

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the improvements that are being made on and along Snelling Ave.

We certainly understand the need for improvements to be made. Our objections are not against those improvements. Our concerns are twofold; the safety of our customers parking in front of our store and to the costs of those assessments.

As it is now, the sidewalk in front of our store is 96" in width - from the building up to the curb (not including the curb). The street side parking in front of our store is 128" from the street up to the curb (not including the curb). If this plan goes through as I understand it the new sidewalk width would become approximately 120" (24" increase) and the new parking width would become 104" (24" decrease). We believe this to be unsafe for people exiting their vehicles on one of Minnesota's busiest streets. Try parking here two feet away from the current curb and get out of your car and walk around it to the sidewalk. It is scary! I've tried it. We also believe a sidewalk 10' wide is excessive. FAR and AWAY exceeds any ADA code requirement.

St. Paul is already an expensive city in which to do business. Real estate and sales tax are high already, relative to surrounding cities (excluding Minneapolis). Adding an approximate \$15,000 one time assessment and an additional \$400 per year assessment is above and beyond what we can afford in order to stay in business. I wish this wasn't the case, but sadly it is.

We have been at this location for 28 years. It is a family owned business, something I am proud of and it is something the city should be proud of. I can't think of anything that we have asked from the city over the years. Operating any business can be difficult. Between competition and the economy it feels as though there is always a hand pushing you down. I hope the city doesn't become one of those hands!

Sincerely,  
Nick Curtis  
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