

-----Original Message-----

From: Dawn Ellerd

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 7:10 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward3

Subject: Cleveland Avenue Bike Lanes

Good Morning Councilman Tolbert,

I live at 20xx Jefferson Avenue, just east of Cleveland Avenue. I'm writing you this morning after finishing an article in the latest Villager, as I drink my morning cup of coffee while watching the morning rush build on Cleveland.

I continue to be disturbed that the primary opposition to the bike lanes is parking. While a considerable issue in an urban area graced by 2 significant universities and with an abundance of local business, I am absolutely distressed that the primary concern here isn't one of public safety.

I understand bicycle advocates think that is what they are working to provide, safe routes for those on 2 wheels. Living with a daily appreciation for the traffic flow on Cleveland, it's beyond my comprehension how anyone can think that is possible on Cleveland without significantly altering the traffic flow.

I'm sitting here watching commuter busses flow by every few minutes, stopping every few blocks...right where the bike lanes would be. Every day, long lines of cars queue up behind them during rush hour...where is the space for bike lanes here with busses at the curb? Every day I see drivers impatient with those busses make really poor choices to get around them in every way imaginable...where do bikes fit into this?

Cleveland is also the major route for trucks supplying the businesses in Highland Park...those trucks don't leave much wiggle room in the existing lanes...where is the space for bikes here?

Cleveland is also the major route for emergency vehicles in the area...with the bus traffic, trucks and commuter traffic at morning and evening rush where is the space for bikes when everyone has to clear the way for a series of police cars, ambulances or fire trucks?

I have zero interest in watching this play out right on my front door step. I really feel that the safest route for bikes belongs on either Cretin or Fairview. Prior would be ideal. The contention that bicyclists need the most direct route into Highland I find ridiculous when compared to the safety risks created by traffic flow on Cleveland. The extra 5 minutes to cover the distance seems well worth it in my mind.

My family lives right on top of these proposed bike lanes. Should you choose to install them, I'll still be telling my kids what I tell them now...do not bike on Cleveland, it's just not safe. Removing on-street parking isn't going to change how the street is used daily, and that's the real safety challenge here.

Please consider this in this last negotiation. I really don't want to see another biker critically injured right outside my front door. One was too many, please encourage a calmer route for bikes.

Sincerely,

Dawn Ellerd

