

Dear City Council President Lantry and Council Members;

During the past several months, my spouse and I have heard much discussion on the proposed expansion of the sidewalk on the north side of Sixth Street between Wacouta and Sibley Streets in Lowertown. This is important to us as we, with the encouragement of the political leaders in the City of St. Paul, purchased our condominium to spend our golden years of retirement. We live in River Park Lofts building, on the corner of 6th and Wacouta Streets. Thus, we live extremely near to the area that some political leaders and private interests want to change in a radical manner.

I often heard and read the word "improvement" in the promotional pieces -- I prefer to call this proposal the "destruction" of Lowertown.

Sixth Street is a major connector to Minnesota's interstate system. As depicted by the attached GoogleEarth Image, three interstate highways flow into Lowertown and ultimately to the rest of downtown St. Paul. Westbound I-94 connects directly with the one-way Sixth Street. Drivers traveling east on I-94 who wish to enter Lowertown will use the 7th Street exit, drive south on Wall Street and turn right on to 6th Street. Meanwhile, vehicles traveling south on I-35E will alight on Wacouta Street and often turn right on to 6th Street to travel to other parts of the downtown.

From our vantage point in our home, we observed heavy morning (plus at other times during the day) traffic traveling west on 6th Street. Considerable car and some truck traffic arrive from Hudson, Wisconsin; Woodbury, Lake Elmo, etc. We see and hear cars tractor trailer trucks, busses and fire trucks seem to travel south on I-35E during much of the day and evenings on Wacouta Street and carefully and slowly negotiate the difficult turn on to 6th Street. Typically, such long vehicles require two lanes to make the turn. Meanwhile. Busses and cars typically dominate the traffic on Wall Street and many turn on to 6th Street.

Please note that we have used all three interstate entrances to arrive at our home in Lowertown from visits to family, friends and shopping.

Finally, during the past seven years, we observed an abnormally large number of accidents at the corner of 6th and Wacouta Streets. The unnatural lane weaving and curving caused by the sidewalk expansion on 6th Street does seem to increase the risks of accidents, injury, and traffic congestion and fire safety dangers.

Finally, on a personal note, my spouse and I are troubled by the apparent lack of concern by the City's leadership over the welfare of the thousands and thousands of people (and voters) who live and work in Lowertown. I am also thinking about the St. Paul Farmers Market, the YMCA plus numerous existing businesses operate in comfortable relationships with the beautiful Lowertown. I have traveled through much of Europe, eastern Canada and nearly every U.S. state and never saw the lack of city government outreach that we now experience.

Finally, you should know that my professional background includes experiences as a field grade Army Officer, city manager and the operating officer of a major non-profit organization. As a

retiree, the welfare of my spouse of 53 years and my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are my highest priority. We are active in our Central Presbyterian Church on Cedar Street. In addition, I served on the Skyway Advisory Committee as part of the Capital River Council and my spouse and I help beautify Mears Park by planting flowers and as members of the Friends of Mears Park.

I ask you to not destroy Lowertown. Please keep the quality of life good in our community.

Sincerely,
Terry J. Henry, PhD

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