

Opposition

Phone messages

Cleveland is already too crowded without a bike lane, and so it Cretin. Adding a bike lane to Cleveland will push traffic to Cretin, making that even worse. Not feasible on either road.

Constituent living on James is against the bike lane on Cleveland.

Bob Paoli – what is current situation with the bike lane? He's a long time, pro biker but not for Cleveland.

Claire Jensen-Hayes - xxxx Princeton – Called to express her 'extra objection' to bike lane on Cleveland.

Peter Butler – xxxx Bayard – re bike lane, he suggested a good option between Randolph and James is to use sharrows on a temp basis until the street has been reconstructed. He drives his elderly father to the barber and difficult to park at times.

Maureen and Ira Adelman - Live on MRB re Cleveland Bike Lane - Called in opposition to bike lane on Cleveland

Joanne Davis called re Cleveland Bike Lane. She's very much against it; Cleveland is too narrow and too busy of a street for this and would be very dangerous.

Linda Jordan – Against the bike lane on Cleveland. 30 min parking on Randolph not enough; it hurts businesses.

Mike Larkin – xxx Cleveland – Thinks this is a bad idea.

June 15th, 2015

Bill Finney
320-C City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Finney:

As you are aware, the vote on the proposed Cleveland Ave. Bike Lanes is scheduled for this coming Wednesday.

I'm sure Councilmember Tolbert has told you what the the public record makes clear, namely the neighborhood is overwhelmingly opposed to this plan in its current form. Why?

I think there are four main reasons:

1. Cleveland is too busy and too narrow to safely support bicycle lanes, even with on-street parking eliminated
2. The plan exacerbates parking problems in a part of the city where parking is already an issue
3. Several small neighborhood business are concerned it will have a negative impact on their viability
4. There was no public input on the proposal, and many feel public concerns have largely been ignored this far

Proponents have said that this plan was implicitly agreed to when the Saint Paul Bike Plan (SPBP) was passed earlier this year. However if one reads the bike plan carefully one realizes this is not the case.

In discussing implementation the bike plan states that, " In other cases, where impacts to the corridor may be more significant (e.g. parking restrictions or lane removals), a public involvement process will be necessary to discuss design alternatives, engage nearby residents, and confirm the recommendations in this plan before implementation (SPBP, p. 92)."

This public involvement process has not happened in the case of the Cleveland Ave proposal and that is why hundreds of Saint Paul residents are furious about it. There were no design alternatives discussed, residents were not engaged in the process, and it is only because a few businesses took it upon themselves to notify the neighborhood that many found out about the proposed plan.

While many have touted the public engagement leading up to the adoption of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, in the last two months the Front/Lexington/Cleveland Bike Lanes proposal has generated more public comment (overwhelmingly opposed) than all the public comment that was received over the last several years on the Saint Paul Bike Plan (c.f. Hanson Memo 6/2/15 Re: Public Comment on Proposed Bike Facilities, SPBP Appendix E).

SPBP

Cleveland/Front/

Lexington Proposal

Open House	63
Comments	60

E-mails Received	109*
144	

Statements on	184
173	
Open Saint Paul	

* This number only only includes e-mails received as of 6/2/15. The total number of e-mails is now well over 200.

All this to say if there is a mandate from the electorate it is not in favor of implementation of bike lanes on Cleveland.

As a property owner and small business owner on Cleveland Ave., I believe that implementation of the bicycle lanes would jeopardize public safety, exacerbate parking issues, have a negative impact on property values, lead to greater congestion on Cleveland Ave. and the surrounding neighborhood and jeopardize the viability of my business.

That said, I believe that Councilmember Tolbert's forthcoming proposal to table bicycle lanes on Cleveland Ave. until such time as Cleveland can be reconstructed makes the most sense because it allows for greater public involvement in the decision-making process and provides an opportunity to use more of the available right-of-way to find solutions to the issues I outlined above, providing positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

I hope you will support Councilmember Tolbert in this proposal. If there is anything I can do to help you better understand this issue and my concerns, please don't hesitate to e-mail me or contact me at (651) 644-2999.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our great city!

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Maas

From: Peter Engel
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 6:03 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Cleveland Ave Bike Lanes

Dear Councilman Tolbert;

I writing you to share my displeasure with the planned bike lanes for Cleveland Avenue. First I must state, I am a biker. I ride in St Paul and Minneapolis over 3,000 miles a year. So I understand the need for dedicated bike lanes for the safety of bikers and drivers. However, the proposed Cleveland striping is anti-business and would negatively affect our community. I am a customer of the Sportsman Barbers and Cafe Lucci. These businesses depend on the on-street parking. Bikers have the option of riding on Finn or Prior. I happen to use Prior a lot for my means of getting North/South in the 3rd ward. We need our business tax base in St Paul. I continue to see actions by the Mayor and Council that are anti-business. Please vote against the addition of bike lanes to Cleveland Avenue.

