



Payne-Phalen

DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

506 Kenny Road, Ste 130, St. Paul MN 55130 www.paynephalen.org 651-774-5234

June 20, 2016

Kathy Lantry
Public Works
1500 City Hall Annex
25 W. 4th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

Dear Ms. Lantry,

At the May 24th meeting of the Payne-Phalen District Five Planning Council, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to support a proposal for installing bike lanes and reducing the speed limit to 25mph on Payne Avenue between Phalen Boulevard and Maryland Avenue.

Payne Avenue is an important commercial corridor and it is important to the Board that it be safe and comfortable for multiple modes of transportation. At its current width and layout it actually encourages drivers to travel over the speed limit and discourages people from riding their bicycles. It also makes it more difficult for pedestrians to cross the street due to high speeds and a wide crossing distance.

By installing bike lanes (while keeping on-street parking) we would be simultaneously inviting cyclists to use the street and narrowing the driving lane, decreasing the dangerous crossing distance for pedestrians. It is hoped that narrowing driving lanes will also cause drivers to slow down. Maryland Avenue has 10' lanes for trucks and buses, and keeping 10' traffic lanes on Payne Avenue will help slow traffic and make all street users safer, cars included.

However, reducing the speed limit to 25mph will compel drivers to slow. Adding bike lanes into the mix of traffic on Payne Avenue will cause more users to be on the street at the same time, and a lower speed limit will improve the success of this setup. It is worth noting that our Board includes the owners of some Payne Avenue businesses, and we believe that most business owners on the Avenue are supportive of this plan. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Eric Foster, President, Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council

Cc: Council Member Dan Bostrom