

RES PH 24-76 Fenton Heirtzler Public Comment



Dear City Council Members:

The right-hand side of the bicycle lanes on Marshall Avenue between Snelling and Cretin is flush with the zone where motor vehicles park and delivery trucks idle. There are street signs along the same part of Marshall Avenue which proclaim "Bicycle Lane".

In order for bicyclists to avoid the parked cars' doors, they must ride outside of the left-hand side of the lane - especially considering SUVs, pickup trucks, poorly parked vehicles and delivery trucks. However, the "Bicycle Lane" signs also inform car drivers that bicyclists must stay in the bike lane. This is very dangerous for bicyclists: they can either hit a car door or be swiped by the passing car of a car driver. Being "doored" is a well-known cause of either death or life-changing injury to bicyclists.

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There are simple and inexpensive infrastructure changes which can be undertaken to protect bicyclists on Marshall Avenue. These changes also agree with the City's policies for narrow streets in the new Saint Paul Bicycle Plan: simply paint over or otherwise change the "Bicycle Lane" signs to read "Share the Road". There are excellent examples of highly visible signs to this effect elsewhere in Saint Paul, for example along Ford Parkway.

I believe that people who are otherwise hesitant to use bicycles for routine errands and tasks may now find it more attractive and safer to do so. It also has clear environmental and health benefits to the inhabitants.

Thank you,

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Fenton

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