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Peter D. Engel
xxx Ridge Street
Saint Paul MN 55116

From:
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 10:57 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Cc: freier, dave
Subject: Bike lanes on Cleveland

Are you even serious? Please vote no for this asinine proposal--Please consider who is your support base--then consider, truly, who will benefit from this extreme endeavor--who shops along the proposed biking routes--In my world, it's motorists--bikers want to get from point A to point B...period. Thinking they will add commerce is insane--We have tolerated bikers for years in this neighborhood--respectfully--I wish they would return the same respect...Yikes!! Now they want more???

I believe that this is all about biking lobbies & Saint Paul's quest to be a premiere green/bike-friendly city--Whoa--

PLEASE VOTE NO--

Thank you--
Genny & Dave Freier

From: sharon davis
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 7:08 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Cleveland Avenue proposal for bike lanes VOTE NO

Mr. Tolbert,

I would like to make my voice heard to vote NO to making bike lanes on Cleveland Avenue. We have so few streets to use now i can't imagine using Cleveland for biking lanes and narrowing the drivable lanes. What happens when a car turns left at Grand, St. Clair, Randolph or any other street and traffic backs up for blocks??

Driving is a necessity for the majority of city dwellers who must travel streets to do errands in the few precious hours we are not working to stay afloat in our homes. Many Many people cannot ride a bike or are not comfortable riding a bike but seem to lose our driving rights to a very vocal and selfish minority. Why can't biking be on the side streets where it is much less busy with less opportunity for terrible accidents.

Thank you for your time,
Sharon Davis
xxxx Princeton Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: Jane Amberg
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 5:18 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Cleveland Ave.

I am opposed to any type of bike lane on Cleveland Ave.

I feel the street is too narrow, is unsafe for bikers and vehicle traffic. My experience with bikers along Mississippi River Blvd. is that the majority of them have no regard for anyone who might be in their path. They don't stop for stop signs or yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks and they travel way too fast considering the surroundings.

Perhaps Finn St. would be a better solution if special bike lanes must be built. Less traffic and fewer pedestrians. However, if it does move to Finn I feel every crosswalk needed to be clearly striped, and there needs to be monitoring by the St. Paul Police for non-compliance.

The second reason is that for years the city has encouraged local businesses, as opposed to national chains, etc. to open their doors. A bike lane that removes all parking will not help them and does not respect their need to have adequate parking. What about handicap zones, where will they go?

And how about the cyclists foot part of the bill for all the development that they seem to need to have.

Jane Amberg
xxx Woodlawn Ave.

From: Mike Langhoff
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 5:03 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Cleveland Ave. Bike Lane

Councilmember Tolbert,

As a delivery driver for Davanni's Pizza for the better part of a decade, the planned bike route for Cleveland avenue is concerning to me, not only from a business patron parking availability sense for all businesses up and down Cleveland Avenue, but from a public safety sense.

At the Grand Avenue intersection, I believe that Finn Avenue and/or Prior Avenue is a better approach, and upon reaching Jefferson Avenue, can be routed to various artery streets accordingly (Cretin, Cleveland or Fairview).

I am a proponent of bike lanes, but not at the expense of traffic control and parking for businesses that have been pillars of the community for many, many years.

Regards,
Mike Langhoff

From: Jesse Cabak
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Parking on Cleveland

Hello Councilmember Tolbert,

Please vote no for the proposed addition of a bike lane to Cleveland Avenue, eliminating the parking for the neighborhood. The businesses in the area utilize this parking and I would hate for them to vacate their locations - this would be detrimental to the culture of our neighborhood. Additionally, the place of worship down the street from me needs this parking for their elderly residents. Finally, as a homeowner I worry that eliminating the parking on Cleveland would restrict parking in the neighborhood to the point of consistent frustration for both residents and their guests, especially in the winter months.

Please vote no for the addition of the bike lane. With the heavy traffic on Cleveland, I worry the increased bike traffic would be unsafe. Bike lanes on Fairview and the River Road serve the same north/south purpose - a bike lane on Cleveland would only be convenient - it is not necessary.

Please vote no for this proposal - thank you for serving our neighborhood!
Jessica Cabak
xxx Cleveland Ave S

From: Marcia
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Bike lane on Cleveland

Hello, Councilmember Tolbert,

While I support the expansion of bike lanes in St. Paul, I am opposed to the proposed bike lanes on Cleveland Avenue. In addition to the likely negative impact on businesses and increased pressure on residential streets, I am concerned about safety for both cars and bikes.

Why? Cleveland is just too narrow a street to safely accommodate bike lanes. They're great on Fairview, Summit and similarly wide roads; isn't there an alternative street for north/south bike lanes? How about Cretin?

With the Ford site redevelopment, we can expect even more congestion on that road, which will only add to the bike safety issue.

On a related note, I haven't seen much about how these new lanes would fit into a larger bike plan. Just adding lanes that don't connect to other lanes doesn't make sense. Also, many new bike lanes are physically separated from traffic by barriers. Great idea! Whatever bike plan is adopted, I would encourage you to support that style of lane over just painted lines on the road.

