

Hello CM Tolbert,

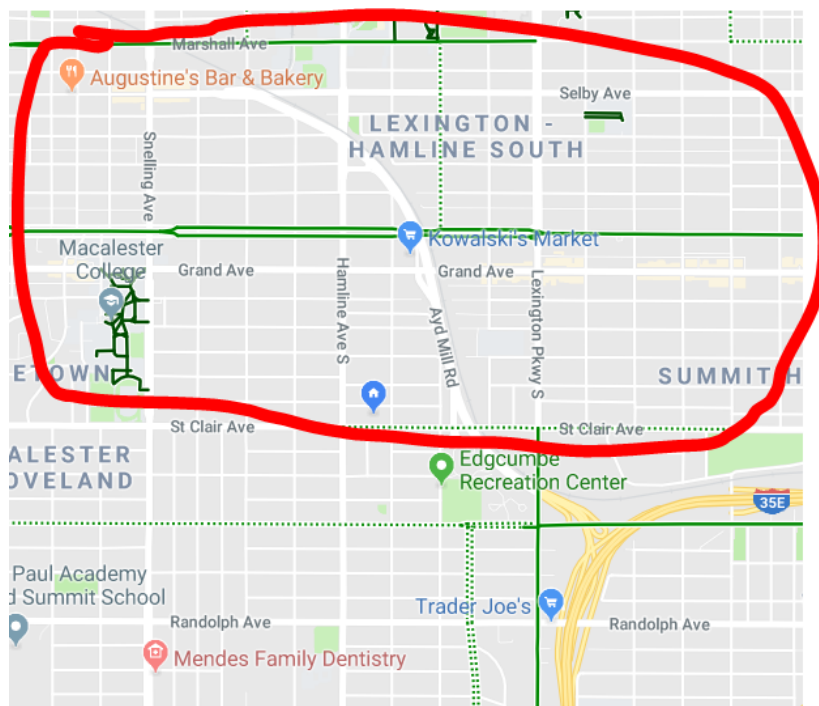
I am writing to express my strong support of Mayor Carter's plan to reduce car traffic lanes on Ayd Mill, and specifically to support the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. I'm guessing some people will be uncomfortable with this change, but I support the city council's stated goals to look toward our future - not toward our past.

Ayd Mill is vastly overbuilt for the amount of traffic it gets, and currently is only usable by people who are driving cars, which is an incredibly inequitable use of our city's resources. Transitioning this space from 100% car-dedicated to a complete street with walkable areas and bicycle infrastructure will be hugely beneficial to our city. This is a small step toward many big goals our city has, which are specifically laid out in the 2040 Comprehensive plan, including climate change resiliency, equity, health, and innovation.

I am personally impacted by the current state of the road, and the plans for it's future. I live on Saint Clair Ave, 1.5 blocks away from Ayd Mill, and do not own a car. Right now, Ayd Mill is just a big barrier to me - I can't use it, and there's no easy way to go around it or across it. The current state of Ayd Mill disrupts our street grid and fragments my neighborhood. As you can see on my map below, there is currently NO north/south bicycle infrastructure in this area, and it's largely because of Ayd Mill and it's car-only status.

Ayd Mill can be an invaluable connector for people who live right here, in our city - we just have to build it for multiple modes of transportation, and create strong connections to our streets.

Sincerely,
Jenny Werness
1301 Saint Clair Ave



Dear CM Thao, and to whom it may concern,

My family and I reside at 1452 Ashland Avenue, which is only a few short blocks from the northern "terminus" of Ayd Mill Road as the flow of traffic then filters up to I-94. This is a problem area. In fact, a Stop For Me event was held in July at Saratoga and Selby, and many motorists failed to stop for pedestrian in the well-marked crosswalk. I cross this intersection daily with a baby in a stroller. It is hazardous. This is obvious to anyone who has cross this on foot or bike. Or car for that matter.

I am writing in SUPPORT of Mayor Carter's plan to reconfigure Ayd Mill Road to a more reasonable, and city-street-like, 1x1 lane configuration. It is well documented that this will reduce long-term wear and tear costs, as well as promote local property values (e.g., mine) in the area. Ayd Mill Road is only rarely crowded as it is and only in certain rare times would a second lane even get used at present. The future of sustainability of the city, among other things, are good reasons to be forward-thinking with this as a starting point. The city has limited funds, and a smaller road means less cost in the long run.

I use a bicycle as I am able quite frequently. Even in the winter. This connection will let me continue to shift my mode share to more bike and less car.

For all of the above reasons, I am disappointed to learn that CM Thao has at the last minute decided to call for a traffic study on the reconfiguration. This will not pay dividends and delay is tantamount to opposition of a common-sense project. Please withdraw the request for traffic study, and allow the reconfiguration to take place.

Best,
Scott Berger
1452 Ashland Avenue

Dear Mayor Carter, Councilor Tolbert and Members of the St. Paul City Council

I'm a homeowner in Ward 3 who lives not far from the Jefferson entrance to Ayd Mill Road. I could not be more excited and supportive of Mayor Carter's plan to convert Ayd Mill Road to a two lane road and add pedestrian and bike features.

There are so many reasons to love and support this idea:

- * It's fiscally responsible. Maintenance of Ayd Mill Road in its current formation is a money pit. We need to put our resources toward other needs. This configuration is a good compromise between closing it down and putting more money than we have into maintaining all four lanes.
- * It aligns with our values as espoused in the draft Climate Change Plan. As you are aware, transportation is virtually tied with energy for being the top source of green house gas. It's something that we as a city can take action on by promoting projects that will increase alternative methods of transportation. With so few north-south routes for people biking, this is a perfect opportunity.
- *The project is visionary and will only improve our quality of life. It's similar to the Midtown Greenway, the HighLine in New York and the 606 in Chicago. These type of projects serve the neighborhood and the whole community, providing green space, walkability and bike ability that draws people in.
- * The impacts to local streets will be minimal. The main objection seems to be concerns about spill over to local streets, but that fear is overblown. The entry and exit points are already single lane, so the traffic back-ups will not be better or worse under this plan. And because the most efficient route

between two points is a straight line, people are not going to forgo using Ayd Mill and choose city streets simply because the lanes have been downgraded.

We have an historic opportunity to conserve city resources while creating something that will add value to our community. Please don't let naysayers try and pit people who walk and bike against people who drive. Many of us do all three - and we could all do so much more safely on Ayd Mill Road if this plan move forward! Please support Mayor Carters's vision for Ayd Mill Road!

--

Elizabeth Wefel
444 Warwick Street
St. Paul

I'm writing in support of the Ayd Mill road conversion as outlined in Mayor Carter's budget proposal.

I live in Mac Groveland and utilize Ayd Mill occasionally in my car. I would be THRILLED to have this conversion. My family and I all bike (two kids, two adults) and adding this to our city would be an incredibly smart move. These are some of the reasons why:

The Money

- Even though the project will initially cost more than the 4-lane mill and overlay, over time there will be a cost savings in street maintenance.
- Opening Ayd Mill Road to the pedestrian/cycling community will bring a different type of consumer to the area helping area businesses to grow.

The Environment

- The city's draft Climate Action Plan takes on climate change by setting the goal for a reduction of vehicle miles by 2.5 percent. This proposal takes that goal and puts it into action immediately.
- The land Ayd Mill Road sits on is a watershed area. The time is now to rethink how that land is used, giving 2 lanes of traffic back to nature is just plain smart.

The Traffic

- The current configuration of Ayd Mill Road is oversized. Traffic congestion only takes place at rush hours and primarily occurs at Snelling and Selby.
- The project doesn't eliminate car access. The proposal modifies the road to "right-size" for the existing volume
- Vehicle commuters, the largest volume of traffic on Ayd Mill Road, that pass through the city will likely not spread throughout the neighboring streets and seek alternate routes or stay on Ayd Mill.

A Connected Greenway

- Building this pedestrian/cycling infrastructure moves St. Paul one step closer to connecting to the Midtown Greenway Extension— which will be a major draw and a best in class system.

As a Saint Paul citizen, I'm saying YES in my backyard!

Kateri Routh
2093 Stanford Ave.
St. Paul MN

From: Jared Czaia [mailto:jared.czaia@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2019 2:22 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Yes to Ayd Mill Road Conversion!

Hey team, you've got my support.

Hello Councilors!

I've just learned of the proposal to bring Ayd Mill Road down to 2 lanes and add bike and pedestrian pathways. This is such an amazing proposal and one that is sorely needed in the areas that Ayd Mill Road passes through.

I was born and raised in St. Paul, just blocks from Ayd Mill Road. I took it to work for 5 years, took it to my friends houses, to the airport, everywhere. After all that use I can tell you that it absolutely does not need 2 lanes and traffic on that road is WAY too fast.

I also began commuting more often by bicycle a few years ago. Having a path where Ayd Mill Road is would be a huge relief as there is really no good and safe way to navigate that part of St. Paul. I've tried Lexington and it's okay but not great and also quite busy. A removed path would keep bikers and pedestrians safe and removed from cars. It also would provide connections to other key bike routes, and hopefully/eventually the Greenway!

I imagine there is pushback from people who are scared of traffic but this redesign would truly change and improve St. Paul for everybody for years to come with only minimal (if any!!) traffic disruptions (truly I don't think I've ever experienced a slowdown except for the turn onto Selby). I am imagining the walks with dogs and the bike rides with kids in the beautiful area that exists down there. Please do the right thing for this community and approve this redesign.

Thank you,
Lisa Murray

Dear City Council,

As a resident of St. Paul, I support the conversion of Ayd Mill Rd to a two lane road with bike and pedestrian paths. The reasons are as follows:

The cost

- Even though the project will initially cost more than the 4-lane mill and overlay, over time there will be a cost savings in street maintenance.
- Opening Ayd Mill Road to the pedestrian/cycling community will bring a different type of consumer to the area helping area businesses to grow.

The Environment

- The city's draft Climate Action Plan takes on climate change by setting the goal for a reduction of vehicle miles by 2.5 percent. This proposal takes that goal and puts it into action immediately.
- The land Ayd Mill Road sits on is a watershed area. The time is now to rethink how that land is used, giving 2 lanes of traffic back to nature is just plain smart.

The Traffic

- The current configuration of Ayd Mill Road is oversized. Traffic congestion only takes place at rush hours and primarily occurs at Snelling and Selby.
- The project doesn't eliminate car access. The proposal modifies the road to "right-size" for the existing volume
- Vehicle commuters, the largest volume of traffic on Ayd Mill Road, that pass through the city will likely not spread throughout the neighboring streets and seek alternate routes or stay on Ayd Mill.

A Connected Greenway

- Building this pedestrian/cycling infrastructure moves St. Paul one step closer to connecting to the Midtown Greenway Extension— which will be a major draw and a best in class system.

Thank you for taking the time to review the input from residents.

Regards,

Josh Ruhnke
1823 Berkeley Ave

I totally support the proposed changes to Ayd Mill Road

Jack Dobier

As a Saint Paul resident—who has rented in this city for six years, and who plans to purchase a home in this city in the next year—I firmly support the Ayd Mill Road conversion.

This city needs to continue implementing forward-thinking, people-first designs. We are not a city for cars, we are a city for people.

Building this pedestrian/cycling infrastructure moves St Paul one step closer to connecting to the Midtown Greenway Extension—a major draw and a best in class system.

Regarding Cost/Value:

This new imagining of the project may initially cost more, but maintenance due to wear-and-tear will be reduced, and value will be added to the neighborhood. When someone is looking to buy a home, trails/paths and walkability make a big difference. Consumers will be more apt to use this road for different purposes, and new clientele will visit area businesses.

Are the commuters who use the road—that we pay for—adding value while they zoom through this space? It's not our role to cater to the needs of commuters from opposite ends of the metro who want to move faster from one end to another.

Regarding Environment:

The city's draft Climate Action Plan takes on climate change by setting the goal for a reduction of vehicle miles by 2.5 percent. This proposal takes that goal and puts it into action immediately.

The land Ayd Mill Road sits on is a watershed area. Now is the time to rethink how that land is used; giving 2 lanes of traffic back to nature is smart.

Regarding Traffic:

The current configuration of Ayd Mill Road is oversized. Traffic occurs primarily at Snelling and Selby during rush hour. I used to drive on this road regularly and it was always empty.

This project does NOT eliminate car access. The proposal modified the road to “right-size” for the existing volume.

It is unlikely that vehicle commuters who pass through the city will spread through neighboring streets seeking alternate routes; if someone wants a speedy commute and they are unhappy with the lane conversion, they'll look freeway/highway routes.

I love Saint Paul, and would like to be able to continue loving this city. I was thrilled when this plan was announced, and am dismayed by the fearful naysayers. This is the best move.

Are we “the most livable city in America,” or what?

Thank you,

Jen Dolen, 55102

Hello Councilmembers,

I've reached out to the Mayor's office and my specific council representative with this, but wanted to contact you as a group as well. As a resident of Ward 1, and lucky enough to live on Lexington Pkwy so near the Ayd Mill Road, I was thrilled to hear the Mayor's vision to reduce AMR down to two lanes for vehicle traffic, and convert the other lanes to bike/pedestrian usage. I hope this is one more of many positive messages you're receiving in support of this plan. I also hope you will work to support this vision, and help to make this a positive change for Saint Paul.

While I do use AMR to connect quickly to/from 35E, there's absolutely no need for the existing 4 total lanes of traffic for this purpose, going at 45 MPH for a relatively short stretch. I would love to see the lanes reduced and the speed limit reduced, both for greater safety and for less wear/tear on the roads, which should hopefully reduce long-term maintenance costs as well. The mayor's vision still allows cars to use AMR to get to/from 35E if necessary, while making space for other usages as well.

A couple years back I ran the Twin Cities Marathon, and during my training runs I frequently ran on the Minneapolis Greenway - it was alive with bikers and runners and walkers with dogs, and it was a joy to run on without having to worry about crossing streets and whether someone might drive their car into me. Additionally, the Greenway has become a development corridor, bringing new businesses and people along its length. I would love to see Ayd Mill Road turn into a similar asset to Saint Paul, and our neighborhood - I dream of a day I can run, walk, or bike along Ayd Mill road, and either head to downtown Saint Paul easily, or connect to the Minneapolis Greenway. Or perhaps, stop at a new brewery, bookstore, restaurant, etc, along AMR. It would be such an asset to our neighborhood, and a great way to link our two cities together further.

If anyone is complaining that there might be increased traffic along neighboring streets as a result of this change - as someone who lives on Lexington Pkwy and might be on the receiving end of increased traffic, I'm not worried about it. Even if there is increased traffic (which I doubt), if traffic forces cars to go slower, then I actually think it's a net benefit since that's safer for the rest of us.

Ideally, we get more people to start thinking about shaping and building their lives around not needing a car - so let's stop catering to cars, and keep working to make Saint Paul a place where you can get an affordable place to live, where you can walk, run, bike, bus or light-rail to your job with a decent living wage.

Thanks for listening, I'm really looking forward to seeing this change to AMR!

Mike Nemer

Hello,

I am emailing you to tell that I fully support the plans to convert the Ayd Mill Road to a 2 lane, bike and pedestrian friendly corridor. This project will make the area accessible to new groups of people and will reduce long term maintenance costs. Bikes take much longer to wear out pavement! Please support the conversion.

Thank you

Kristin

Kristin Marie Carlson

Hello,

I would like to voice my support for the conversion of Ayd Mill Road to a bike and pedestrian thoroughfare. I believe that this plan is in the best interest of the city and its citizens.

As someone who works in St Paul and regularly commutes by bike, safe and accessible cycling and pedestrian infrastructure is incredibly important to me. The Ayd Mill Road conversion will be a great leap forward in advancing a vision of sustainability, equity, and quality of life for everyone in the community.

Thank you for your commitment to this project.

Trevor Prater

Please do not make this conversion to 2 lanes for motorists. This will only push the congested traffic to the other streets in St. Paul. Like Lexington, Hamline, Snelling, Cleveland & Cretin-which are already congested to make the jump from 35 to 94.

As a current cyclist, I will never use this 1.5 mile stretch as there are so many other bike lanes out there.

This is a bad plan to convert to 2 lanes for motorists and give bikers and pedestrians the rest.

Michael Tocko
Mac-Groveland Resident

To whom it may concern,

I want to extend my support for converting Ayd Mill road to a 2 lane road while creating a separate parkway lane for pedestrians and cyclists.

As a resident of the St Paul community (912 Dayton Ave, St Paul MN), I am committed to the betterment of our city and neighborhoods. Adding a bike and pedestrian lane in the long run will be better for the environment and open up the area to local businesses who could benefit from pedestrian traffic. It is a win-win. There is no need for a 4 lane road in that area- lets push for less car traffic and more foot traffic!

Thanks for considering.
Daniel Townsend

St. Paul City Council Members,

I am writing to ask for your unqualified support for Mayor Carter's proposal to convert the 4 lanes of Ayd Mill Road to a 2 lane road for vehicles and a separate parkway lane for pedestrians and cyclists.

As a St. Paul homeowner and Mac Groveland resident, I am an active user of our city's bike infrastructure for both commuting and leisure activities. The condition and connectivity of our bike infrastructure is abysmal.

The Ayd Mill overlay presents a critical opportunity to improve that situation, while also promoting modes of transportation (biking and walking) that reduce green house emissions and align with the city's draft Climate Action Plan.

Implementing this proposal will enhance the quality of life for those who live in our community rather than focusing on those who drive through it. Establishing this biking and pedestrian way will also bring a different type of consumer to the area...ones that have a vested interest in strong neighborhood businesses.

Building this pedestrian/cycling infrastructure moves St. Paul one step closer to connecting to the Midtown Greenway Extension— which will be a major draw and a best in class system.

The current configuration of Ayd Mill Road is oversized. Right-sizing access for the existing volume of cars, aligning with our climate goals, connecting new consumers to our businesses, and creating infrastructure for those who live in our city rather than those who drive through it is the right thing to do.

Don't delay and don't water the proposal down. Support the Mayor's proposal.

Thank you,
Cody Fischer
1995 Grand Avenue

Dear City Council,
I'm writing to urge you to support Mayor Carter's proposal to convert two lanes on Ayd Mill Road to bike / pedestrian lane. First of all, I think this is fiscally responsible since it will reduce future maintenance costs. More importantly it is environmental sound. I feel the road is currently oversized and lane reductions will not increase traffic congestion (the main cause of congestion is the terminus at Snelling and Selby and not the capacity of the road itself).

Yours truly,

Ron Gerdes
2142 Hartford Avenue

I want to write to express my enthusiastic support of the Ayd Mill lane reduction. As someone who enjoys biking and wants more safe routes for bikes and pedestrians, I am thrilled about this project! My wife and I have two young children and we intend to live in St. Paul for a long, long time. Reducing car traffic and making St. Paul safer for pedestrians and cyclists benefits all of us. Thank you for your leadership on this project! Bold initiatives like this one make St. Paul a better place to live.

Jake Scott
333 Oneida St, St Paul, MN 55102

Adding protected bike lanes to ayd mill is a great idea. It's thinking ahead. I believe you guys are supposed to be leaders, so lead us into a better future.

Dan Luke

I support the plan to switch Ayd Mill Road to two vehicle lanes and adding separate bicycle/pedestrian lanes. We need more safe cycling routes and this would be a huge asset to the city.

Kari Coad
55105

Dear City Council,

I am writing to you to ask for your support for Mayor Carter's Ayd Mill Road Plan, which will convert two lanes to a separate parkway for people on bike and foot.

Ayd Mill Road is currently oversized, with little congestion. Reducing the number of motor vehicle lanes will save the City money on maintenance in the long term, and is in line with the City's Climate Action Plan to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

In addition, providing this comfortable and safe place for people on bikes is a major step towards connecting St. Paul and Minneapolis via the Midtown Greenway Extension. This bike and walking trail will also bring a new kind of consumer to the area, which will help neighborhood businesses grow.

Again, I ask for your support for Mayor Carter's Ayd Mill Road Plan.

Sincerely,

Sam Penders

To the St. Paul City Council members,

I am writing in support of the Ayd Mill Road conversion to create bike and walking paths. For too long this corridor has been an eyesore and an afterthought, running through some of our lovely St. Paul neighborhoods. Ayd Mill Road can become a DESTINATION in the city, rather than a speedy escape to the suburbs. I am fully in support of this effort, and look forward to seeing additional plans and implementations. I would also like to recommend the addition of pollinator/native prairie plantings, public art, and outdoor exercise spaces or gathering spaces. Let's use the NYC highline as our inspiration and create a world class park space in the middle of our city!

Thank you!

Ariel Kagan

Dear Saint Paul Council Members,

As a resident of Saint Paul I support the reconfiguration of Ayd Mill road to accommodate pedestrian use. I own a car and know the traffic problems all cities face. I spent 30 years in the Auto industry and see that it is very resource-intensive and dominates our culture. We have a severe obesity problem in this country and a lot of it is a result of our reliance on automobiles. I moved to the twin cities just over a year ago because I see them tipping the scale towards a healthier and more pedestrian-friendly place to live. Keep the momentum going and open up more streets for multiple uses so bicycling is more attractive.

Thank you,
Russ Yttri
658 Greenbrier Street

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the proposed Ayd Mill Road Conversion. Modifying certain lanes to become bike lanes as proposed will be beneficial in almost every single way I can think of, and it will greatly improve the livability of the area. It demonstrates an ethic of environmental consciousness, and it is bound to save lives from auto accidents caused by drivers driving illegally fast on this road. Reducing the traffic lanes will not only reduce car usage of this road (which is great!) but it will naturally slow the average speed down.

I imagine the financial savings will be tremendous, since upkeep for bike paths is so much more affordable than upkeep for four lanes of a highway-like road that runs right through our neighborhoods.

I am enthusiastic and hopeful about the prospect of Ayd Mill Road becoming a road that works for people rather than just privately owned cars. The road as it is is dangerous, unsightly, and intended to cater more to single car commuters than actual community members who care about living in a great place and protecting our planet in a time of climate crisis.

Sincerely,
Kyle Constalie

Dear Saint Paul City Council,
I am writing about Ayd Mill Road and trash collection.

