

From:**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 12:56 PM**To:** #CI-StPaul_Ward7**Subject:** bike lane on Upper Afton

Dear Council,

I am writing to protest the 2 bike lanes proposed for Upper Afton Road. I think this is an unnecessary inconvenience for both the city and the residents of Upper Afton Road. I have lived on 1596 Upper Afton for over 30 years and we have made innumerable improvements to our property. I am also a biker myself, unlike many of the residents who would be affected by the change, and I know some of the habits/needs bikers.

1. Two bike lanes on Upper Afton Road is superfluous. Most bikers choose a round path and it is most commonly heading east on Upper Afton and returning on a different road. There is very little bike traffic ever heading west; so it seems ridiculous to prevent parking on the side that few bikers ever use. I think the smartest idea would be to have one bike lane on the south side of Upper Afton.

2. Many, many people use the street for parking. It would put prohibitive restraints on the residents of Upper Afton to forgo parking on their own street just to serve the bikers who are predominantly from other areas of the Twin Cities. As I mentioned above, Upper Afton is a lower to middle class area where there are relatively few people who use bicycles. It isn't fair to severely limit their space so that others can occasionally utilize it.

In summary, I am in favor of one bike lane on the south side of Upper Afton, but totally oppose the establishment of two bike lanes that would eliminate on-street parking.

Sincerely,

Dr. Celeste Yanisch

From: Douglas Jensen**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2016 1:07 PM**To:** #CI-StPaul_Ward7; Prince, Jane (CI-StPaul)**Subject:** Upper Afton bike lanes

To Everyone Involved:

My name is Douglas Jensen and I am a resident of Upper Afton, and have lived here for the past 6 years with my wife and now 1 1/2 year old daughter. Here are my concerns about the project and some questions I have. I will not be able to attend the meeting, but I hope maybe some of these things will be addressed.

1. This will possibly decrease the value of my home, should we decide to sell. I only have a single stall garage, even though there is room for about 3 vehicles in the drive. So it will limit the potential buyers that would be interested given that they could not park in the street.

2. I have 2 jobs, so in addition to my rotating work schedule I will now have to revolve my car and my wife's car depending on my hours. Having on street parking is very convenient for us when I am sleeping during the day and she is running errands with our child. She is a homemaker, and it would not do well to have to switch everything from one car to the other if I was parked behind her. Not an issue before we had a child.

3. There is a very limited amount of side street parking available in this neighborhood. There is one directly across from us and another 2 houses down. I do not like the idea of parking my car where I cannot see it, or having to walk a substantial length from my own house. I also do not want to impose on other residents and cause them problems as well. I also wonder if perhaps complaints will occur if we have guests and they park in the driveway, which might have their vehicle over the sidewalk.

So I ask, how is this going to benefit us? What do my neighbors and I get from this arraignment? This will not really affect people with a double garage or alley parking.

How is this better for the neighborhood? Why do we have to assist and accommodate people who are going to do it anyway, regardless of lanes? Most of them do not pay the taxes or live in this area, so they reap the rewards.

Why wait so long to notify the residents this will affect? It seems pretty underhanded that we were only given about 3 months notice that this plan was going into effect. I may be wrong about the length of time, but I know I would have known about it long ago. And I also wonder what do the people involved with this project get out of it?

Why does it HAVE to be 2 lanes? If the answer is possibly reducing speeds on the street, I don't know that that would work, as vehicles now have less to look out for. If I had to park on the other side of the street, I would, it would only be a minor inconvenience. And what is so crucial about my street that you are willing to upset hundreds of people in the process?

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope that some things are resolved in the favor of the people that actually live here. But I have my doubts, considering that we were notified almost as an afterthought.

Sincerely,

Douglas Jensen

Phone calls regarding Organized Trash
5/26/2016 Brian Natter, 10xx Reaney

Saw an article in the paper, he has no complaints with his trash hauler. He does not want to be told who should be his trash hauler. He does not think the survey of only 2000 people is a good sample.

