

Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7)

501 North Dale Street, Saint Paul, MN ⁽¹⁾ 55103 651-236-8699 www.frogtown.org

June 1, 2019

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

Founded in 1970, the Frogtown Neighborhood Association, (officially titled Thomas-Dale District 7 Planning Council), proudly serves the neighborhoods of Frogtown, Mt. Airy, Capitol Heights, and East Midway. "Frogtown Neighborhood Association works through accountable collaboration, strategic partnerships, neighbor relationships and shared values to ensure the balance and harmony of our neighborhood by focusing on health, the physical environment, arts centered organizing and community wealth."

The role of pedestrian facilities and infrastructure is to create and designate a safe place for pedestrians and enable people to walk and roll independently. Frogtown residents are heavy users of pedestrian infrastructure for commuting, accessing public transit, access to food and healthcare and engaging in the community. Frogtown's Small Area Plan completed in 2018 clearly identifies pedestrian safety as a concern and listed as unfulfilled initiatives. The multiple pedestrian crashes and fatalities this past fall and winter have made the community nervous. Residents and community leaders are upset and angry that safety has not been a priority for investments.

Local residents and users of the network have a different perception and understanding of safety. The experience is different for the person on the street and it may not align with hotspots identified through traffic and travel assessments. FNA calls for the City to create a feedback process for residents to notify city staff about dangerous locations. The process can be similar to listing a <u>pothole</u> within St. Paul "Pothole Patching."

The city should strive to help residents connect with city staff, especially over safety concerns. For example, residents could request safety signs, cones, temporary flashing beacons or other markings to help protect pedestrians, especially on residential streets. The temporary fixtures can also be installed and removed based on seasonal need or as a demonstration/pilot project to test for behavioral changes.

In addition, FNA calls for the City to provide, annually, a list of the locations and financial investments to improve safety or actions the city will take to address the concerns. A percentage of those investments should come from community requests.

Very Sincerely,

Tong Thao, FNA Board Chair

Sara Dunlap, FNA Secretary

Serving the Neighborhoods of East Midway, Frogtown, Capitol Heights, and Mt. Airy since 1970! Registered 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit as the Thomas/Dale District 7 Planning Council



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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caty Royce Co-Director FNA Tia Williams Co-Director FNA



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