Ayd Mill Road

I support turning half the road into a bicycle and pedestrian trail. The current traffic volume can be accommodated by a two lane road. Ramsey County converted a 4-lane section of Maryland Avenue that carried 21,000 to 23,000 vehicles per day to a 3-lane section (with two travel lanes in each direction). Here is a link to information on the MnDOT web site about Ramsey County's conversion project on Maryland Ave. <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/safety/road-diet-stpaul.html>

I view the Ayd Mill trail project as one more step in making bicycling and walking safe, easy, and pleasant travel options. We must do everything we can to incentivize climate-friendly transportation in our city.

Trash Collection

I strongly support the new system and I appreciate all the work the city did to put it in place. On my alley, we have gone from nine haulers to one resulting in less noise and air pollution. There is also less wear and tear on our alley and the street. My bill has gone down by \$2 per bill. I will be voting to retain the current system.

Sincerely,

Barb Thoman
2157 Roblyn Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

The plan is SOOOOOO awesome! Please do this, it's wonderful! I love a good road plan that prioritizes people over cars. Thanks!

John

--

John Barnett

I wanted to take the time to express my support for this proposed project. There is so much good that can come out of this type of project, such as:

- A sense of space to pedestrians and cyclists that currently does not exist here.
- A possible future connection to the the Midtown Greenway.
- Less cost to maintain over the lifetime of this improvement.

I do ride daily in our city - it is my main method of transportation (800 miles in July) & would be strongly interested in helping to guide this project in any way that I can. I know that not everyone is going to get what they would like to see happen here, but I would be happy to be a strong voice for the pedestrians & cyclists that would potentially benefit from this proposal.

Sincerely,

Lori Klongtruatroke
490 N Temperance St, St Paul, MN 55101

I am a St. Paul resident and frequent driver on Ayd Mill Road who wholeheartedly supports the Mayor's proposal to convert a Ayd Mill to a two lane road with bike paths. I support this because it is the right thing for our city's budget, the right thing for our planet, and will likely not result in an increase in traffic on residential streets.

Best,

Henry Parker
2001 Selby Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

Hi,

I can't overstate the level of my support for adding a bikeway to ayd mill road. I've never been on ayd mill road as it's got no bus support and no bike support in its current incarnation. I'd love to be able to access parts of st paul that have so far been cut off for me!

Making our cities safer, more accessible, and less carbon-dependent is a great plan. I will be out there celebrating the bikeway within the first week it's open. Then it could be connected to other bikeways, like maybe the midtown greenway (which I can see out my window right now), and I could one day have a safe bike route to my job at the capitol complex from mpls!

Please let me know how to stay involved on this.

--

Ban cars. It's the right thing to do!
bancars.club

Dear Council members,

I write to you in support of Mayor Carter's plan to convert Ayd Mill to a complete street with bicycle and pedestrian paths.

I live near Ayd Mill and will definitely use this route for biking and walking. And this route will eventually connect to the Midtown Greenway. which I use regularly.

I hope you will support this plan. I know you have been strong supporters of biking and walking infrastructure in the past.

Michael Tracy
531 Laurel Ave
St Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I support the mayor's plan to redevelop Ayd Mill Road to include a cycle/pedestrian path. I moved to St. Paul from New York City 12 years ago, and since then bicycling has been my primary mode of transportation. Sharing the roads with cars is always a gamble, especially at times of the day when drivers are frustrated or visibility is bad. I welcome any new bike lanes that are isolated from cars, and I think that creating more protected bike lanes would increase the number of people who would chose to commute by bicycle. It also seems to make financial sense to reduce the amount of maintenance on Ayd Mill Road.

Thank you,
Bill Wells
Hamline-Midway Resident

I support the Ayd Mill plan. There were similar concerns when I lived in MPLS and they reconfigured Minnehaha Ave; Now everyone loves it.

Lois Holzemer
1462 Miss River Blvd S

CM Nelson + All,

As a long time Midway resident, mother of two young children, and part time bicycle commuter, I strongly support the idea of transforming Ayd Mill into a mixed mode transitway by reducing the lanes of car traffic.

The financial benefits are well known. Perhaps more importantly, St Paul should actively participate in reducing the impacts of climate change with every opportunity to increase the convenience of active transportation, even if it's at the cost of a small inconvenience to single-occupant vehicles, and especially if it also saves money!

I hope to live in a city where my family can do most of our trips by foot and bicycle, making active transportation the default choice for my kids from their earliest memories. Connecting the Midtown Greenway eventually would be an important step forward to this vision, and as a bonus would help demonstrate that St Paul is not lagging behind Minneapolis in our commitment to the environment and the future for our children. I also think it will encourage consumers on the other side of the river to visit us here more often, spending their money in St Paul.

Let's make the right choice on this now. There is no good reason not to, except for the fear of change we let run our politics too often.

-Renee

Dear City Council,

I'd like to voice in about the Ayd Mill Road conversion:

- 1) This plan to convert Ayd Mill into a bicycle/ pedestrian path is absolutely consistent with St Paul's Resilience plan. It would back that plan up in a big way.
- 2) Giving two lanes of traffic back to nature is an excellent idea, especially when it is part of a watershed area.
- 3) Traffic is usually minimal through this area - I've driven it tons of times. As a matter of fact, I've never seen it backed up at all.
- 4) This could be part of the larger trail system that St. Paul / Twin Cities is known for. We were voted the #1 bike city in the US a few years ago. Let's keep that title. This is huge advertizing for the city, by the way.

Thank you,
Aaron Kerr

Hello Council and Mayor Carter,

Just writing in support of Ayd Mill Road's bike path here. I'm certain that others have already written to you about it's benefits. I will not bore you twice.

Instead I will just speak to those already in support, you are doing the right thing. You made plans, your ideals involve respecting the environment, the safety of your people, the peace and joyfulness of your community. Shrinking Ayd Mill is what Follow Through looks like. Do not retreat from yourself.

Anyways, Ayd Mill Road stinks, lets put some bikes on it.

Tom Basgen
659 Wilder St
Highland Park

Hello City Council Members,

I'm writing today to express my support for the Mayor's proposal to convert the two easternmost lanes of Ayd Mill Road to a bicycle and pedestrian way. This is exactly the kind of action that St Paul needs to be taking to make good on its Climate Action Plan.

Thank you for supporting this proposal in the Mayor's budget!

Sincerely,

Jake Rueter
1347 Blair Ave
St Paul, MN

Dear City Council,

I am fully in favor of converting Ayd Mill Road from 4 lanes to a 2 lane road for vehicles and a separate parkway lane for pedestrians and cyclists.

Please continue to proceed and support this proposal.

Kind regards,

Kourtny Long
1189 Cleveland Ave S.

Honorable Mayor Melvin Carter
City of St. Paul
City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd W
St. Paul, MN
55102

Dear Mayor Carter,

My wife and I were beyond happy to hear [your call](#) for right-sizing Ayd Mill Road earlier this month as part of your proposed capital improvements plan. This is a much-needed, and as you well know, long-planned project, that is called for in the city's [Bikeways Plan](#), our [Comprehensive Plan](#), and various other plans. In short, it is something we as a City, know we want to do, have expressed our desire to do, and therefore only need to implement. It's fantastic to finally be approaching that end point to garner a world-class active transportation corridor.

Growing up in St. Paul, Ayd Mill Road always stood out as an oddity. A road that has always been in the worst shape possible, completely devoid of any traffic whatsoever, it is also redundant.

Which probably explains why it is so oversized at four lanes of auto-only traffic.

As such, the proposal to right-size Ayd Mill Road to two lanes of auto-only traffic and to add a walking and biking path is exactly the right thing to do. It will decrease the city maintenance budget, provide the only off-street path for that section of St. Paul, offer numerous connections for people biking, make the city safer, and ultimately help the City become less reliant on automobile travel -- giving residents and visitors choices, which is what they deserve.

Personally, my dad just retired after 28 years with 3M. He's already been out biking this summer *a lot* more than while he was working (well duh, he doesn't have to go into the office anymore). We need more off-street paths so that people of all abilities and ages can bike and walk as safely and comfortable as possible in St. Paul -- so that seniors like my dad can stay active and age in place.

Thank you again for this proposal, for your leadership, and for your dedication to *all* St. Paulites, however they are traveling through St. Paul. I look forward to our City Councilmembers enthusiastically supporting such a much-needed, and long-overdue, project.

Sincerely,

Mehmet Berker

Property Owner

1234 Rice St

St. Paul, MN 55117

Dear St Paul City Council Members,

I **strongly oppose** the proposed budget allocation and changes to Ayd Mill Road that would reduce the roadway from 4 to 2 lanes.

I am a 35 year resident of St. Paul living in Ward 3 at 1451 Sargent Ave. between Snelling Ave. and Ayd Mill Road. I drive a car, use a bicycle and at times use public transportation.

I strongly oppose the proposed change for the following reasons:

1. **Keep traffic moving through the neighborhood, not in the neighborhood.** Ayd Mill is now a primary artery for moving traffic from 35E to 94. Much of that traffic moves suburban commuters as well as St. Paul residents working in southern suburbs more quickly through the city without using residential streets. It provides ample access for St Paul residents to travel more efficiently through this part of the city and to access 35E. Maybe many supports of the change have short memories or did not live here before Ayd Mill was opened to 35E, but the traffic congestion on Lexington, Snelling and other residential streets was intense. This was especially true at Lexington and Randolph and that was before Trader Joe's traffic issues where there. When Ayd Mill opened up there was noticeable reduction of congestion. And logically, I believe reduced wear and tear on residential streets and it made the neighborhoods safer. Unless there is a study that proves otherwise, reducing Ayd Mill to 2 lanes will not eliminate the traffic, rather it will greatly increase congestion at entry/exit points and will divert traffic back to the residential streets which are already in rough shape. Thinking that drivers will find alternative routes that require more time and distance is just wishful thinking.
2. **If it is not broken, don't fix it.** What is the problem you are trying to fix by reducing traffic lanes on Ayd Mill? I am still trying to understand what is broken and what we're trying to fix. Yes, Ayd Mill needs resurfacing and/or some reconstruction, but reducing the roadway to 2 lanes is solving what problem? Yes, bike and pedestrian paths are nice amenities, but not at the expense of reducing traffic flow on a major artery through the city, increasing

traffic congestion, and diverting traffic onto residential streets. I use the great bike lanes we have in the city, but don't support building another if it means taking away lanes of Ayd Mill. I expect any commuter bike traffic here would be minimal. I believe the 'original' plan for the Ayd Mill artery (during then Mayor Kelly's admin. when the plan filed with the Feds. was supposed to be permanent) included a bike and pedestrian plan east of the railroad tracks. What happened to that? It's another issue, but there was a real flaw with the original 35E design not to have it connect to 94. The current Ayd Mill Rd is the best option there is until a direct connection to 94 can be achieved. Could that be part of the 94 redesign project?

3. **Use what budget there is to first repair and/or replace St. Paul's crumbling residential streets.** I do not know where in the budget the dollars for the Ayd Mill project are allocated, but please do not move forward with this project if they come from the same budget as public works for current city streets and roadways! It is the end of August and most of the potholes on residential streets north of St. Clair between Snelling and Hamline have yet to be repaired! Over the years it seems the streets continue to deteriorate without adequate repair or replacement. We now have near third-world infrastructure within the city. I am actually embarrassed to have guests from out of the city drive to my home and have to apologize for the streets. Like others, I have seen exceeding high tax increases in recent years and do not see any improvement or adequate upkeep to maintain city infrastructure. As a tax payer and retiree, I'm about at my limit for tax increases. Please make fixing current city streets a priority over allocating my tax dollars to an Ayd Mill redesign project that maybe nice, but is not necessary or broken at this time.

Again, I **strongly oppose** the proposed change to and budget allocations for Ayd Mill Road.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspectives.

David Moen
1451 Sargent Ave
St. Paul 55105

I'm writing to support Mayor Carter's proposal to reduce Ayd Mill Road to one travel lane in each direction and add separated cycling and pedestrian facilities as part of the upcoming mill and overlay process. The benefits of this plan have been discussed at length in a number of places online and in print, and I doubt I need to repeat them here in any detail, but the benefits to the city budget, cyclist safety, and public health at the expense of what should be an almost non-existent reduction in automobile travel times (Ayd Mill is, after all, already bottle-necked at two lanes at either end) make it a clear improvement over the current arrangement in every respect. My family and I look forward to driving, biking, AND walking on a much improved Ayd Mill to get between our home, errands, work, and our childrens' school.

Thank you and please support converting Ayd Mill,
Colin Fesser
1417 Jefferson Avenue

Dear St Paul City Council,

I would like to voice my support for Mayor Carter's plan to convert Ayd Mill into a two way road with a pedestrian and bicycle paths.

This project will save the city money over time in reduced maintenance, healthier citizens, and increased spending at local businesses. The traffic impacts will be minimal. We must do everything we can to encourage modes of transportation that do not emit greenhouse gases.

This project will make St Paul a more inclusive, resilient, and livable city.

Austin Bell

Walking and Cycling Economic Benefits <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/walking-cycling-economic-benefits-summary-pack.pdf>

Good Afternoon,

I am a longtime resident of St. Paul (currently in the Midway neighborhood), but have lived in Merriam Park/Mac Groveland before. I commute to work daily on Ayd Mill to get to 35E.

Each morning and afternoon the road is filled with cars. While this isn't bumper to bumper traffic, there is a steady flow of vehicles. The area, specifically Snelling and Selby is becoming more and more dense and traffic in Mac Groveland is becoming more of an issue.

While I am for bike infrastructure, and commute via bike as well as car, I think narrowing the road to add bike lanes would be detrimental to the neighborhood. The neighborhood streets will not be able to absorb this traffic and both the residents of the area and daily commuters from other parts of the city will suffer.

A right-sized solution would be to repave the road as is and add a sidewalk or *one* protected bike lane on one side or the median, and perhaps lower the speed limit of the road to make it safer for everyone. There is plenty of room! Ayd Mill is only 1.5 miles long and ends at an interstate. It will not become a key transit way in terms of bike infrastructure and will not attract enough bikers to warrant individual bike lanes in each direction. There are not enough attractions and businesses along Ayd Mill and the side streets to warrant the suggested infrastructure changes. You can't create a 1.5 mile bikeway and have it dump people out onto the interstate.

I really hope you consider the larger implications of this decision.

Thanks,

Agata Mischczyk

Hi all,

Mary Ellen and I have lived near Lake Phalen for 42 years. We biked the Gateway north of our home with our children - before it was the Gateway. As a 3M bike club member our family biked from the campus to Como Lake and back, with our 6 year old son leading the way on his single speed bike. Our daughter, son and son in law have biked to their work in Anchorage, Albuquerque, Ha Noi, Minneapolis and St Paul, as did I to the tower at 3M Center. Mary Ellen used to walk the railroad bed (now Phalen Blvd.) to the 3M engineering building to her office.

We've been St Paul Classic volunteers for over a decade and BikeMN members. Through this statewide organization I became aware of the Midtown Greenway Coalition and attended their initial meeting about the rail bridge across the Mississippi.

Mayor Carter's plan can potentially connect with the Midtown Greenway trail in Minneapolis. The Midtown Greenway Coalition has been advancing a campaign called "[Extend the Greenway](#)," which would add a new section to the famous bike trail over the Mississippi River and eventually into Saint Paul. The current proposed route would meet up with Ayd Mill Road, providing one more option for bikes that avoids biking on streets.

As a SPPD Stop For Me Steering Committee member and Payne Phalen Community Council member, and Jim McDonough's neighbor, I helped Ramsey County make Maryland Avenue's traffic predictable and less likely to create a serious injury. An argument against the 4 to 3 lane conversion raised by traffic engineers was a fear of increased traffic on Rose and Hawthorne. Similar to the worry about traffic rerouting off Ayd Mill. It didn't happen. Average speed was reduced from close to 40 mph to close to 30 mph and the weaving of speeders ended. Such a simple engineering fix, which the education/enforcement piece we did at Greenbrier and Maryland one month before the death of a pedestrian on the "Maryland 500" didn't accomplish. Let's help drivers be safer on Ayd Mill.

The cost of maintaining our streets will be reduced by making half of Ayd Mill a bike and pedestrian space. Let's see how it works. The naysayers on Maryland were wrong, if safety and people first transit is what we want for St Paul. Just as congestion happens on Maryland at rush hour, that's when drivers will line up here, but at a safer rate of speed. If this reduces traffic volume we can consider it part of our Climate Action Plan. If we don't make intelligent change, our climate will make the change for us.

I have 4 meetings between 3 and 10:30 Wednesday so I won't be there with my tshirt and bike and pedestrian pins. Just picture me sitting with those pesky St Paul Bike Coalition folks.

Thanks for listening,
Stuart and Mary Ellen Knappmiller

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

Dear Madame President and Council Members:

My name is Paul Nelson. I live at 1678 Van Buren Avenue.

