



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin W. Carter, Mayor

*1500 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660*

Fax: 651-266-6222

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/13/2018

SUBJECT: Summary of the public process and comments received on the proposal for bicycle lanes on Western Avenue.

This memorandum presents a summary of the public process and comments received on Saint Paul Public Works' proposal to install bicycle lanes on Western Avenue between Front Avenue and Como Avenue. The full text of all written statements received is attached to the end of this memorandum.

Saint Paul Public Works staff began stakeholder outreach along Western Avenue in June 2018. A website was created for the project, providing an overview of the planned improvements, data, project documents, visuals, timeline, and a project contact for questions and comments. Staff attended a City staff also presented the project to the Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission in June and July. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of the project as proposed.

Western Avenue Project Meeting:

A project meeting was held on July 23, 2018 at the Rice Recreation Center. Residents and property owners within 200 feet of the proposed project were sent notifications of the open house via mail, along with an overview of the project details and impacts. 123 flyers were sent out for the meeting. The flyers provided a map of the project, a link to the project website, contact information for project staff, and information about the project design.

Updated Proposal:

In response to community feedback, Public Works changed the recommendation for parking removal from the west side of Western Avenue between Front Avenue and Larch Street, to the east side of Western Avenue. Removing parking from the east side of the street instead of the west side presents the opportunity to maintain ten additional parking spaces, maximizing available parking capacity along the corridor. To notify residents and stakeholders of this change, an additional notice was mailed detailing the updated proposal.

Written Statements Received:

As of August 13, 2018, city staff received a total of 10 written statements specific to proposed bicycle facilities on Forest Street from the following sources:

- Comment forms from the project meeting (5 statements)
- Comments sent or forwarded to city staff via email (5 statements)



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It should be noted that the total number of statements received may include multiple statements from some individuals, as well as some duplicate statements (e.g. an individual may have provided written feedback at an Open House and provided feedback via email).

Major Themes:

All statements received were reviewed by project staff. Major themes identified in the feedback are summarized below:

- The proposed bike facilities will improve safety and / or connectivity (**5 comments**)
- Concern that the proposed bikeway could exacerbate the impacts of existing heavy vehicle traffic (**3 comments**)

Attachments:

1. Original text or transcription of all written statements received by city staff
2. Copy of Project Meeting Flyer
3. Copy of City Council Public Hearing Notice

7/23/2018

[illegible]

Western Avenue Bikeway Project Meeting

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Western Avenue Bikeway Comment Form

The City of Saint Paul is proposing to install bicycle lanes on Western Avenue between Front and Como avenues in 2018.

.....

Please provide written feedback on the proposed plans for Western Avenue by doing one of the following:

- Write comments below, or
- Send an email to project staff
City of Saint Paul: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Name, address (optional):

CARA ANTHONY, 2103 Berkeley, St Paul 55105

Comments:

Western is an important addition for
bike connectivity. I support
the plan presented tonight (7/23/18)

Western Avenue Bikeway Comment Form

The City of Saint Paul is proposing to install bicycle lanes on Western Avenue between Front and Como avenues in 2018.

.....
Please provide written feedback on the proposed plans for Western Avenue by doing one of the following:

- Write comments below, or
- Send an email to project staff
City of Saint Paul: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Name, address (optional):

Rebecca Loeding

Comments:

Please consider speed limit detector at least temporarily to prepare folks to slow down.

I hope bikers are ticketed for using SIDEWALKS instead of bike lanes.

Trucks should not travel on Western

Public needs training on how to use bike lanes. Can cars move over to lane to turn right, for example, as long as there are no bikers in sight behind?

I'm all for this change but concerned about safety. Thank you for the great information & I wish you good luck in achieving the objective.



Western Avenue Bikeway Comment Form

The City of Saint Paul is proposing to install bicycle lanes on Western Avenue between Front and Como avenues in 2018.

.....

Please provide written feedback on the proposed plans for Western Avenue by doing one of the following:

- Write comments below, or
- Send an email to project staff

City of Saint Paul: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Name, address (optional):

ANDREW SINGER, 2103 BERKELEY AVE.

Comments:

I FULLY ENDORSE PUTTING BIKE LANES ON THIS SECTION OF WESTERN. I USE WESTERN TO VISIT FRIENDS AND ATTEND MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS IN THE NORTH END BECAUSE IT'S ONE OF THE FEW NORTH/SOUTH STREETS THAT CROSSES ALL THE VARIOUS BARRIERS INCLUDING THE RAILWAY LINES AND I-94, PLUS IT ALREADY HAS BIKE LANES SOUTH OF COMO ALL THE WAY TO MARSHALL AVENUE.

I WOULD BE WILLING TO LOSE THE BUTTERS ~~BEFORE~~ BETWEEN LARCH AND ATWATER IF IT WOULD PLACATE OPPONENT BUSINESS OWNERS WHO NEED SOME ON-STREET PARKING AS A LOADING ZONE.

I ALSO DON'T CARE WHICH SIDE OF THE STREET LOSES PARKING. I JUST WANT TO SEE BIKE LANES STRIPED!

Western Avenue Bikeway Comment Form

The City of Saint Paul is proposing to install bicycle lanes on Western Avenue between Front and Como avenues in 2018.

.....
Please provide written feedback on the proposed plans for Western Avenue by doing one of the following:

- Write comments below, or
- Send an email to project staff

City of Saint Paul: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Name, address (optional):

Comments:

I am disabled and cannot walk a block from my car to my house. Taking away the parking from in front of my house will make life very difficult. We do have a garage behind our house on the dirt easement. However, due to years of garbage trucks driving they have created gullies in the dirt making it impossible to drive now. The garbage trucks can't even go down it. We can no longer physically or financially maintain it and our neighbors have never helped with it. I have submitted an application for an ADA Zone in front of my house. We are all for a bike lane, I just can't lose my parking. Please feel free to contact me Cindy Winday 612-865-1586, cindybauer@yahoo.com

Western Avenue Bikeway Comment Form

The City of Saint Paul is proposing to install bicycle lanes on Western Avenue between Front and Como avenues in 2018.

.....
Please provide written feedback on the proposed plans for Western Avenue by doing one of the following:

- Write comments below, or
- Send an email to project staff
City of Saint Paul: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Name, address (optional):

Jan R Buck 514 Thomas Ave W

Comments:

This bike route will be very useful for me once Front Ave also receives bike infrastructure improvements. Currently I do not come north of Como much because there are not enough bike ways.

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Kerry Antrim <ed@nenostpaul.org>
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 1:19 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward1; Collins, Reuben (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Western Avenue Bike Lanes
Attachments: NENO_Western_letter Agust 2018.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello:

Attached please find the North End Neighborhood's recommendation regarding bike lanes on Western Avenue and the parking restriction. Thank-you for your consideration of our position and if you have questions please let us know.

Kerry Antrim

Email is changing to ed@nenostpaul.org please update your contacts

Kerry Antrim
Executive Director



171 Front Avenue
Saint Paul
651-488-4485-office
651-402-8143-cell



171 Front Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55117
651-488-4485
ed@nenostpaul.org

August 13, 2018

Luke Hanson
Department of Public Works
City of Saint Paul
25 W. 4th St
Saint Paul, MN 55102

On August 6th, 2018, the Board of Directors of the North End Neighborhood Organization (NENO) held a public meeting considering the City of Saint Paul's recommendation for bike lanes on Western Ave between Como and Front, as well as the proposed parking removal. NENO's Transportation Committee previously held a public meeting with you to hear an initial presentation, and collected feedback at that time. In addition, the Transportation Committee conducted a survey late last year to get a broader sense of the community's priorities around Western Ave.

Feedback was mixed on both proposals, with community members on both sides expressing strong support and strong opposition. However, after considering the goals of the North End Large Area Plan and other adopted plans, the Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

NENO recommends that the City of Saint Paul proceed with planned bike lanes on Western Avenue between Como and Front. We appreciate that the City responded to resident feedback during the design process, and recommend that they continue to work with neighbors both during and after the project.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rich Holst

Richard Holst
Chair: North End Neighborhood Organization

cc: Ward 1, City of Saint Paul
Reuben Collins, City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Heiskary, Darlene (DEED) <darlene.heiskary@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 1:37 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Western Avenue Bike Lane Project - feedback
Attachments: Western Avenue - lanes.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Luke,

Thank you for the informative presentation on Monday evening and answering our questions. I offer my comments and suggestions below. Hope you don't mind my analysis... ☺ Thank you!

1)

Please consider making the West side bike lane (cushion) as wide as possible. The current level of traffic noise and vibration is quite bad especially South of Front Street.

Could East side parking lane be reduced to 7.5 feet, 7 feet or 6.5 feet in your plan?

Could East side bike lane be reduced to 6.5 feet, 6 feet, or 5.5 feet in your plan?

Combinations of these would allow a "cushion" of up to 2 feet to be added to the bike lane on the West side.

Pushing the traffic out any distance is appreciated, because it is not just one lane of traffic traveling closer to our homes but both lanes.

PRESENTLY assuming cars travel in the center of lane, existing South bound cars are 11.5' from West curb edge
PRESENTLY assuming cars travel in center of the lane, existing North bound cars travel 26.5' from West curb edge

(elementary diagram attached)

In the project plan, the South bound car would travel at 9.5' from West curb edge

In the project plan, the North bound car would travel at 20.5' from West curb edge

(attached)

It is the **North bound lane that is getting moved over a significant amount, about 6 feet further West** than current traffic flow. This will significantly increase noise and vibration for our homes on the West side, especially when speeds are well over 30 MPH.

(... also buses and trucks are over 8 feet wide and even closer)

2)

Bump outs on any section of Western would be appreciated to help slow the traffic.

3)

Post speed limit signs. Please support in any way our request to post 30 MPH speed limit signs for Western at Maryland and Como and even at Front. The public is not educated that Western is a 30 MPH street.

I waved a police officer over last summer and asked him the speed limit for our section of Western. He said "35 MPH" I asked why it was not a 30 MPH street like Dale or parts of nearby Como and Rice? He replied "We need

some street to be a thoroughfare, and that is Western.” Even the police do not know that it is 30 MPH and he considered it to be a thoroughfare?

We are seeing an ever increasing numbers of heavy trucks, delivery vehicles and even semi-trailers using Western compared to previous years. I thought about this after the meeting on Monday. It is possible that truck and route drivers are using traffic apps, much like Uber drivers, that are showing them the fastest current route, flow of traffic. Without speed limit signs, drivers are treating Western like the fastest thoroughfare in the area to choose - and more and more traffic we get. They may not choose Western as quickly if they are required by signage to putt putt along at 30 MPH - at least the noise and vibration would not be as bad for us even if they do.

My neighbors and I will communicate with Elizabeth Stiffler in Public Works about requesting speed limit signs and interactive speed limit signs.

4)

Reroute City of St Paul maintenance trucks.

I will communicate with Council member Dai Thao’s office about requesting that City of St Paul Sewer and Maintenance and Asphalt trucks be routed west down Burgess and Topping to Como - and not onto our very residential Western Avenue. Much of the area surrounding Burgess and Topping west from the Maintenance yards is zoned Industrial - very little housing.

5)

Lastly,

I am curious about what will happen at the City Council meeting on August 15. I assume that you will present the plan that will also be posted on the website in advance. The public will be allowed to comment. Will the council vote during that meeting? Are there amendments to the plan possible during the meeting, or just a “yes” or “no” vote in the meeting?

Darlene Heiskary | M.A. Public Affairs-Labor Policy | GCDF

Department of Employment and Economic Development

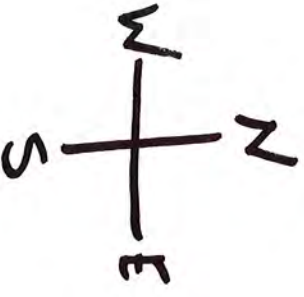
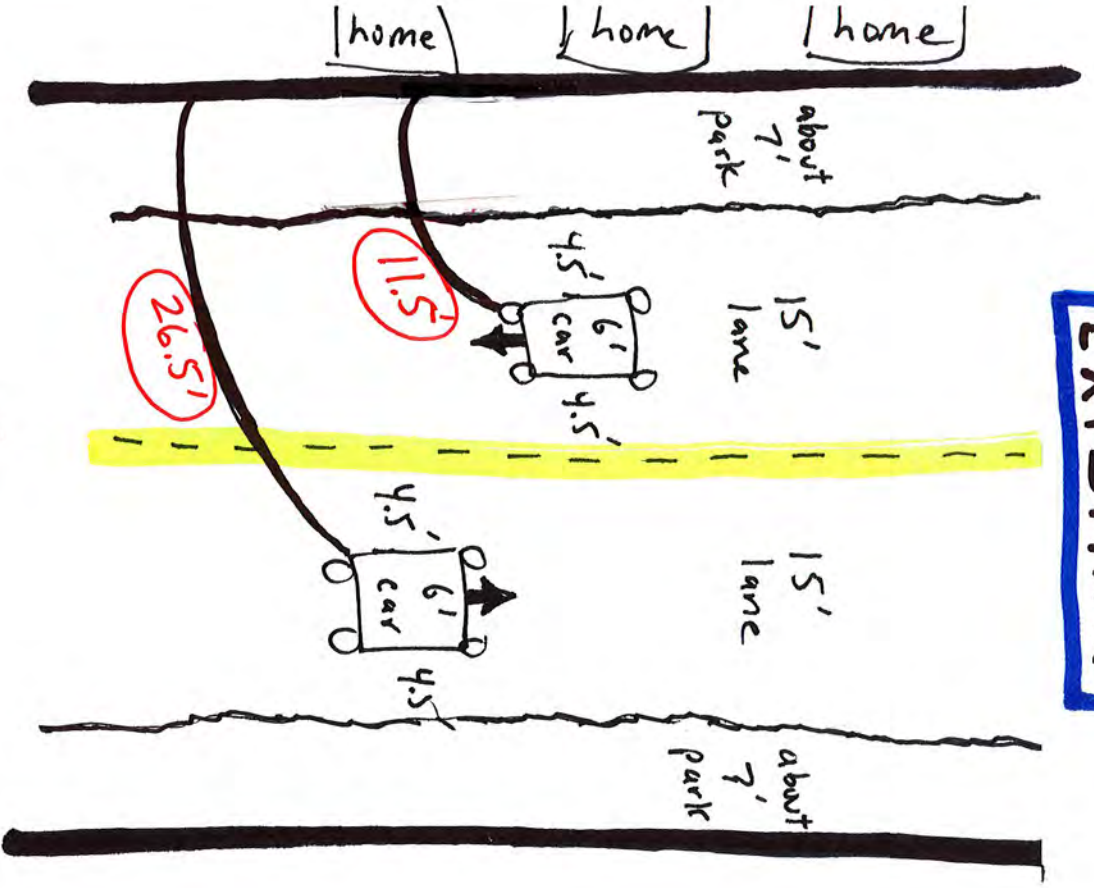
Minneapolis Workforce Center, 777 East Lake Street, Minneapolis MN 55407

Direct: 612-821-4034

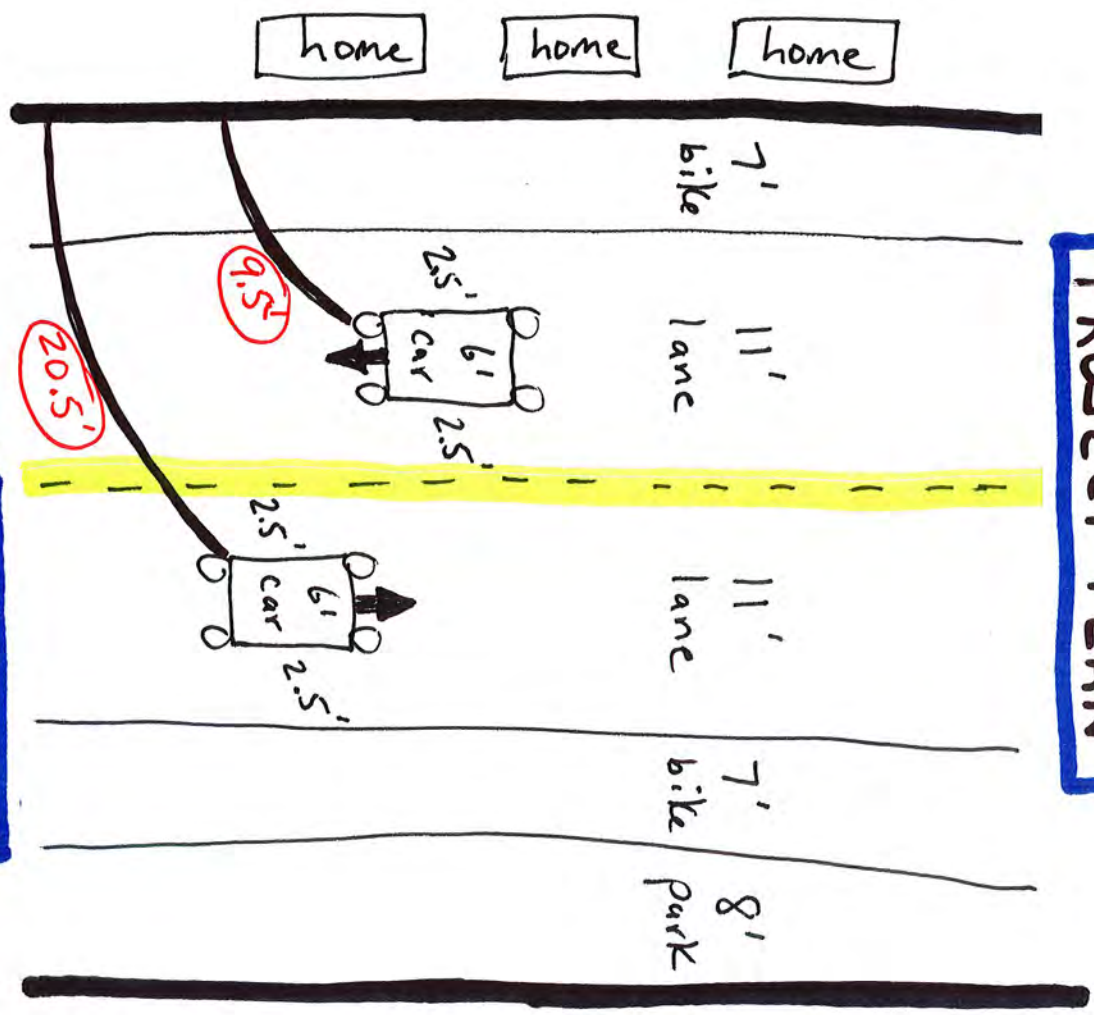
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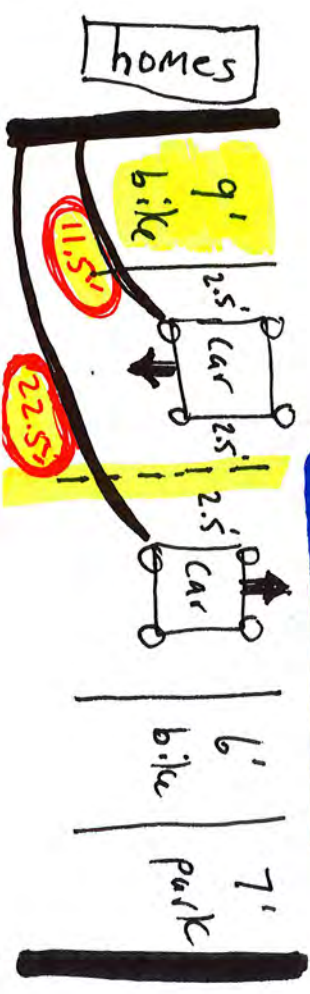
EXISTING



PROJECT PLAN



ADD 2 FEET?



Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Adam Fink <iamafink@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 8:12 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Western Bikeway Meeting Feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Luke,

I want to thank you for taking the time to share the bikeway proposal at the Rice Rec Center on Monday. It was very informative and laid out a better understanding of the overall picture St. Paul's bike plan.

I am very supportive of making St. Paul more bicycle friendly, but I would like to re-iterate a few concerns that I have regarding implementing the Western Ave bikeway. Drivers on Western Ave often drive upwards of 40mph. I know this might seem like an okay speed paired with bicycles, but the drivers often travel erratically as well. We have witnessed people passing via pulling into oncoming traffic, racing, and multiple other things that would put bikers lives in danger. I know resources are thin, but I really feel like speed tests need to be done before bike lanes are added here.

I feel that bringing the bike and vehicle traffic closer to our house will make things more dangerous for children in our neighborhood and anyone else using the sidewalks. Increasing the number of bicycles on Western could increase the risk of danger with vehicles driving as they do.

On a lesser note the loss of parking, specifically during the winter months would be very difficult for many in our neighborhood. The parking survey listed a very low number of people parking on Western. We actually switched to parking on Western during the winter months but changed after a few weeks because we were worried about getting creamed by other drivers.

This is why I contacted our city council member asking for bump-outs. I know this is out of your purview, but I fear that installing bike lanes now will wipe out any chance of adding bump-outs in the future. The Western Ave survey last fall showed 58% of respondents were pro-bump-outs with another 11% asking for them in a more limited deployment.

I know you aren't responsible for the traffic flow issues we experience on a daily bases, but I feel like they are important things to consider regarding the implementation in our neighborhood.

I would recommend looking at Makubin as a possible alternative for the bikeway. I feel that it offers many advantages that Western doesn't. Makubin has far less traffic, its a flat ride without any hills and has far fewer residents. Its comprised mainly of businesses, parks, a church, and two schools. Like Western, it too extends all the way to Maryland if the bikeway ever develops that far, and once again is very flat and level the whole length. From my recollection, the majority of the western side of Makubin is resident free, therefore removing parking would have less of an effect. I know it would force bikers to adjust from the straight shot of Western Ave, but it has much to offer in my opinion.

I am sorry this is so long, and I hope this input is valuable. Once again, thank you for the work you do. Your work makes our city a better place.

If you would like I can send photos of Makubin.

Adam

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Heiskary, Darlene (DEED) <darlene.heiskary@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:43 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Re: Western Avenue Bikeway Project Proposal

Hi Luke

I will attend the meeting on Monday. I did fill out a survey and I did support bike lanes, but I am very sure I did not pick a model that would have removed the parking lane from the street in front of my house. Will look forward to seeing that original survey.

Is there room for discussions and alternative plans?

I was just on Minnehaha immediately west of Ashbury. Measured. There is a parking lane on both sides and a bike lane on both sides. Blacktop park lane is 6.5 blacktop & bike lane is 5.5 & car lane is 10. Total blacktop used is 44 feet. Could a similar model be used on Western? Like I said, I have seen blacktop bike lanes as skinny as 2 feet on Prior, right next to traffic.

Your plan of 7 feet (5 feet blacktop) bike lane on west side of Western puts us too close to the traffic - and type, speed, and vibration of traffic - that flows thru there. Especially the end south of Front for reasons provided earlier.

Can we ask the buses to reroute, they already do not travel on Western north of Front. Can we ask the City of St Paul maintenance trucks to exit on the other end of Burgess at Como and not travel on Western? That would be helpful - also that end of Burgess is mostly industrial not passing by homes like Western.

Then there are the loud groups of Harley riders, the speeding noisy smaller motorcycles and even cars racing and passing each other on a crowded street. It is all there.

You cannot believe the noise and vibration that already exists. It does not seem appropriate to suggest moving both lanes of traffic even closer to our living rooms and bedrooms that face Western. I realize this is very much a working class area, but maybe now is a good time to address what is happening on Western Avenue. Who knows maybe someday it will be "gentrified".

I appreciate any answers you can provide, and I look forward to discussions on Monday.

Thank You!

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Heiskary, Darlene (DEED) <darlene.heiskary@state.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: RE: Western Avenue Bikeway Project Proposal
Attachments: IMG_8157.JPG; IMG_8159.JPG

Hi Luke,

The website is still not working, I would really like to review the documents prior to the meeting on Monday.

I have many questions and observations at this point...if you could provide some answers it would be greatly appreciated.

The mailing is misleading. It represents Western in a diagram and states typical width is 44'. Western Avenue where I reside is 40' wide.

The section of Western south of Como that you said is an example of a 7' lane, is not a 7' lane as shown in the proposed diagram. That part of Western has a 5' blacktop lane on the west side and a 6' blacktop bike lane on the east side along with a 7' parking lane.

What is the proposed width of the bike lane on the west side of Western north of Como?

My neighbors and I shudder to think that on the west side that only a 5' bike lane would separate us from the noise and vibration of the traffic on Western, this plan is moving it all (both lanes shift west) too close to the front of our homes! This is very much a residential neighborhood and we already deal with significant noise and ground shaking from traffic.

Note:

This part of Western that is south of Front Street is a bus route with MANY buses, some double, all loud.

It is an emergency route with many ambulance incidents, also loud.

Many City of St Paul maintenance trucks pull on to Western from the maintenance facilities on Burgess. They are heavy and loud.

The traffic going down this street is often speeding, especially as they go downhill from Como or Front. They are not traveling at 35 mph, much faster.

Is there a plan to post Western as a 30 mph street? How can this be proposed and accomplished?

I have traveled in the area and find a variety of bike lanes some are 2' wide like on Prior, traffic is moving very close to curb, however there are no homes in that area.

Pictures attached... first one is a 7.5' lane on Como, the next is a 5' lane on Front. Which is more representative of the plan for west side of Western?

Neighbors also upset that they are losing on street parking.

Is the Western bike path just a proposal? Will it definitely be implemented?

Can you please let me know when website is working? Thanks!!

Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)

From: Heiskary, Darlene (DEED) <darlene.heiskary@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 8:44 PM
To: Hanson, Luke (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Western Avenue Bikeway Project Proposal

Hello Luke,

I received the flyer announcing the proposal this weekend. At the bottom it reads "to view the materials that will be presented please visit the project website." I did go to the website but I did not see any presentation materials. Have they been posted yet?

Could you also give me an example of a currently existing bike lane that is 7 feet wide next to the curb as is pictured in the Western Avenue flyer. I have drove down Prior, Front and Minnehaha and cannot seem to find a 7 foot wide path that would be representative of the Western Avenue proposal.

Thank you for any further information.

Darlene



Western Avenue Bikeway Project Meetings

PROJECT CONTACT:

Luke Hanson

Department of Public Works

651-266-6146 | Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

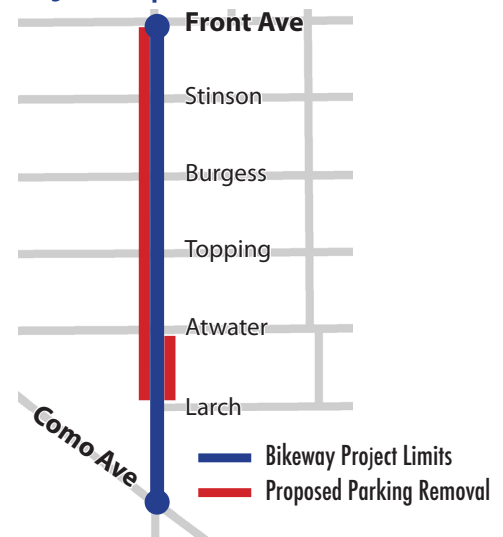
What is Proposed?

Saint Paul Public Works is planning to resurface Western Ave between Como Ave and Front St in 2018. The Saint Paul Bicycle Plan recommends bike lanes on Western Ave where the street is being resurfaced. Installing bicycle lanes on Western Ave between Como Ave and Front Street is proposed.

Changes to Parking

To install bike lanes, parking would need to be removed on one side of the street. Parking removal is being proposed for the west side of Western Ave between Como and Front avenues. To accommodate a lane shift, parking removal is also proposed for the east side of Western Ave between Larch and Atwater streets.

Project Map



JULY 23 WESTERN AVENUE BIKEWAY OPEN HOUSE

When: July 23, 2018 | 6 - 7:30 PM (Presentation: 6:15 PM)

Where: Rice Recreation Center, 1021 Marion St

At the Meeting:

The City of Saint Paul is hosting a project meeting to share information and take input on the proposal for bike lanes on Western Ave between Como and Front avenues.

- Layouts will be shared
- Staff will be available to answer questions
- A presentation will begin at 6:15 PM
- Comment forms will be provided

AUGUST 15 CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

When: August 15, 2018 | 5:30 PM

Where: City Council Chambers, 300 City Hall, 15 Kellogg Blvd W

City Council Public Hearing

Following the July Open House, the proposal for bike lanes on Western Avenue will be presented to the Saint Paul City Council on **Wednesday, August 15. This will be a public hearing, and there will be an opportunity for public comment.** The City Council will be asked to approve a resolution authorizing Public Works to install the proposed bike lanes on Western Avenue.



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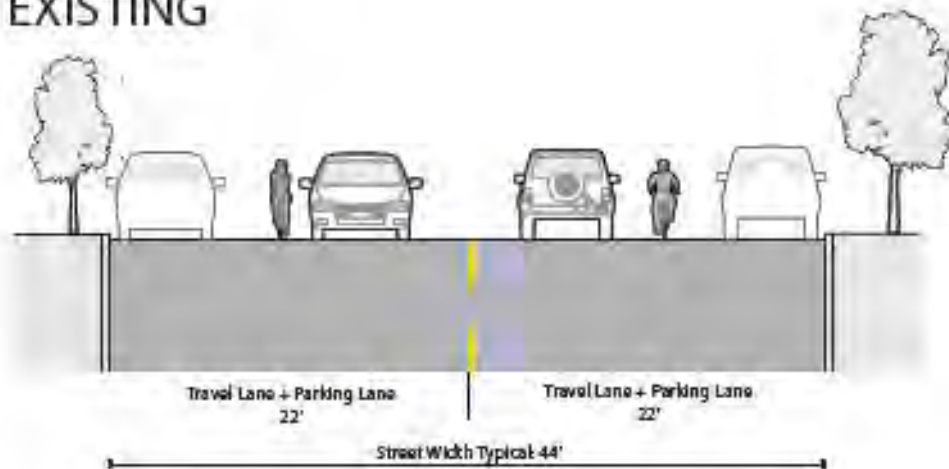
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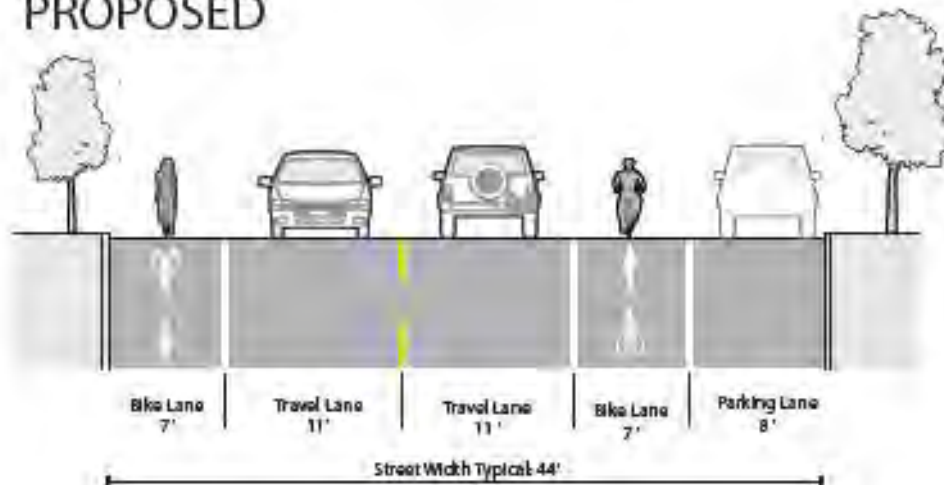


EXISTING & PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTIONS WESTERN AVENUE: COMO TO FRONT

EXISTING



PROPOSED





CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin W. Carter, Mayor

1500 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660

Fax: 651-266-6222

July 30, 2018

Dear Saint Paul Resident / Property Owner:

The City of Saint Paul is proposing to install bicycle facilities on Western Avenue between Front Avenue and Como Avenue. This project will be presented to the Saint Paul City Council on Wednesday, August 15. **This will be a public hearing, and there will be an opportunity for public comment.** The City Council will be asked to approve a resolution authorizing Public Works to install the proposed bicycle facilities on Western Avenue.

This hearing will be held at:

**5:30 PM, Wednesday,
August 15, 2018**

**City Council Chambers
300 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd, West
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

Project Updates:

A community meeting was held on July 23rd at the Rice Recreation Center to present information and receive feedback on the project. **In response to community feedback, Public Works is changing the recommendation for parking removal from the west side of Western Avenue between Front Avenue and Larch Street, to the east side of Western Avenue (see map on reverse side).** Removing parking from the east side of the street instead of the west side presents the opportunity to maintain ten additional on-street parking spaces, maximizing available parking capacity between Larch and Front avenues.

If you have not submitted a comment already or cannot attend the public hearing, you may email project staff or your Councilmember to have your comments entered into the public record.

Project Contact:

Luke Hanson, Transportation Planning and Safety Division
Phone: 651-266-6146
Email: Luke.Hanson@ci.stpaul.mn.us

To review the proposed project in more detail, please visit the project website at:

www.stpaul.gov/bikeprojects



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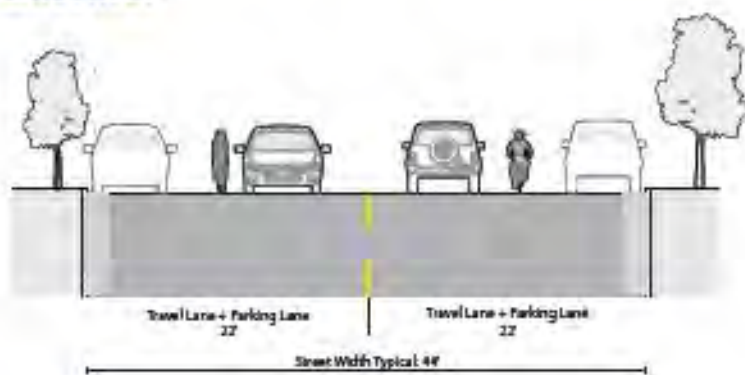


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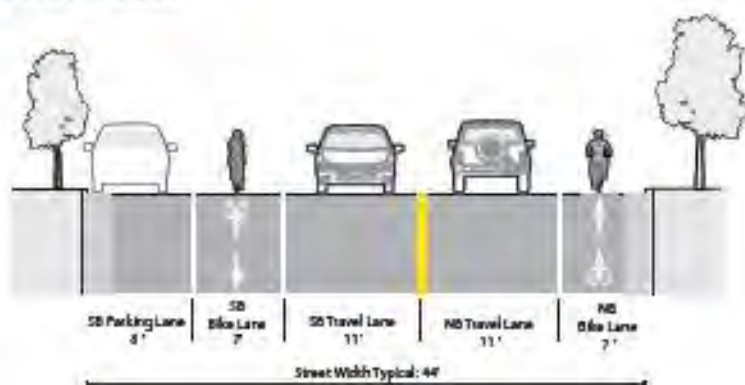
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WESTERN AVENUE (FRONT TO COMO) EXISTING & PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTIONS

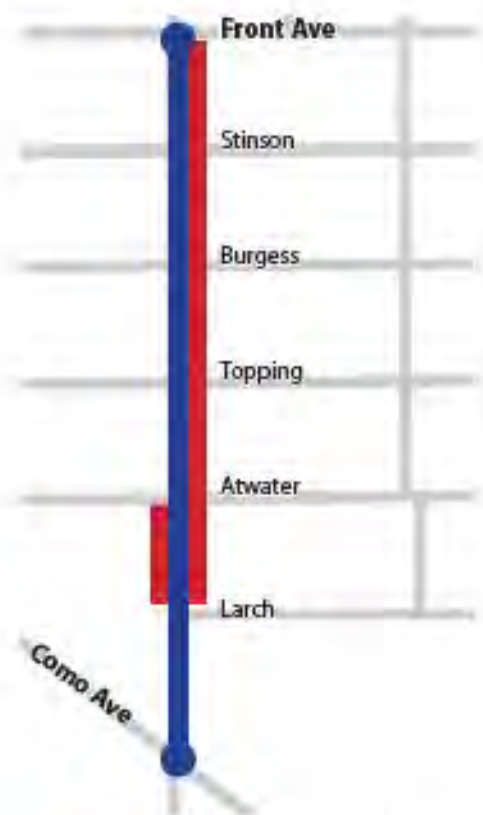
EXISTING:



PROPOSED:



PROJECT MAP



- Bikeway Project Limits
- Proposed Parking Removal



Saint Paul Minnesota
The most livable city in America