



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Melvin W. Carter, Mayor

1500 City Hall Annex

Fax: 651-266-6222

25 W. Fourth Street

Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/8/2019

### **SUBJECT: Proposed bicycle lanes and pedestrian medians on Payne Avenue**

This memorandum summarizes the public process and comments received on Ramsey County's proposal to install pedestrian refuge medians and bicycle lanes on Payne Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Edgerton Street. The full text of all written comments is attached to the end of this memorandum.

#### **Community Engagement**

Saint Paul Public Works hosted a community meeting to discuss the proposed layout on February 28, 2019. Staff posted meeting materials on the city webpage immediately following the meeting. City staff also presented the project to the Transportation Committee on March 11, 2019. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of the project as proposed.

#### *Payne Avenue Project Meeting*

Public Works staff hosted a meeting to share the proposed layout on February 28, 2019 at Hope Community Academy in conjunction with the Railroad Island Neighborhood Group's regular meeting. Public Works staff mailed 211 fliers to residents and property owners within 200 feet of the proposed project that included meeting information and an overview of the project details and impacts. The fliers provided a map of the project, a link to the project website, contact information for project staff, and information about the project design.

#### **Written Statements Received**

As of March 31, 2019, city staff received statements from nine individuals responding to the proposed project via:

- Comment forms from the project meeting (5 statements)
- Comments e-mailed to city staff (6 statements)

#### **Themes**

Themes identified in the statements are summarized below:

- The proposed bike facilities will improve safety and / or connectivity between the neighborhood and other parts of Saint Paul
- Removing parking will negatively impact immediately-adjacent property owners, business owners, and residents
- Concern regarding commercial vehicle parking in front of the "triangle" at Payne and North Street



*An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer*



Need this translated? Call us at 651-266-6100  
651-266-6100

Necesita esta traducción? Comuníquese con nosotros al

Ma u baahan tahay tarjamadaan Naga soo wac 651-266-6100  
ntawm 651-266-6100

Xav tau qhov no txhais los? Hu rau peb

**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

## Payne Avenue Project Comments

### Written Comments at Open House

Can you reconsider allowing parking east of the memorial garden? There is always a commercial truck parked there overnight. It belongs to one of the residents west of the memorial garden.

Gunilla Bjabman-Bobb  
[gunillabobb@gmail.com](mailto:gunillabobb@gmail.com)

My concern is the proposed removal of parking spaces on the west side of Payne Ave between Woodward and Hopkins. My two roommates and I have some mobility issues. Several of our friends visiting us also have mobility issues. Having to park on the east side of Payne Avenue will cause hardship for us and our friends having to cross Payne from east to west side of the street. Parking for residents in this area and visiting family and friends is at a premium.

As artists, a number of our friends have created an active artistic community which will involve congregating in our home on a fairly regular basis. What this will mean is from time to time, loading/unloading props/supplies/etc. Having to cross Payne Ave with supplies can be a challenge.

Olena "Lenny" Kukuza  
612.501.5908  
[lennykuku@gmail.com](mailto:lennykuku@gmail.com)  
509 E. Petit St.

I am concerned about the parking that is being taken away. As someone who has difficulty walking especially during winter. I find the pedestrian lane can be difficult, do to plowing. Also as far as the bike lane if it is there and not being used, as my experience is many (not all bikers) will use not just the bike lane but they go into traffic as it is legal for them to do . Many bike riders (again not all) do not pay any more attention than do drivers. I feel putting bike lanes in and losing the parking will be more difficult for local businesses as well as for our household. Crossing Payne will be more dangerous unless you put in traffic lights as traffic will become more congested especially losing turn lanes.

Annie Zimbel  
[Psychic1lannie@gmail.com](mailto:Psychic1lannie@gmail.com)

This is a great project. Combined with Tedesco project, it would provide a new, excellent bicycle connection to the east side. With all the highways and railway lines in this area, there aren't many bicycle and pedestrian-friendly ways to get to and from the east side from downtown. Swede Hollow is nice but lacks connectivity to the adjacent neighborhood. It's also secluded and unlit at night, something that "Friends of Swede Hollow" wants to maintain. (They feel that artificial light would adversely impact wildlife.). So Swede Hollow is a good daytime recreational route and some summer-time commuting, but it's not good as a safe, year-round bike commuting route. So any new bike connections to the east side are important and welcome.

I also like the pedestrian improvements. The curve of Payne in this area makes pedestrians less visible, particularly when they've traveling westbound (coming from the east side of Payne). Refuge medians will help this.... as will keeping parked cars on the east side.

Andy Singer, St. Paul Bicycle Coalition  
2103 Berkeley Ave  
[andy@andysinger.com](mailto:andy@andysinger.com)

We have been Brownstones residents for ten years and we are looking forward to the completion of this project. As bikers, we are especially grateful for the addition of bike lanes to our stretch of Payne. There are many Brownstones residents who are left with the only option to join the Bruce Vento to go south to E. 7<sup>th</sup> or to Minnehaha and down into Swede Hollow. The current disjointed bike lanes make this a high risk area. On several occasions we have been nearly hit by cars in the area immediately in front of our home.

