

Dear City of St Paul:

My name is Mark Bayuk. I am a retired U.S. Foreign Commercial Service Officer. My last post was Hong Kong and I came back to Minnesota in 2007.

I live in The On The Park Condominium at 198 6 St E at Sibley, facing Mears Park.

I am speaking in favor of the St Paul Streetcar feasibility Study.

Three of my Foreign Service postings, Stockholm, Vienna and Hong Kong, had well developed streetcar systems which I used almost daily multiple times a day.

In these cities when I was given a choice between using a streetcar and walking a little more to a destination, versus taking a bus directly to a destination, I always chose the streetcar. The streetcar ran more often and it always appeared at an exact predictable time. Thus I felt I had more control of my movement in contrast to wondering when the next bus may appear.

I will act the same here in St Paul if the streetcar line is created on 7th St, which would run one block from my condo.

Now many cities surrounding Chicago are competing to attract young business millennials to come to work in their cities.

I read again and again reports stating that young workers, the millennials, like to return to the city centers to work and live.

Many highly talented workers and creative artists are leaving or ready to leave New York and Chicago for major regional cities with well developed urban centers offering comparable living amenities including food stores, housing and transportation.

The City of St Paul works hard to provide a comparable living environment for these people, who are needed to staff and lead existing businesses; the young entrepreneurs who will form new businesses; and the artists who all will help St Paul to maintain and increase its economic and cultural development.

I am so happy to see the completion of two of the City of St Paul's initiatives in just the last 30 days- the opening of the Lunds Penfield Downtown and start of service of the Green Line connecting St Paul to Minneapolis!

But this was really just catching up with other midwest cities that are already in competition for human talent that is seeking to leave New York and Chicago for more satisfactory living in regional metropolitan centers.

One of the new determining factors is the availability of local streetcar transportation in the urban cores where these talented people plan to live, work and play.

And one of the newest incentives for attraction talent is that regional metropolitan cities are building or planning to build streetcar lines!

Six regional center cities around Chicago are already either building streetcar lines or about ready to break ground on streetcar projects:

A) Kansas City, MO has the Kansas City Downtown Streetcar Line scheduled to opening in 2015.

B) Cincinnati has the Cincinnati Streetcar Line scheduled to open in late 2016.

C) Detroit is scheduled to have its M-1 Line to open in mid 2016

D) St Louis Mo Delmar Loop Trolley is in the Final Engineering Phase.

E) Milwaukee's Milwaukee Streetcar, a downtown streetcar project, has completed the Prelim Engineering and Final EIS phases.

F) Minneapolis is deeply involved in planning for streetcars and is perhaps five years ahead of St Paul in streetcar development.

So I feel if The City of St Paul wants to remain competitive with the midwest cities of Minneapolis, Kansas City, Milwaukee, and St Louis to attract talented young millennial and entrepreneurs who are now relocating to urban cores of cities outside of Chicago, it has to move forward today with a more comprehensive streetcar study.

By chance after I completed writing my testimony and I was proofing it, I found the following statements on the Milwaukee Streetcar FAQ sheet:

1. **EXPAND THE TAX BASE** through new development, new and expanded businesses and higher occupancy rates, resulting in a lower tax burden for everyone and allowing important city services to continue.
1. Tap into the potential of underutilized properties by **MAKING CONNECTIONS** to important residential, business and cultural centers.
1. **ATTRACT AND RETAIN YOUNG TALENT** needed to grow Milwaukee's economy, support the creative class and fuel a culture of entrepreneurship.

I was surprised to learn that similar conclusions are drawn in similar cities in direct competition with St Paul for fostering continued cultural growth and economic development.

I close by asking the City Council of St Paul to vote yes on a resolution to authorize a detailed study of a potential streetcar line from Arcade Street to Randolph Avenue.

Thank You.

Sincerely,
Mark Bayuk
6th St E, Unit 502
St Paul