

From: [Stahlin99](#)
To: [Noecker, Rebecca \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Re: Grand 695 Project
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:50:40 AM

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Dear Rebecca - thank you for your quick reply. Yes, please include our comments on the record. We will e-mail the Summit Hill Association and also attend tonight's Zoom meeting.
Best wishes
Margarita & Steven

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 8:43 AM Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul)
<Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Dear Margarita and Steven,

Thank you for sharing your perspective on the proposed redevelopment at 695 Grand Ave. I will be keeping your thoughts in mind when this matter comes to us at the Council.

The developer's application will first be considered by the Summit Hill Association and then by the Planning Commission. If you haven't done so already, I'd recommend that you share your views with the Summit Hill Association by emailing ZLU@SummitHillAssociation.org. You can also attend their public hearing tonight to speak on the matter – more information is [here](#).

You can also share your perspective with the Planning Commission by emailing sonja.butler@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Finally, if you'd like your message below to be part of the public comment for the City Council hearing, please let me know and we will make sure to add it to the record.

Thank you again for reaching out to me.

Best,

Rebecca

Rebecca Noecker | Saint Paul City Councilmember, Ward 2

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From: Staehlin99 <steven.uusitalo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:40 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Re: Grand 695 Project

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Councilmember Rebecca Noecker -

Hello - this is Margarita Aroutiunian-Usitalo and Steven Usitalo, and we live at 30 St. Albans Street South (directly across the street, of course, from the proposed development).

We have read the proposals by the developer (including the various architectural renderings). We have listened to both supporters of the project, and opponents.

One of both of us attended two Zoom meetings (one organized by the developers) about this project.

We are strong supporters of the Grand Avenue 695 project as detailed in the last May rendering by the developer.

Over the past five years, we've seen more and more businesses disappear on Grand Avenue (by my count at least 25 in the area running from Dale to Kowalski's).

As for the view from our balcony (admittedly a self-serving reference), it's of an empty parking lot - most of the time.

Some of the objections to the project echo complaints from people who wish for a certain type of neighborhood (perhaps with less density, resembling some imagined nineteenth-century village) that is frankly out of touch with today's far more complex economic realities.

We came to live in St. Paul because we wished to live in a semi-urban environment with stores, restaurants, cafes, and the like, lining the street.

We strongly support the building of the 695 Grand Project.

Thank you!

Margarita Aroutiunian-Usitalo and Steven Usitalo