Appreciate that the city collected thorough parking use studies. The data support there will be ample parking spaces and room for bike lanes.

Greg and Amy Sippl  
574 Payne Ave  
Sippl006@umn.edu

### **Comments E-mailed to Staff (March 1- May 1, 2019)**

I am very excited to have learned about the Payne Avenue repaving project and proposal to add pedestrian improvements and bike lanes on Payne, between Woodward Street and Edgerton Street. I fully support (and hope you will as well) any improvements that can be made to make it easier to ride bikes between downtown and the East Side. I am a year-round commuter and live in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood. I work at 3M, so regularly commute through the East Side of St. Paul. I will be the first to tell you that there are certainly many opportunities to improve the connections between route that take me from my home to work. I look forward to participating in the discussion and seeing some of the improvements outlined [here](#).

Thanks for your support. If you would like any more specific info on the routes I take or the challenges I see, feel free to contact me directly.

David Rudolph  
1363 Blair Avenue  
651-775-1718

Good morning Faye: I just wanted to follow up the message that I left you on Saturday morning with a quick note. I am the owner of the small business building housing three office spaces located at 565, 567, and 569 Payne Ave. I was not at the meeting thursday night but according to the meeting notice it appears that I and my tenants will lose our on street parking in front of the building along Payne ave. just north of Hopkins street which are very critical to us. When ESND, the city and myself put together the plans to conceive and construct the building one of the things that we marketed and highlighted most was the easy on street parking. Without access to those parking spaces the building would have an even more difficult time finding desirable tenants not to speak of losing value. I am also interested in finding out more about the time line of the resurfacing from Woodward To Edgerton street as I am concerned about it's negative impact on business at Morelli's.

I am most easily reached on my cell phone at 651-492-0931 or by e-mail at this address or at The Little Oven restaurant at 651-735-4944.

Thank you for your help and concern with this matter. Jim Morelli (Onion Investments LLC.)

This is Susan Majerus. We met at our Neighborhood event on February 28th.

I wanted to make sure that you had my input in regards to the Payne Avenue Resurfacing and adding Bike Lanes project.

I thought that it would be nice to add trees, greenery or flowers to the new medians that will be added to Payne Avenue. It would make the area more beautiful and inviting.

I also wanted to add since I have been more observant as I drive through the neighborhood is that I do not think that there should be parking allowed by that little angular park. The street already feels so narrow especially with all of the snow. I hope that this is helpful.

Susan Majerus  
548 Payne Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55130

Hi,

I am contacting you about improvements on Payne Avenue. As someone that lives in the neighborhood and likes to get around on foot and bicycle I look forward to these changes. I moved into Saint Paul from Wisconsin for such amenities! Keep us moving forward on making pedestrians safer, our population healthier, and the environment a little bit cleaner.

Thanks,  
Russ Yttri  
658 Greenbrier Street

Good morning Fay, as a neighbor and business owner in the neighborhood, I am responding to the proposed removal of parking on the west side of Payne Avenue from Woodward to north of Hopkins Street. We think this is not a good idea. It would jeopardize already delicate retail businesses that rely on this parking along that street. Please enter into the public records, we would vote no!

Thank you,  
Michael Buelow  
BB HOUSING ASSOCIATES, LLC  
651-260-5528

Thanks for getting back to us and taking the time to discuss the project in detail.

First, we applaud any effort to improve pedestrian safety. While we would like St Paul to be more aggressive with crosswalk striping, pedestrian controlled flashing stoplights and especially driver education and enforcement, we hope the pedestrian median refuges will help (kind of a sad comment, though, when we have to build refuges to protect pedestrians from drivers/vehicles).

Second, as we discussed with you, the parking data in the presentation (which was collected during winter months) is not indicative of use. In the warmer weather, when all the residents are back from milder climates and snow plowing is over, parking is highly utilized. Most nights in summer, the number of my neighbors parking illegally overnight exceeds the max number noted in the presentation for the East side between

Woodward and Hopkins street. Also, many events at the Music Cafe fill every spot in a several block radius. Looking forward, when construction begins on 520 Payne, there will be dozens of construction workers and vehicles parking in the neighborhood.

Please include our comments in your notes to the City Council. Again, thanks for your time and effort on this.

Regards,  
Dennis Grigal & Bonnie Schneider  
562 Payne Avenue  
Saint Paul 55130  
612-581-3454



# Payne Avenue Open House

February 28, 2019 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Hope Community Academy  
720 Payne Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55130

Ramsey County is resurfacing Payne Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Edgerton Street in summer 2019. The project will improve the pavement condition, upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA accessibility requirements, add medians to make it safer and easier for people to cross the street, and add bike lanes. Removal of on-street parking is proposed along the west side of Payne Avenue between Woodward Ave. and just north of Hopkins Street.

