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To:

Saint Paul City Council

From: District 1 Community Council

Re: Proposed City Bike Plan

The District 1 Community Council strongly supports the proposed bike plan and thanks Public Works staff, especially Reuben Collins, for their work as they developed this plan, work that recognized local knowledge that neighborhoods hold and that supported neighborhoods' visions.

We especially appreciate the focus on equity in all its forms, including geographic, because make no mistake, geographic disparities in this city equate to racial and economic disparities. We remain a segregated city despite our increasing diversity. As a part of an equity focus, we encourage the city to think about transportation priorities not only in terms of cost-burdened households as solely defined in terms of housing costs, but also in terms of transportation costs. Not every household that has access to automobiles is economically stable, and in fact ownership of multiple automobiles places enormous economic burdens on households. Efforts to make it easier to own fewer automobiles are to be applauded.

But the major issue for this plan related to equitable distribution of bike facilities is in how the plan is implemented. The list of factors used to prioritize in itself needs to be prioritized. We need to see the implementation follow where the current LACK of facilities exists so that health, physical, economic, environmental and safety benefits are spread throughout the city.

We are happy to see the eastside called out as a hole in the Nice Ride system, for example, not to mention the disparity in the number of bike lanes there and on the west side.

Kudos to the request for a zoning study on bike parking requirements that is included in the plan. The issues related to all kinds of parking – the excess automobile parking in some parts of town and the lack of bicycle parking everywhere – are important to resolve.

We strongly support adoption of the plan and look forward to assisting in its equitable implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of this plan.

Proposed by Bill Hosko

Saint Paul City Council Public Hearing March 18, 2015 Saint Paul Bicycle Plan

Legislative Text, P. 2, requested amendments underlined:

Para 7: WHEREAS, a study of downtown parking will be completed shortly and further public engagement will be taking place to understand the concerns of residents, business owners, visitors, and employees in downtown as further planning and design of <u>all four sides of</u> the proposed downtown bike loop progresses; and

WHEREAS, no portion of the downtown Bike Loop, including phase-one which is Jackson Street, is yet designed and the public input process will determine whether the final bike loop features an on or off-street trail, and

Para 8: WHEREAS, the Implementation Chapter of the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan outlines the anticipated design and public involvement process for the development of a bicycle network; the Council desires a robust public engagement process scaled appropriately to each project; and