

Hello,

It is with great interest I read about the idea to bring streetcars back to Saint Paul. I am a supporter of mass transit, and am happy to see the tide is finally turning.

However, I am concerned about running a streetcar line down 7th -- particularly with the Ford Plant ROW that currently exists along this route. Given that the Ford ROW also comes near the airport, this could be our opportunity to think about our transit network more holistically, and consider how a thriving mass transit network should function. The best way is to connect high density areas together. The Ford ROW provides the potential to connect the MSP airport with the Union Depot AND provide stops along the 7th Street corridor, while being more effective at utilizing limited space.

Unfortunately, a streetcar line would accomplish none of this. What good is having a streetcar operate in isolation instead of connecting to already existing nodes?

I respectfully ask the city council and mayor to weigh immediate opportunities with the longer-term needs and goals of the region.

Best regards,
Torin Gustafson