If St. Paul doesn't have a bigger picture in mind for how bike lanes will interconnect, isn't employing the latest designs for safety and isn't considering the impact of the Ford redevelopment, I think we really need to step back and do some better planning. Until then, I urge you to vote no on the proposed bike lanes on Cleveland.

Regards,
Marcia Adair
xxxx Berkeley Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: Rachel Westermeyer
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 10:42 AM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Rachel Westermeyer
Subject: Proposed Cleveland Avenue Bike Lanes

Hi Chris,

I am writing to say I oppose the idea of taking all parking away from residences and businesses along this stretch of roadway until some alternative plan to serve the needs of homeowners and business owners is thoughtfully planned as part of the suggested change to this part of the roadway. The alternatives that have been suggested like 30 minute parking meters along Randolph and Cleveland and altering existing permit parking areas are not the only solution. We need time to research doable alternatives rather than rushing forward with the present unacceptable plan.

In addition, I think at the present time this roadway is very dangerous as it mingles bikers, buses, cars and pedestrians in a narrow roadway. I have noticed that many bikers have not yet internalized that they need to follow the same rules as cars i.e. stop for stop signs, stop for red lights, use proper hand signals, and I could go on. Prior to any change that would encourage more bike use would be a public safety campaign educating bicyclists about these rules of the road. Every day in my neighborhood, I see bikers creating their own rules of the road which are definitely not in harmony with the cars, truck and bus traffic with which they mingle.

Thank you for your time in considering delaying action until some of these major issues are addressed more thoroughly.

Rachel M. Westermeyer
xxxx Summit Avenue

From: John Devins
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Cleveland Avenue

I have been a resident of Highland - Mac Groveland for the better part of my 70 years. I currently reside on Woodlawn Ave between Jefferson and Randolph. I travel Cleveland quite frequently and have occasion to use curbside parking when visiting one of the many fine business establishments on Cleveland. To eliminate parking between Grand and Randolph is ridiculous just as it was for the attempt on Jefferson Ave. Eliminating parking and establishing bike paths will create havoc. First, the majority of bikers do not observe the motor vehicle laws as they are legally obligated to do - stopping at stop signs, red lights, signaling turns, allowing for right of ways to name a few. They ride in packs at times and ignore the motorist as if they own the road. Furthermore, the congestion that will be created on the residential side streets will dramatically increase the danger and likelihood of injury to children and adults alike. Whoever thought up this idea obviously does not live anywhere near Cleveland Ave. My vote is a BIG NO Step back a minute and reslly think about what is being proposed. I am not against bikers, I am one myself but therre is to much abuse. It is seen every day on Mississippi River Road.



John D Devins

From: Kate Pickford
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Tolbert, Chris (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Re: proposed bike lanes on Cleveland Ave.

Dear Councilman Tolbert,

Our family would like you to know that we vehemently opposed bike lanes on Cleveland Ave. Not bike lanes in general but Cleveland Ave. is a terrible choice. Not only does it impact homes and businesses between Grand Ave and the Highland area...and they depend on the one side parking as opposed to say Fairview Ave that already has no parking (and there are fewer small businesses along Fairview) but there are several other issues. The physical condition of Cleveland, as opposed to Fairview, is not good. We would describe it to be shattered, a lot of pavement cracking, which leads to loose asphalt, which turns into potholes even in the "best" weather, if cars have to navigate this it would seem it would be downright hazardous for bikers! What has possibly made the condition worse is the increased bus traffic...something that Fairview does not have. If we have to have bike lanes in the area we would submit that a better safer option would be Fairview Ave. It already does not have much on-street parking, it has been recently had its pavement upgraded, I believe it is wider, and there is no bus traffic.

I would have to say, in talking to the neighbors on the block I have not heard one that supports the

Cleveland Bike lanes. Please consider us, and a majority of the residents and business owners in this area when you vote on this issue.

Kate & David Pickford
xxxx Berkeley Ave
St Paul, MN 55105

From: Fred Schmidt
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 1:23 PM
To: Tolbert, Chris (Cl-StPaul)
Subject: Bike route on Cleveland

Hi Chris

What is with all the crazy bike routes?

Don't put another on on Cleveland.

There are like 10 bike riders for every 1000 cars, and outside of Summit Ave. where I live, and maybe Marshall, no one is every on any of the others.

Never have I seen anyone on a bike on Prior.

Besides bike riders don't obey the traffic laws. Have you ever seen a bike stop at a stop sign ?? They blow right thru and think no laws apply to them. Same way stopping for pedestrian traffic, have to tell you there are a lot of jerks out there on bikes expecting everyone to look out for them. Why don't you have the pice start giving out traffic ticket to them ?

Also what the plan to cut down traffic on Summit Ave. ??? Noisy/ stinky/ and Dangerous is that really the legacy you want to leave in your district Fred Schmidt
xxxx summit.