

Dear Councilman Stark,

I'm the pastor at Como Park Lutheran Church (on Hoyt just off Hamline) and I've just learned about the proposed changes at Charles Street and Snelling Avenue. I support bicycle use and pedestrians, but I have some concerns about the proposed changes, especially around funerals. Holcomb Henry Boom Funeral Home provides its services to churches and residents in the Como Park, Falcon Heights and Roseville Communities as well as the Midway neighborhood. It's also the funeral home most used by members of this congregation, in part because of its location and access. My concern is that by making it less accessible from the north, we will simply drive all of the funeral business into Shoreview and Roseville and lose both local businesses and the neighborhood connections they foster. Routing the pedestrian/bike traffic north to Thomas by Jehovah Lutheran Church where we already have a safe traffic crossing makes more sense to me, both for pedestrians, bicyclists and the local businesses. And churches love walk-by traffic. I don't think you'll get a complaint from them at all. Please give this your earnest consideration. I think it's worth considering again.

Respectfully,
Pastor Martin R. Ericson