

General support

Dear Councilmember Finney,

I am writing today to let you know I support the proposed bike lanes on Lexington Avenue, Cleveland Avenue and Front Avenue. I'm a St. Paul resident of Ward 1 and a board member of the District #8 Summit University Planning Council.

I'm also a mom, a bike commuter and recreational rider, and a car owner. All three of these projects are critical parts of the vision laid out in the comprehensive St. Paul Bike Plan adopted in March of 2015.

Better bicycle infrastructure helps to create streets that are safer and that better serve all of St. Paul's road users. Complete Streets help build a more vibrant city with healthy, strong economies. Bike and pedestrian friendly environments encourage people to slow down, stop, shop, and connect in a variety of ways.

The currently proposed projects are critical to help bridge existing gaps in the St. Paul bike network. While we have many fine and well-used bike routes, they can only reach their full potential and usefulness as part of a complete system of connected routes. Front, Cleveland, and Lexington routes will help make cycling accessible to more people, including families and kids.

I would remind you that there was extensive community engagement around the recently adopted St. Paul Bicycle Plan. As the city considers individual projects, it's important to remember that these projects and the larger plan have been vetted through public comment, community forums, and the City Council's own approval process. This visionary plan can and will help to transform St. Paul into a world class bike city, one that is liveable, vibrant, safe and accessible to all road users from 8 to 80.

Change does not come easily to most people, and there will always be those who express concerns, whether about parking or other changes to the status quo. However, time and again, around the country and around the world, creating safe, multi-modal streets have helped to create healthier neighborhoods and stronger communities. If these first three projects fail to pass, it will set a worrisome precedent regarding the City's true commitment to this plan and to usable, safe, multi-modal infrastructure.

Please have the courage of your own convictions. The public support is there. And the rewards for the work are immense.

Please support these important projects in full in tonight's City Council vote. While I fully support further study, outreach, and action around parking mitigation, particular along Cleveland, I cannot support any changes to the projects that delay or remove a section of the proposed lanes.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rebecca

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Rebecca Airmet

Writer, Editor, Organizer, Advocate

Hello,

My name is Bryce Rasmussen, I am a St. Paul resident in Ward 3. I live at 4xx Lexington Pkwy S.

I am emailing you in favor of the proposed bike lanes on Lexington Avenue, Cleveland Avenue and Front Avenue. As a St. Paul resident, bike commuter, and car owner I want these projects to move forward as part of the vision laid out in the comprehensive bike plan the City of St. Paul adopted in March of 2015.

Projects like these help to create streets that better serve all of St. Paul's road users. These complete streets help build a more vibrant city. Bike lanes help to create safer streets for cyclists as well as pedestrians and even car drivers. They maintain vibrant neighborhoods and support local businesses. Bike and pedestrian friendly environments encourage people to linger and connect.

These projects help to plug current gaps in the city's bike network, in areas that lack safe connections between other established bike routes. Current high profile routes like Summit Avenue, East River Parkway, and Jefferson are great, but they are only as useful as the network as a whole. These projects will help make cycling accessible to a greater range of riders, including families and kids.

There was extensive community engagement around the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan adopted by the City Council on March 18th of 2015. In considering these individual projects, it's imperative that we keep in mind that these projects and the larger plan have been vetted through public comment, community forums, and the Council's own approval process. This plan is visionary in its scope and will help to transform St. Paul into a world class bike city, that is vibrant, safe and accessible to road users from 8-80. Paired with investments in public transit, like the Green Line, and other improvements to streets this plan uses transportation as a means to create more livable, economically vibrant and safer communities.

There will always be community concerns about parking and other changes to the status quo, but ultimately, creating streets that promote multiple modes of transit helps to create healthier neighborhoods and a stronger community. Backing away from these projects will send a dangerous message about the City's commitment to multi-modal infrastructure. Stepping back now will not help to build the St. Paul of the future, it will have the opposite effect. Postponing or scrapping these three projects would effectively give control of the Citywide Bike Plan to the most vocal side of the debate. If we were to alter these plans now, all future projects could be changed, postponed, or even scrapped because of a few loud concerns.

