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February 25, 2019

Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

The Midway Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has voted to support Ordinance 19-5, the proposal to convert one block of Roy Street between Shields Avenue and Spruce Tree Drive from a one-way street to a two-way street.

As a tenant of the Spruce Tree Centre, we can see firsthand the benefit of converting the street. Many drivers unfamiliar with the road have grown more confused as they attempt to find Spruce Tree Centre, at times resulting in driving the wrong way. Others take a short cut through the alley, contributing to more traffic than is safe for the tenants. Our neighborhood will see an increase in visitors once the Minnesota United begin play at Allianz Field this year.

Most drivers on this stretch of Roy Street are either visiting one of the homes along Roy, Bethlehem Lutheran or Central Baptist churches, or the Spruce Tree Centre. Creating a two-way street along Roy will help the many visitors Spruce Tree receives daily. With the recent change of moving the stop light on Snelling from Spruce Tree Drive to Shields Avenue, it is essentially forcing Spruce Tree visitors to drive north on Roy Street to the building but find a different route back. This can be confusing for any visitor but can be especially difficult for the many visitors who are non-native English speaking.

The ordinance would also help alleviate traffic turning south onto Snelling Avenue from Spruce Tree Drive. This is a busy intersection, and next to a bus stop for the A-Line. Allowing traffic to more easily get to Shields Avenue to turn south onto Snelling would be safer for those waiting for the bus, as well as drivers who would not need to peer around a bus stop to view oncoming traffic.

The Midway Chamber of Commerce asks for your consideration to convert Roy Street into a two-way street between Shields Avenue and Spruce Tree Drive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chad Kulas".

Chad Kulas
Executive Director
Midway Chamber of Commerce