

**From:** [Gina Smith](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Capital City Bikeway comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:35:11 AM

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Hello,

My name is Gina Smith and I work in downtown St. Paul. I just wanted to take the time to voice my opinion that the Capital City Bikeway needs to adopt the St. Peter Street route and NOT use the Wabasha Street route.

I have frequented many of the businesses along with both Wabasha and St. Peter (Candyland, the Amsterdam Bar, the Palace, Meritage, the Loon Cafe, etc.). I understand that Wabasha was recommended because it was the "easiest" route to use. But easiest does not mean it is the best.

There is so much more traffic that runs down Wabasha. There are multiple parking ramps that people come in and out of, and I think that makes it so much more dangerous for cyclists using that bike route. So many times motorists are so concerned about pulling out into traffic, that they forget to watch for the bicyclists and hit them. Wabasha is absolutely not the safest route to use, if you are trying to look out for what is best for the cyclists. Go with St. Peter for that.

Choosing the Wabasha route is also more detrimental to businesses, most importantly this impacts the Amsterdam Bar, because they need a designated space to be able for musicians and crew to load and unload their equipment. There are a lot of music venues in the Twin Cities, why would a musician choose an inaccessible location over more easily accessible venues? This could essentially put them out of business, which breaks my heart, as I have frequented their business many times, both to attend concerts, eat lunch, as well as host my own event. Putting the route down St. Peter will avoid harming the Amsterdam Bar and other businesses.

I don't understand the argument that "some" Wabasha Street businesses support the route as a pro, when clearly there are businesses who do not. That seems like people are just scraping the bottom of the barrel for reasons to try and make this route work, when it doesn't.

I know there was a comment that The Palace needs a space for unloading as well, but I don't see why they couldn't back vehicles into the W 7th Place to unload there. The Amsterdam Bar does not have this luxury. I also saw comments about possible loss of Valet space for restaurants on St. Peter Street, but honestly, the loss of Valet does not put a restaurant out of business. And honestly, I think the outdoor patio dining on those restaurants would actually become MORE appealing if they were situated next to a bike trail, so that you have some peace and quiet while you dine, rather than being stuck next to vehicle traffic.

As I said before, just because it's easiest to use Wabasha Street, PLEASE DO NOT USE WABASHA STREET. I'm sure your city engineers can come up with a safe way to redesign the roads and make the St. Peter Street route viable.

No one is opposed to adding bike routes, but please make one that is safe for the cyclists as well as not detrimental to your local downtown businesses.

Thank you for your time,

Gina Smith