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From: Andy Singer [<mailto:andy@andysinger.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 2:08 AM

To: #CI-StPaul\_Ward7 <[Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

Subject: Johnson Parkway Trail street closures

Dear Council Member Prince,

I notice that next week is the final public hearing for the Johnson Parkway Regional Trail. I will be attending the hearing as will some other folks from the Bicycle Coalition. I hope you will vote in favor of the project and the proposed street closures.

Data shows that off-street trails like this one are only safer than on-street bike lanes when we minimize the number of motor vehicle crossings, particularly by turning vehicles. Drivers of cars turning onto Johnson Parkway North from side streets tend to only look left to see if there is on-coming traffic and not look right, even when they are crossing a bike/pedestrian trail. This behavior and so-called "Left-hook" and "right-hook" crashes by motor vehicles turning off of Johnson Parkway will be greatly reduced by the seven proposed closures.

From a cyclist, jogger or dog-walker's perspective, it will also be much nicer to travel two blocks at a time without having to worry about being hit by a car, as opposed to having to be wary at every single block. The closures will enhance the experience of the trail. The closures will also enhance safety of folks who want to walk across Johnson Parkway as they can concentrate on traffic moving along the parkway and not have to worry about vehicles turning onto or off of it.

Mississippi River Boulevard is a popular walking, jogging and cycling path precisely because it has very few motor vehicle crossings. I think Johnson Parkway could be equally amazing and a great recreational resource for the East Side, but it needs the cross street closures to make it work.

Here's the description of the proposed project to refresh your memory--

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/projects/johnson-parkway-regional-trail>

Thank you for your consideration and support, and thank you for your service to the city.

Andy Singer, Co-Chair  
Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition