

# **HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA**

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE: AUGUST 22, 2018**

**REGARDING:      APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER AND USE OF TIF FUNDS FOR  
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS  
ALONG NORTH SNELLING AVENUE, DISTRICT 11, WARD 4**

## **Requested Board Action**

Approval of the transfer and use of TIF funds, originally allocated for the Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program, for pedestrian safety and public realm improvements along North Snelling Avenue, from University to Englewood Avenues.

## **Background**

The Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program was originally approved by the HRA on August 12, 2009, by Resolution 09-08/12, to help mitigate the loss of 85% of the on-street parking on University Avenue in Wards 1 and 4 due to the light rail development, and to minimize the disruption and relocation of businesses in the Central Corridor. The \$2.1 million program was to be more-or-less divided equally between the two wards, and ultimately led to 26 parking projects being completed. The primary funding source was tax increments from the Snelling University TIF district, with additional funding from Year-Round STAR and the Scattered Site TIF. PED staff is recommending that remaining funds allocated to Ward 4 projects in the amount of \$200,000 be transferred and used for pedestrian safety and public realm improvements along North Snelling Avenue, all within the public right-of-way. PED staff has identified priority improvements at the intersection of Snelling and Englewood (see **attached** map), as well as other potential pedestrian and public realm improvements between University Avenue and Englewood.

The Snelling and Englewood improvements will enhance pedestrian safety and pedestrian access to the adjacent businesses for Hamline Elementary and Hamline University community members, as well as Hamline Midway neighbors. The improvements may include median extensions, enhanced signage, and/or a rapid rectangular flashing beacon (RRFB). The Public

Works department is evaluating the costs for these improvements with a current estimate identified of \$100,000. Upon completion of the priority improvements, remaining funds will be determined and targeted for additional pedestrian safety or other public realm improvements following communication with Little Africa businesses on North Snelling, along with other stakeholders.

**Budget Action**

N/A

**Future Action**

N/A

**Financing Structure**

\$200,000 of remaining Snelling University TIF funds allocated to Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program parking projects in Ward 4 will be re-allocated and made available to Public Works for approved pedestrian safety and other public realm improvements. The improvements must be completed in the public right-of-way along North Snelling Avenue between University and Englewood Avenues, all within the Saint Paul Neighborhood Redevelopment Project Area.

**PED Credit Committee Review**

N/A

**Compliance**

The project will be managed by Public Works and bid through the City purchasing process.

**Green/Sustainable Development**

N/A

**Environmental Impact Disclosure**

N/A

**Historic Preservation**

N/A

**Public Purpose/Comprehensive Plan Conformance**

The proposed public improvements will enhance pedestrian safety and pedestrian access to the adjacent businesses, public spaces and neighbors.

Chapter 1.3 of the Comprehensive Plan states that the needs of all users of the transportation system – including pedestrians, cyclists, transit, freight, and motor vehicle drivers – should be accommodated and balanced to the extent appropriate to the function and context of the street. The public right-of-way must account for the safety and convenience of the most vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, persons with disabilities, and those who cannot or do not drive a motor vehicle.

**Recommendation:**

The HRA Executive Director recommends approval of the transfer and use of TIF funds, allocated for the Neighborhood Commercial Parking Pilot Program, for pedestrian safety and public realm improvements along North Snelling Avenue, from University to Englewood Avenues.

**Sponsored by:** Commissioner Henningson

**Staff:** Mohammad Gaba, 266-6560 and Jenny Wolfe, 266-6680

**Attachments**

- Snelling/Englewood Map