

From:

Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 10:08:08 PM

To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us; #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject: Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes

TO: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us, jim.mcdonough@co.ramsey.mn.us, ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us

DATE: May 31, 2016

RE: Comments on Bike Lanes in both directions between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road.

I do not support bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton Road from Burns to McKnight which would eliminate all on street parking. It will be a hardship for many who live in this area.

I live at XX Luella Street South so I am indirectly affected.

The people that purchased homes on Upper Afton Road did so at a time when there was parking on both sides of the street and I'm sure it was a factor in purchasing their home. All of these homeowners pay property taxes (which includes paying for the streets in front of their homes) and now you are asking them to give up their parking spaces in front of their homes. The bikers indirectly pay taxes but not property taxes for the properties on Upper Afton Road.

In case you haven't noticed, many of the people purchasing homes in this area now are people of color and most of them have many families living in their homes and sometimes there are 6-8 cars parked in the driveways and on the street. So, if there isn't any parking in front of their homes, they are going to have to walk sometimes a block away to park and probably in front of our houses on the side streets. This certainly doesn't make sense to inconvenience these people, and change their parking for a handful of bicyclists. And then many of the homeowners who have lived in these homes for years, are elderly, and when their friends come over they shouldn't have to park down the block and around the corner. And there aren't too many of the elderly who are going to use the bike lanes.

Bikers and city staff are saying that by putting in these bike lanes it will slow down the traffic. Really? That's not going to happen. In fact it may mean more pedestrian/car accidents—especially when cars are speeding up Upper Afton just west of Luella Street. I can't even count how many mailboxes and cars that have been hit in that area from Darlene Street to East Sandra Lee Drive.

And, if the big push is on to get people to ride their bikes and bike riders increase, they should be licensed and purchase a license just as motor vehicle drivers are. They are using the roads. And it's about time they have to pass the test on driving rules as drivers do because many of them disobey those laws especially by going through stop signs and stop lights and weaving in and out of traffic.

Occasionally there are several bike riders on Upper Afton Road but most of the time there may be one or two per day. I have only seen one or two bikers on Ruth Street from I-94 to Upper Afton Road in the past several years.

If most of these bikers are coming from Woodbury, why can't they use the bike trails on Lower Afton Road. There are also bike trails through Battle Creek Park from McKnight down to Highway 61 which goes under the highway and then along the highway to downtown. And if they use the trails in the wintertime, Ramsey County or whoever owns those trails needs to plow them and de-ice them instead of changing the people's lives on Upper Afton Road.

There are a few stretches of Upper Afton Road where cars don't park on the street but there are always cars between Battle Creek Road to Ruth Street, Winthrop to McKnight and on the corner of Burns and Upper Afton Road. Someone also pointed out how many cars are parked on Upper Afton Road from Ruth to Winthrop during the baseball season.

Excellent “informed” points were made by Paul & Sue Moyer, 4/1/16—also Sheryl Hayne. Will property values decrease because of no on-street parking, side street neighbors will be affected by parking, increased danger of bicycle/vehicle accidents, use Lower Afton Road bike path, traffic congestion on I-94 leads more drivers to use Upper Afton Road.

It's very insensitive of city staff to say “just park on a side street”. From Burns to White Bear Avenue the side streets are few and far between and some are cul-de-sacs chopped up by driveways. No parking will force people to make parking lots in their front yards and block the sidewalks.

Dan Choma stated that on Upper Afton Road there were zero cars. When did he observe that? It doesn't coincide with other comments and from my personal “informed” observation driving Upper Afton Road every day or evening. Are we the irrational uninformed minority. We have lived in the neighborhood and have paid our taxes for over 40 years.

Comments made by Jerry Walsh are also very valid. Delivery of mail may be affected.

Are we doing this just to take advantage of federal tax dollars?

Bicycle lanes ARE NOT GOING TO SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC

Bonita Jellinek
XX Luella Street South
Saint Paul MN 55119

From: Kris Callinan
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2016 10:22 AM
To: victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Bike lanes on Upper Afton RD

Ms Reinhardt, Ms Prince Mr Stark

I attended the Saint Paul City Council meeting last night. I was there due to my concern of losing parking on the strip of Upper Afton Rd from Burns Ave to White Bear Ave. That the proposal was changed at the last minute to present to the City Council with no respect or notification to the residents involved. I have lived at 16xx Upper Afton Rd for 30 years with my husband and raised my 3 daughters there. I am really concerned that the County Board and maybe the City Council do not understand the hardship this would have to the residents on our street to lose street parking. My children and their families including small Grandchildren are at our house a lot for gatherings all of them have their own vehicles. I'm not sure everyone here understands we do not have side street parking as the South side of Upper Afton is on the bluffs there is maybe 3 or 4 short cul de sacs that are already in use with street parking from those residents. The North side has 2 side streets which are also short and have residents there who use the street parking. People coming to our houses would have to walk quite a long way after parking. Also what about garage sales, graduation parties any other event the neighbors may have would be an extreme inconvenience to the residents who pay taxes to live here. Another issue that was brought up at the meeting from the people who would be using the bike paths was that putting them in on both sides of the street and no parking on our section would slow traffic down and make it safer for the families and children to cross and utilize the parks. This is not true as up by the park on Winthrop and the elementary School on Ruth St there is a 4 way stop at both of these intersections. But from Ruth street to Burns Ave there is none, that is over a 1 mile stretch for the vehicles to pick up the speed. As I said I have lived here for 30 years even the Saint Paul Police really can't slow the traffic. I really feel that the County and City can comprise a bike lane on the North side and parking on the South side. If this still wouldn't work then maybe make that strip of Upper Afton a one way and let the bikers have 2 lanes and the residents have 1 side of the street parking. The traffic and the bikers are only using Upper Afton as a thru street to work and fun and to detour from 94 construction and congestion. They don't really care about us who live on the street. I am asking you to please review this matter again.

From: Judith Hartmann
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Jim.McDonough@co.ramsey.mn.us
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: Upper Afton Road Bike Lanes & Parking

Regarding the proposal for bike lanes on Upper Afton Road between Burns Avenue and McKnight Road:

We are concerned about the process that has been used to decide which alternative to present to the City Council and ask that you reconsider your support for totally removing on-street parking between White Bear and Burns Avenues.

At the public open house (Battle Creek Recreation Center, March 3, 2016), there was overwhelming opposition from residents who actually live on Upper Afton Road to the proposal that removed all on-street parking west of White Bear Avenue. The written notice that we received after the open house stated that the design to be presented to the City Council would allow one-side parking along all of Upper Afton. This plan was apparently later changed, and the one presented removed all parking west of White Bear Avenue. Our understanding is that the vote was delayed until June 1 in order to inform residents of the change and allow comments. We just received the written notice on Wednesday afternoon (May 25). With the short time frame and the Memorial Day weekend holiday, we assume that most residents will not be able to respond or are unaware of the switch.

The open house did not adequately address neighborhood residents' serious concerns. For example:

Numerous claims about bicyclists' safety and about slowing down the traffic were made, but were not supported by data from any statistically valid studies of comparable situations. Several of the claims were contrary to people's experience, which further undermined credibility.

Data regarding the number of parking spaces were misused. One frequently repeated claim was that there would be plenty of on-street parking spaces east of White Bear Avenue so on-street parking is not needed west of White Bear Avenue. This does not make any sense. - Regardless of their age, people are not going to park east of White Bear Avenue and walk long distances to a destination west of White Bear Avenue.

The planners also emphasized that the numbers of parked vehicles observed west of White Bear Avenue during their two counts was small and, therefore, in their opinion, on-street parking is not needed there. Even though the parking spaces are not used continuously, having none available would be a hardship for residents of all ages in that area. On-street parking serves several critical functions and is expected by homebuyers in a residential neighborhood of this type. A related issue involves yard maintenance and construction trades. In some cases, the equipment has to be parked on the street. When asked about this, the organizers said that would not be allowed. This seems to favor transient residents who do not care if their properties get run down versus conscientious homeowners who want to maintain or improve their properties.

Preserving on-street parking along one side of the entire length of Upper Afton between Burns and McKnight is a compromise that would respect the homeowners of all ages who live here, while still allowing for bike lanes.