As a senior citizen who has been car free for 39 of my 66 years of life, and involved with active transportation and volunteer work for a long time, I was very impressed and thrilled to hear Mayor Carter's plan to re-configure and re-design the road to include protected space for walk and bike. This plan will provide full, protected space for walk, bike and handicapped mobility on a through space that follows the alignment that can connect with the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis. In addition, the 22 to 24 feet of the eastern road space will provide adequate clearance to stripe separate space for walk and bike with two separate lanes for the bicycle.

From a cost maintenance standpoint this design will decrease the surface space impacted by the heavier motor vehicles by 50% on this road and save significant labor and cost to maintain the entire roadway.

This design approach is exactly how this roadway should have been built from the beginning, and provides a design concept that should have been, and can still be applied to many other roads like I-94, 35E, 280, Snelling and University in Saint Paul.

Implementing this concept specifically on Ayd Mill Road will not cause any harm to traffic movement anywhere in the city, and is in my view the easiest, best and most cost effective design to build with ultimately the best overall outcomes; It is the best thing we can do at this time.

Please support this plan and design as it moves forward.

Thank you.

Paul Nelson
1678 Van Buren Avenue

Dear St. Paul City Council,

I am a constituent of Councilmember Thao in Ward 1. I have lived at 565 Portland Ave for over a year and I love my neighborhood! I am also an active cyclist between the Twin Cities; I often ride my bike up Mississippi River Parkway, through the U of M Campus, and into the North East neighborhood in Minneapolis to meet my friends for brunch on the weekends. I also love riding the Grand Round Bike Route for exercise and lovely views of the city.

Please support Mayor Carter's budget request for transforming Ayd Mill Road into a complete street that serves communities, pedestrians, and cyclists -- not just cars.

This would make biking in St. Paul much safer and more accessible for families. During my time living in St. Paul, I've seen a few busy streets go down from two lanes each to one due to a new bike lane. I'm very in favor of making biking more accessible and safer, however, but increasing congestion on main thoroughfares is making everyone less safe and it's actually bad for the environment.

This would make things safer for cyclists and allow vehicles to not worry so much about bikes on the road. St. Paul needs an equivalent to the MPLS Greenway!!

Please support and approve Mayor Carter's budget request for transforming crumbling Ayd Mill Road into a complete street.

Best,

Laura Oliver

I'm writing to express my support Mayor Carter's plan to reduce Ayd Mill Road to two car lanes and add bike and pedestrian paths as part of the mill and overlay.

The financial, bike safety, and public health benefits far outweigh any possible increase in travel times for cars that have a bottle-neck at each end of the road anyway. This makes it an obvious improvement over the current road design.

My family and I would definitely be biking, walking and driving on the new Ayd Mill to get around our neighborhood and to work downtown, shopping along West 7th, and even to school.

Thank you and please support converting Ayd Mill.

Megan Fesser
Ward 3 resident
1417 Jefferson Avenue

I fully support the Mayor Carter's budget proposal to reinvent Ayd Mill Road. As someone who lives on the southern end of the city, this connection will be vital for me (I ride an e-bike and sold my car earlier this summer). The biggest struggle I have as a cyclist is north/south connections in our city - there aren't many that I feel safe riding on.

Please support this change as over time it will save the city money.

-Amanda Willis
1727 Race St.
St. Paul, MN 55116

Thank you Mayor Carter! You have proposed converting the 4 lanes of Ayd Mill Road to a 2 lane road for vehicles while also creating a separate parkway lane for pedestrians and cyclists.

This plan helps pedestrian and bicycle access to Grand Avenue, helps to encourage less car traffic and gives more space back to nature.

Thank you for this forward thinking plan!
peace,
Amber Garlan
9 West 7th Place
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear City Council members,

I write to support the mayor's plan to modify Ayd Mill Road so it is a street for all users, not just for the drivers of cars and trucks. As you know, this idea was approved by the Council 10 years ago, and his plan in this proposed budget funds it with new funding above a currently allocated mill and overlay amount.

Decreasing the amount of paved area that has to carry the full weight of heavy vehicles is a wise use of city money in the long run because bike and pedestrian pavements are cheaper to maintain. Because access to AMR is one driving lane at both ends currently, changing it to a single lane in both directions between the ends will not alter the throughput of the street, and will make it a safer, better environment for everyone.

This change in lane allocation is in keeping with St. Paul's commitment to limiting its carbon output and decreasing our vehicle miles traveled. It will also make it possible to create a real cross-city, mostly off-road bikeway that connects to Minneapolis, in coordination with the Extend the Greenway effort and hoped-for trails along under-utilized railways near I-94, encouraging more people to get out of their cars as much as possible.

Climate change is the key challenge of our time and our future, and I want to see my City Council, along with the mayor, lead on this issue.

Thank you for listening,

--

Pat Thompson
1496 Raymond Avenue
Saint Paul

To the City Council,

I am writing to voice my support for Mayor Carter's proposal to reconfigure Ayd Mill Road. I live near Edgumbe Recreation Center and use Ayd Mill Road frequently. I rarely experience congestion on the road and so I do not believe that reducing the number of travel lanes will negatively impact traffic flow. More importantly, I commute by bike daily, and am excited to see this important travel corridor added to the city's bike

infrastructure. There is plenty of room there to add both pedestrian and bike lanes and I will use both of them frequently. Increasing bike infrastructure and reducing vehicle lanes is an important step toward addressing climate change.

I am thankful for the Mayor's bold vision for Ayd Mill and hope that you will support it as well.

Thank you,
Kelly Chapman

Dear City Council members,

I am a Ward 4 resident and occasional commuter cyclist, and I am writing to strongly encourage you to support Mayor Carter's proposal for Ayd Mill Road.

Thank you!

Rhona Wilson

Hi,

Just would like to tell you that I approve the proposed change to Ayd Mill Road. As a biker seeing more bike lanes on streets is a great idea.

--

Aaryn Johnny Wilson