These individual projects are where the rubber meets the road for starting to make the citywide bike plan a reality. These projects help to make critical connections in areas that currently lack safe bike routes. Please support these projects to move St. Paul forward and to show the Council's commitment to the City-wide bike plan. Please do not only vote in favor for bikes when politically beneficial, please vote with your convictions.

Thank you for your time, please support these projects.
Bryce Rasmussen

Good Afternoon, Chair and Members of the Council

My name is Andy L. I am a St. Paul resident in Ward 2. I live at 4xx N Sibley St. Lowertown Saint Paul.

I am writing you today to testify in favor of the proposed bike lanes on Lexington Avenue, Cleveland Avenue and Front Avenue. I live in Saint Paul, I bike commute year round, and I own a car. I want really these projects to move forward as part of the Saint Paul Bike Plan.

I look forward to improved streets that cater too all Saint Paul residents. Cities all around are catching on and starting to adopt complete streets. These complete streets help build a more vibrant city. Bike lanes help to create safer streets, slow cars down, and improve overall business traffic. Bike and pedestrian friendly environments encourage people to stop and check things out.

It is about connecting gaps in the Saint Paul bike network, street by street, and neighborhood by neighborhood so that in the end we have a complete bike network that can rival any other US city and maybe even another European city . Summit Ave, East River Parkway, and Jefferson are nice but lack connections from a wide array a neighborhoods. The projects proposed will help this.

We had great success when the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan was adopted by the City Council on March 18th of 2015. Now is the time to implement. If we want Saint Paul to compete for the best future talent, be sustainable for the future, and have healthy citizens, we need to act on this bike plan. It is absolutely critical that we make biking and walking easier in Saint Paul. If we continue down the same path of always catering to cars will only lead us to more pollution and less active citizens.

There will be concerns about parking, but ultimately, creating streets that promote multiple modes of transit helps to create healthier neighborhoods and a stronger community. Failing to implement these projects will send a clear and disappointing message about the City's commitment to multi-modal infrastructure. Stepping back now will not help to build the St. Paul of the future but instead create another city that will be mostly uninteresting and undesirable to a lot of people in the generations to come.

The individual projects are the bike plan! These projects help to make critical connections in areas that currently lack safe bike routes. Please support these projects to move St. Paul forward and to show the Council's commitment to the City-wide bike plan.

Thank you for your time, please support these projects.

Andy L.

Dear Councilmember Finney,

We are writing to you today as residents of Saint Paul at 1xxx James Avenue, and business owners of Bang Brewing at 2320 Capp Road.

In both capacities we have wholly supported the comprehensive bike plan passed unanimously by the City Council in March. It is with that same support and interest that we encourage the Cleveland, Lexington and Front Avenue projects to go forward as proposed. These projects are an important test of our collective resolve towards the implementation of an effective and connected bike system. It's important that they succeed.

We are aware that a few businesses object to the loss of a few immediate on-street parking spaces even with the options of replacement on-street spaces in near proximity. As residents and business owners we have fully supported and encouraged multi-modal transit, and bicycles in particular. In fact, we actively sought to give up on street parking directly in front of our business in favor of an on-street bike parking corral. Many businesses forget that people on bikes have wallets too. Bikes and bike lanes do not hurt businesses; in fact bike infrastructure leads to economic prosperity. If businesses have a product or service that people want, people will find it to support them.

We want Saint Paul to grow as a world-class bike city and to enjoy the dynamic qualities and prosperity that will bring. Each proposed segment of the comprehensive plan matters. We need to move forward with implementation to fulfill the potential this plan offers our city.

Please vote yes today.

Sincerely,

Sandy and Jay Boss Febbo
Residents, Mac-Groveland
Owners, Bang Brewing