5/26/2016 Tom Brock, 13xx Burns

He was not aware of the organized trash hauler issue until today. Why wasn't it publicized? He feels that the Public Hearings are set at an inconvenient time so that few people are able to attend.

5/27/2016 Ruth Swanson, 14xx Upper Afton
Ruth objects to removing parking on Upper Afton.

5/19/2016 Donald Denson, Lives on Upper Afton
Against no parking on Upper Afton. There are 9 rental units next to him that will lose their parking spaces. He is very concerned about where everyone will park.

5/26/2016 Jerry Walsh, Received letter from Public Works. Against no parking on Upper Afton. The notice is not long enough with a holiday weekend. No parking affects 175 homes.

5/27/2016 Deb Lily, 15xx Upper Afton
She is disappointed in the bike plan. All neighbors are against having a lack of parking. Having the public hearing after Memorial Day seems like it was purposely chosen so residents don't notice.

5/31/2016 Steve
Concerned about having no parking on Upper Afton. The traffic on this road is bad, which makes it dangerous for a bike lane. He is handicapped and needs parking in front of his house.

6/1/2016 Stephanie Chester, 14xx Upper Afton
Strongly opposed to no parking on both sides of Upper Afton. Currently the few bikers she has seen don't have issues with traffic. There are many elderly people who need parking for their families and caregivers. She is not sure where people will park, as the side streets are far apart, and there isn't much parking on those.

6/1/2016 Kim Kirki, 22xx Upper Afton
Opposed to the Upper Afton Bike lane. She doesn't think residents on Upper Afton should lose their parking. There are very few bikers, and they don't live on this street.

COMMENTS:

As a follow-up to the meeting held on Thursday, March 3rd, concerning Upper Afton Road bicycle lanes, I would like to offer the following comments for consideration:

I understand the District 1 Committee Council is “excited” to see the proposed bicycle paths on Upper Afton; however, as a homeowner on Upper Afton for the last 24 years (have lived on Upper Afton Rd. for 57 years), I do not share their enthusiasm.

Property Values

Has anyone done a survey to determine if not having on-street parking effects the value of the homes in the proposed area?

Side Street Neighbors

What is the feedback of the people who live on the side streets who would be impacted by the additional parking? Have you checked with these neighbors and gotten their feedback, i.e., Dora Court, Afton Road Terrace, Kennard, Miller Crest, etc.?

Congestion at the Intersection of Upper Afton/Burns Ave.

In my opinion, the bicycle lanes on Upper Afton would add more congestion down by the intersection of Upper Afton and Burns Ave. There is already a bottleneck and this is just going to compound the issue. Anyone who travels this road daily is aware of the congestion problem during peak hours.

Increased danger of bicycle/vehicle accidents

The majority of homes on Upper Afton have one-way driveways where the residents need to back out into the street; with the proposed plan, I see a potential for a higher risk in car/bicycle accidents.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

1. As a compromise, put **one bicycle lane** on Upper Afton vs. two. One lane would allow residents to have access to on-street parking, while giving bicyclist a dedicated lane of travel.
2. As an alternative plan, I would propose having a bike path on **Lower Afton** from Hwy 61 to McKnight. It is a much more scenic stretch of road, there is no housing on that street and therefore no residential parking would be affected, it would connect to Battle Creek Park; and if speed is an issue, consider reducing the speed limit to accommodate the bikers’ concerns.
3. In the larger picture, with any of these alternatives, an overpass or underpass from one side of Highway 61 to the other would be more beneficial for bicyclists and pedestrians alike than the changes you are proposing on Upper Afton Road.

Please take these comments into consideration and keep the residence informed of upcoming meetings to discuss this issue by letter vs. a footnote in the District 1 paper.

Sheryl V. Hayne
15xx Upper Afton Road
St. Paul, MN 55106