

**From:** James Crist  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:07 AM  
**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward4  
**Subject:** Midway stadium

Hello,

As a new resident to St. Paul and Highland Park, I am writing to voice my support for the infrastructure improvements to the area surrounding the new Minnesota United FC stadium at Snelling and University.

Full disclosure, I have been on the Board of Directors for the Dark Clouds, the largest supporters group of MNUFC for the past five years, as well as a fan of professional soccer dating back to 1992 when I attended my first Minnesota Thunder game. Seeing this stadium get built is something I have dreamed of for many, many years. Putting my own personal interests aside, I believe this stadium would be an economic benefit to the Midway neighborhood and the City of St. Paul.

In the last 5 years, I have visited Kansas City and Chicago, our two closest MLS markets, to watch soccer, at least a dozen times. Those trips included stays in hotels, meals in restaurants, and drinks at bars both in the city, and in the area surrounding the stadiums. As the popularity of soccer grows, so do the numbers of people who go to away games. For example, I attended two cup finals in Kansas City, even though a team from Minnesota was not involved. At these games, the away teams, the Seattle Sounders and Real Salt Lake, had an entire corner of the stadium filled with fans, probably around 1500 people at each game. All of those fans brought money into the area. I also believe that this stadium will become one of the premier venues for the US national teams to play, again bringing fans from all over the country, as well as the world, to St. Paul.

In conclusion, a soccer stadium in the Midway neighborhood would be a catalyst for growth, and it would become a site that people would specifically travel to for games, bringing with them money spent at local hotels, stores, restaurants, and bars.

If you have any questions for me, I would love to discuss this further!

Respectfully,  
Jim Crist