatest burden of climate change





