

Dar Chris:

Just have to let you know how opposed Roy and I are with regards to the closing of a lane of traffic on Sixth Street to provide outdoor seating for the bars. This is an issue that was discussed and dismissed - why is the Council bringing it up again?

- As John Manillo, St. Paul businessman stated in an article in the Pioneer Press: "The Downtown Development Review and the Small Business Committees of the Capitol River Council (CRC) have taken positions to not proceed with a permanent extension until the HPC and Parking Task Force of the CRC are able to analyze and recommend the appropriate guidelines and solutions. The Saint Paul Farmers Market, the YMCA and surrounding businesses have come out against any loss of parking from a permanent extension. The Planning Commission decided not to support this proposal. The Chamber of Commerce authored a letter in October of 2010 for Saint Paul Business and Community Groups to join in calling for additional metered parking on Sixth Street between Wacouta and Cedar Streets."

- The reasons against the closing remain the same: alterations would need to be made to accommodate reducing traffic lanes and then enlarging them again as traffic moves west up Sixth from Sibley. Property owners would bear the expense of their sidewalk/street alteration. And although it is promised that the real estate owners would pay for their alterations and sidewalks, there is no assurance that taxpayers would not be forced to pick up the default, should Brooks and/or Crockarell (Park Square Court) pull out, thus leaving it up to the city and its taxpayers to foot the bill. Moving Brooks electric supply from under the sidewalk will be a considerable expense.

- Sixth Street is an exit for I-35; why cram it up with traffic lane reduction? And with the newly proposed Ball Park being served by traffic off I-35? Where is the sense of reduced traffic lanes on Sixth?

- The loss of parking spaces, notably meters, in an area already lacking sufficient metered spaces, is a real loss.

- Bus traffic is essential along Sixth Street. Buses service many people of various incomes, and also make connections to Minneapolis buses, even locations which will not be reached by the new rail line. Buses service trips to Mall of America and MSP airport.