James and Judith Hartmann
18xx Upper Afton Road
St. Paul MN 55119

From: Lenny Thao
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 12:28 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Attention Russ Stark: Biking lanes on Upper Afton Road

Dear Russ Stark,

As a resident living on Upper Afton road, for the past six years I've seen and experienced both bikers and drivers having shared the road equally and respectfully.

However when the proposal of adding bike lanes, eliminating street parking on Upper Afton Road arose it made very little sense to me as we the residents on Upper Afton Road will now lose the freedom of parking on our community streets if this does come into effect.

Many residents do not have the adequate parking space in their driveways to accomodate guests when visiting. Also many side streets are far away that could present an issue when elder relatives or children visit as the walking distances may prove to be very challenging especially during the winter season.

The number of bikers also seems far less than the number of residents who rely on street parking as well.

Please take this into consideration when you do make the decision regarding adding bike lanes on Upper Afton Road as this will negatively impact the residents of Upper Afton Road.

Thank you,

Lenny Thao
Homeowner
16xx Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

From: Mary Thao
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 12:23 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul); kathy.jaschke@co.ramsey.mn.us; victoria.reinhardt@co.ramsey.mn.us; jim.mcdohough@co.ramsey.mn.us
Subject: Concerns about Bike Lanes on Upper Afton Road

Dear City Council President & Members, and Ramsey County Board,

I am a resident of Upper Afton Road. The proposed bike lanes present many concerns and I ask that you highly consider voting against bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton Road for the following reasons:

(1) While the idea seems to encourage families to bike more, I would not take my children on a bike ride along Upper Afton Road. The bike lanes would be so close to the vehicles, especially

between Burns & White Bear where the road is narrower. This creates a dangerous situation for bikers and drivers.

(2) There is very, very minimal "side-street" parking all along Upper Afton Road. You are trying to encourage families to ride bikes but at the same time you are asking us to NOT host family gatherings -- Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day. My husband and I host our family throughout the year and without parking, we would no longer be able to host. With the limited side-street parking, it also means there's potential for 10 houses to be fighting for 5-6 parking spots on a dead-end road. Please, please consider this.

(3) We have elderly family members who visit, and asking them to park 1 to 2 blocks away is wrong. As you can imagine, the winter months would be extremely difficult.

(4) Some have argued that bike lanes slow down traffic, creating a safer environment for our children. This is not a valid argument. Ruth Street has a bike lane and it has not stopped crazy drivers from speeding down, even with a Saint Paul Police vehicle parked in front of one of the houses.

Please do consider the current residents when you are deciding on a proposal for residents who don't even live here.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary Thao
16xx Upper Afton Road

From: CRAIG B WILSON Owner

Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2016 7:54 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward4

Subject: Opposed to Resurfacing/Restructuring of Upper Afton Road

Council President Stark,

I am opposed to the proposed restructuring of Upper Afton Road following resurfacing for these reasons:

1. **Resource Priorities.**

- a. As a pedestrian, the Upper Afton/Burns Avenue crossing over Hwy 61 is an exceptionally dangerous crossing and a much higher priority for fixes and resources. It is the most dangerous crossing I've encountered in the City of St. Paul and is a killing zone, plain and simple. The pedestrian crossing light is short

so as to make it almost impossible to not have to wait in the middle of Hwy 61 for the next light with traffic at 60 mph.

- b. As a pedestrian and dog walker, my highest priority would be to extensively replace sidewalks that are treacherous in the summer (large elevation gaps, sewer pipes extending into the walking path and areas subject to ponding and icing in the cold half of the year.
2. **Inconsistent Design Feature.** The design is inconsistent with bike lanes on both sides of Upper Afton until going east past White Bear Avenue when it shifts to one lane. This is curious design feature that speaks to a basic inconsistent and unfair approach to the road's design.
3. **Excessive Vehicle Speed Common and Likely to Worsen.** Speed and noncompliance to speed limits will both increase with resurfacing as Upper Afton gets more connecting traffic from Maplewood and Woodbury. Vehicular traffic on Upper Afton Road typically exceeds the posted limits and frequently by quite a margin. Add to that just plain bad judgment – for example two months ago a woman in an SUV passed me on the wrong side of the double yellow/blind curve at the base of Upper Afton leading into Burns Avenue.
 - a. **Resurfacing Upper Afton will likely encourage vehicle speeds.** Smoother roads will translate into faster vehicular velocities which will not mix well with pedestrian and bicycle traffic, especially in many of our low daylight months.
 - i. As Upper Afton feeds into Burns Avenue at a very awkward/blind angle, this would suggest higher probability of nasty accidents at this corner.
 - ii. Given the road's angles and features, the proposed design seems to be enhancing the probabilities of vehicular-related injuries and deaths.
 - b. **Lack of Speed Enforcement.** With police having priority issues in other areas north of Upper Afton Road (Old Hudson Road, Suburban Avenue, etc.) I do not expect to see speed patrols dedicated to enforcement along Upper Afton. As a point of reference, I have not seen any policing of speeds on Upper Afton Road In the nearly two years I have lived in this area.
4. **No Action Option Preferred.** While I'm thankful for the City's attempt at improving this road, I am opposed to this upgrade of Upper Afton Road for the above reasons. I believe there are higher priorities as listed. I would prefer a no action alternative. Please upgrade the deplorable Burns Avenue/Hwy 61 pedestrian access and Upper Afton Road's sidewalks so that they are safe.

Bruce Wilson
Kennard Court
St. Paul, MN 55106

From: Scanlon Family
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2016 11:24 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject: Bike Lanes/Parking on Upper Afton Road

Dear Ms. Prince,

I live on Upper Afton Terrace, a cul-de-sac off of Upper Afton Road between White Bear Avenue and Burns/61. I understand you are meeting tonight about the bike lanes/street parking issue for this area.

PLEASE DO NOT eliminate all parking on both sides of this stretch of Upper Afton Road. It would be a disadvantage to us as homeowners in certain situations. First, because the parking lost to the residents/visitors of Upper Afton Road homes will lead to them parking on our street, which is pretty small. Also, for those occasional but important events such as high school graduation parties, where our visitors are sure to fill the parking on our own street, there will be no place for the overflow to park. Normally, this could spill over to Upper Afton Road, but that would not be possible if there is no parking allowed there. Again, we don't have big parties on a regular basis. But we do have the occasional special event that does bring higher parking needs.

Frankly, there is not a high volume of bike traffic on Upper Afton Road. We have lived on Upper Afton Terrace for 20 years. I am a stay-home mom who is driving all the time and I know the patterns of that road quite well. It does not make sense to eliminate all of the parking on Upper Afton Road between White Bear and Burns to accommodate a very small population of bike riders, when it will present an inconvenience to the people who actually live here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Scanlon
xx Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

To Whom It May Concern,

I writing to voice my concerns on the proposed bicycle lanes on Upper Afton Road. I am a resident that lives on [Upper Afton Road](#). This change will affect my life in very challenging ways. I am a homemaker. You see my husband works difficult rotating hours. He works very hard to maintain and sustain the ownership of our two vehicles. As a small family we do not live in a big house and we do not own a double garage. We have a single lane drive. If this proposal passes I suspect my husband will be playing musical chairs with our cars. Not an easy task when working difficult hours. I will at many times be unable to assist him in the matter as I'm taking care of our young toddler. That is my first concern.

My biggest concern however is the impact on the value of my home. As a growing family we will most likely need to move in the future. Having a one lane drive isn't an issue when you can park on the street for most people, however taking away the parking will VASTLY limit anyone who would want to live in our home. I find myself asking the question- Is the city of Saint Paul going to pay the residents whom are losing value on their property due to this proposal?

On a different note, I don't get my exercise by biking. Maybe this is why I don't understand the need for a bicycle lane (let alone two). I do however understand that the twin cities has hundreds of miles of bicycle trails paved and not paved. I just don't understand how all of those miles are not enough. I grew up believing that roads were meant for automobile transportation and sidewalks were for walking and biking. If there is a resource in which I could educate myself on these matters please provide.

Thank you for your time and understanding while listening to my plight.

Sincerely,
Amy Jensen