**What:** Learn about safety improvements planned on Payne Avenue

**When:** February 28 | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | Railroad Island Neighborhood Group meeting immediately follows

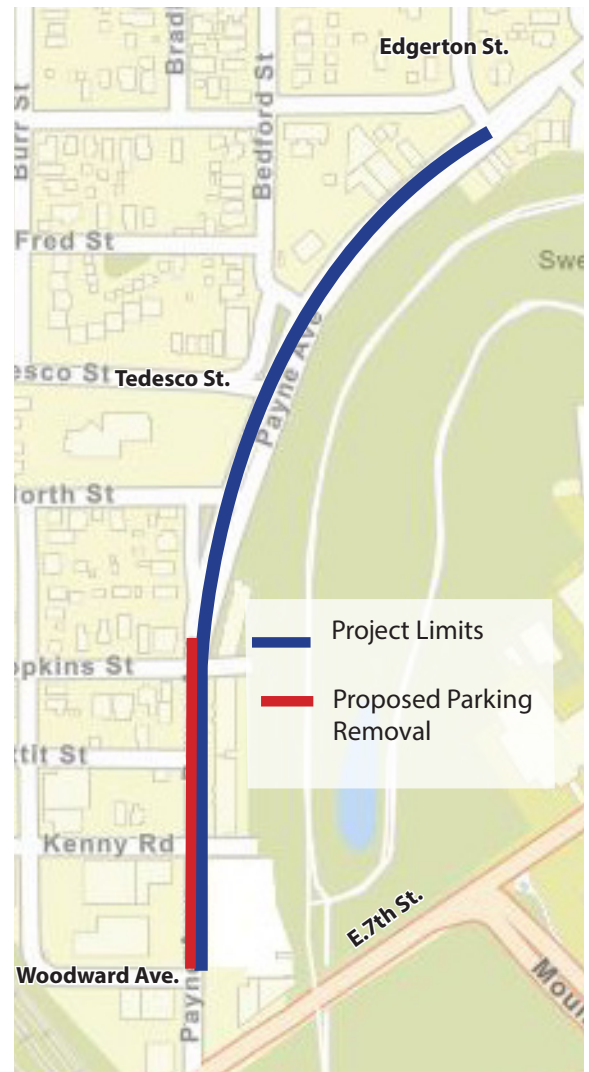
**Where:** Hope Community Academy, 720 Payne Ave.

## At the Meeting

- Review the design layout showing changes planned on Payne
- Staff will give a presentation at 6:15 PM to explain the project
- Staff will be available to answer questions
- Share written feedback on comment forms
- Railroad Island Neighborhood Group regular meeting will follow the Payne Avenue discussion. Stick around for updates on the 2020 Lafayette/Tedesco project and other neighborhood updates.

## After the Meeting

- City and county staff will review feedback and may update the proposed plan based on your input.
- The Saint Paul City Council will vote whether to approve this project at a public hearing this spring. Information about the public hearing will be mailed separately when the date is finalized.



## Project Contact

Fay Simer  
Saint Paul Public Works  
651-266-6204  
fay.simer@stpaul.gov

Need this translated? Call us at 651-266-6100  
Ma u baahan tahay tarjamadaan Naga soo wac 651-266-6100

Necesita esta traducción? Comuníquese con nosotros al 651-266-6100  
Xav tau qhov no txhais los? Hu rau peb ntawm 651-266-6100



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Melvin W. Carter, Mayor

1500 City Hall Annex

Fax: 651-266-6222

25 W. Fourth Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660

April 5, 2019

Dear Saint Paul Resident / Property Owner:

Ramsey County is resurfacing Payne Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Edgerton Street in the summer of 2019. The project will improve the pavement condition, upgrade curb ramps to meet ADA accessibility requirements, add medians to make it safer and easier for people to cross the street, and add bike lanes. Removal of on-street parking is proposed along the west side of Payne Avenue from Woodward Ave. to just north of Hopkins Street.

This project will be presented to the Saint Paul City Council on Wednesday, May 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 supporting Ramsey County's proposal to add bicycle and pedestrian facilities and remove some on-street parking on Payne Avenue.

This hearing will be held at:

**5:30 PM, Wednesday,  
May 15, 2019**

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

#### Feedback Opportunities

Saint Paul Public Works and Ramsey County attended a community meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> to present information and receive feedback on the project. If you have not submitted a comment already or cannot attend the public hearing on May 15, you may email project staff or your Councilmember to have your comments entered into the public record. To review the proposed project in more detail, please visit the project website at: [www.stpaul.gov/bikeprojects](http://www.stpaul.gov/bikeprojects)

#### Project Contact

Fay Simer, Transportation Planning and Safety Division  
Phone: 651-266-6204  
Email: [fay.simer@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:fay.simer@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer*



Need this translated? Call us at 651-266-6100

Necesita esta traducción? Comuníquese con nosotros al 651-266-6100

Ma u baahan tahay tarjamadaan Naga soo wac 651-266-6100

Xav tau qhov no txhais los? Hu rau peb ntawm 651-266-6100