

Dear Mr. Stark,

Thank you for your good work. I do want to support the Holcomb funeral home, however, with their concern over changes to the intersection of Charles and Snelling.

I've officiated at services there on various occasions and can picture some problems affecting the home, problems affecting visitors and also the home itself with its limited egress to the south.

True complexity is when both sides have merit. (It's often the same in marriage!) Could there not be a compromise, for example, rerouting the bike path at some point to cross Snelling at either Edmund or Thomas?

Not wishing to add to the heat and burden of your day, I do hope that some compromise might be possible, which addresses the funeral home's concern. They provide an essential service, not too different from churches and synagogues.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Frank Dreisbach

1749 Taylor Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55104

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Council members Thune, Carter & Stark:

I am writing to urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to support the Charles Avenue Friendly Streets and bikeway project that will be heard at today's City Council public hearing. I am a downtown resident who regularly bicycles for transportation. It is essential that Saint Paul continue to expand its bicycling infrastructure to make it possible for me and others to be able to traverse the city by bicycle. The Charles Avenue project provides important connections to large parts of the city and will be an essential

connection to Central Corridor LRT when the train begins operating. The project will also make the street considerably safer for everyone--motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

This project is the result of a long and comprehensive grassroots process undertaken by Hamline-Midway and Frogtown residents. It is clear that this process achieved the participation and buy-in of a significant number of neighborhood residents. Please recognize that the project, as currently proposed, represents the will of its neighbors and of residents throughout the city who involved themselves in the process. To now allow a small minority to modify this project would be a real insult to those people who have invested such time and effort ensuring that the voices of residents are represented in its current design.

I know that there has been particular concern expressed about the design of this project at the intersection of Charles and Snelling Avenues. I understand that multiple "solutions" have been suggested to address this "problem," but I encourage you to question whether there is really a problem here at all. The businesses at that intersection will remain easily accessible to motorists who, if necessary, will simply turn a block earlier. The owner of the funeral home at that intersection seems to me to have the least to worry about: surely funeral homes achieve none of their business because people happen to drop-in when driving by. His is a destination business; those attending services at his establishment will figure out how to get there. When a median was installed further south on Snelling, there was great outcry from the businesses at Lincoln Commons that it would destroy their businesses. To my knowledge, no such thing has happened and there seems to be widespread agreement that the medians there made the street safer for everyone. I can understand that a business owner would worry that changes to the street could impact business, but I hope you will recognize that, in this case, there is little evidence for such worries to inform public policy.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,  
Christopher

Christopher R. Bineham  
500 North Robert Street, #506  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Hi Christina,

I am a resident in the Frogtown neighborhood. I am writing to express my support of all elements of the Charles Avenue project. In particular, I think the proposed improvements at major intersections (pedestrian refuge medians and closure to motor vehicles) are

essential to providing safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists. I would not want to see any compromise on these elements.

Thank you,

Kristin Thompson  
787 Edmund Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55104