

Macalester-Groveland Community Council
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22 nd, 2009 – 7:00 PM
Edgumbe Rec Center Gym, 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul
Public Meeting: Proposed Jefferson Bike Boulevard

Committee Members in Attendance: Terry Casey (chair), Jay Mac Bride, Carrie Au-Yeung, Amber Dallman, Dave Pasiuk (vice-chair), Mike Kowski, Steve Matysik

Guests: Susan Crumb (board member), Joyce Krech (board member), Jane Amberg (board member), Gregg Curtis (board member), Jim Voytilla, Tom Geheren, JoAnne Myers, Manny Castillo, Jim Carlson, Alice Carlson, Tom & Rainy Morgan, Todd Strand, Karen Bauer, Jim & Sheila Aspen, Eleanor Leonard, Molly Noble, Samtorh Kriehnan, Katy & Joe Harris, David Sonnen, Laura Baum (St. Paul Smart Trips), Jane McClure, Louise Cram, Liz Cermak, Denise Miller, Bill McDonald, Chris Johnson, Pete Regnier, Katsumi Matsumoto, Karen Schultz, Pat Harris, Pat Quinn, Margie Kirk, Anna V. Carlson, Eric Nelson, Mike DeCourcy, Brian Tourelotte, Lynn Fumuso, Jill Stewart, Christina Morrison, Mari Moen, Amy Moeller, Fran Howard, Nancy Andrews, Dennis Rosemark, Margaret Berrisford, Rebecca Skally, Chad Skally, David Kuebler (Public Works), Paul St. Martin (Public Works), Elizabeth Stiffler (Public Works), Monica Beeman (Public Works)

Meeting called to order: approx. 7:00pm

63 people attending

Jefferson Bike Boulevard Proposal

Agenda for public meeting:

- 7:00 I. Welcome/overview of Jefferson Bike Boulevard Proposal-Jay Mac Bride, MGCC Transportation Committee
- 7:10 II. Traffic calming options for Jefferson-David Kuebler, St. Paul Public Works (Walk-through of project options from Mississippi River Blvd. to Lexington)
- 7:20 III. Community Process—City Councilmember Pat Harris
- 7:25 IV. Small group discussion (based on these four sections of Jefferson Avenue):
- Mississippi River Boulevard to Cleveland Avenue
 - 4 residents attended this small group to give feedback
 - Cleveland Avenue to Fairview Avenue
 - 30 residents attended this small group to give feedback
 - Fairview Avenue to Snelling Avenue
 - 15 residents attended this small group to give feedback
 - Snelling Avenue to Lexington Avenue
 - 14 residents attended this small group to give feedback
- 8:10 V. Small groups report back to large group (summary reports of priorities for each section are as follows):
- Mississippi River Boulevard to Cleveland Avenue
 - Test traffic speeds between St. Claire and Cleveland
 - Cleveland Avenue to Fairview Avenue
 - Test pedestrian activities (w/schools) at intersections—particularly Fairview
 - Test speed & volume on Fairview (and Jefferson) with controlled and non-controlled intersection
 - Test bike volumes with current conditions (two-way parking, two-way vehicle traffic, two-way bike traffic, many u-turns on a long block)

- Elimination of stoplight at Jefferson + Fairview (for youth) at Cleveland speed issues
- Diverter at Jefferson/Fairview north and are left turns at alleys possible South, access to street and alley limited—there would still be alley access off of Fairview
- Diverter: has cut-through(s)—cars traveling east/west would have to make a right
- Bumpouts
- Concerned with congestion at Wellesley (b/c of double-block)
- Test bike count
- Test median to divert east/west traffic
- Make accommodation for ped/bikes to cross in controlled intersection
- How much traffic calming is sufficient to implement project?
- Traffic calming = lower car speed and less VMT
- Test if width is wide enough for 2-way parking/driving/biking safely
- Count traffic on streets parallel/adjoining
- Test ped light flashing at Fairview
- Test ped use with school around
- Limitations of bike count
- Traffic circle at Prior/Jefferson? Has it been removed
- Eliminating stoplights at Fairview—safety concern for peds/school, alleys access turns, difficult for crossing
- Testing traffic control, controlling N/S on Fairview
- Circles and speed bumps, relationship to bikes—lower speeds so all users are going a more consistent speed
- Stop signs at Kenneth, children crossing—safety
- Diverter at Fairview should still have light for crossing
- Bumpout at Fairview—no room for users (geometry at intersection already difficult for cars)
- Taxpayer money-being used (from CIP 2010)
- Contacting nativity re: traffic issues
- Bicycling season viewed as short
- Bikes can use Jefferson “as is”
- At prior (w/o circle) could be a throughway
- County assessor coming through
- Snow removal may be more difficult
- Test traffic before/after test phase along with speed
- Fairview Avenue to Snelling Avenue
 - Stoplight at Fairview—**Keep** It! (unanimous)—small discussion: city engineer suggested a pedestrian-activated signal/modified stoplight-not big agreement
 - Mixed feelings about 2-sided parking—explore it-some are concerned that street will be too narrow, some like 2-sided, perhaps alternative blocks
 - Traffic circles—show that they work as well or better than stop signs
- Snelling Avenue to Lexington Avenue
 - Volume/speed—we need calming
 - Highway entrance-collector status
 - School safety for buses
 - High rise
 - Edgcombe Playground/Rec Center

Notes from each small group discussion:

- city will plant traffic circles, neighbors will be asked to maintain
- Mississippi River Boulevard to Cleveland Avenue
 - Parking between Finn + Cleveland, will it change?

- Parking circles
- Changes in appearance to blocks?
- \$40 ft. assessment RSVP
- Increase in traffic on St. Claire + Cleveland
- Cleveland Avenue to Fairview Avenue
 - Jefferson & Fairview--elimination of stoplight, safety of schoolchildren crossing Fairview, impact on traffic flow, can we just keep light, not being able to turn left onto Jefferson-convenience
 - Traffic circles—semi-trailer access, truck access; confusion, more effective at calming traffic than stop signs? Better education about roundabouts vs. traffic circles
 - Width of street—traffic flow w/alternating parking, passing problems, adding north side parking-bad idea-too narrow-safety concerns; good idea
 - Diversion to other streets—will congest Randolph + Juliet + St. Clair? Fairness to community at large hurts convenience to drivers
 - Home values greater with two-sided parking
 - Upkeep of landscaping on traffic circles
 - Pedestrian + bike safety would be improved
- Fairview Avenue to Snelling Avenue
 - Stoplight is #1 issue (everyone agrees on this) **keep** stoplight! (at Fairview)—explore possible negative impact of left-turn ban on traffic vehicles, hard for pedestrians-kids + adults-proximity of school—very worried
 - Doesn't seem necessary to add north-side parking-narrowing street—potential for safety problems, conflicts; very concerned that street will be too narrow-snow on side, some **disagreement** on this—explore both sides of the issue, perhaps alternate every-other block + see how it works, strong feelings on both sides, make sure study allows parking on north side temporarily
- Snelling Avenue to Lexington Avenue
 - Hamline to Edgumbe = school/playground
 - More traffic calming in this area
 - Busses now on Jefferson, not Wellesley—especially from 8:00-8:40am and 3:40
 - Pedestrian safety, being able to cross
 - Sidewalks east of Lexington
 - Is it smart to have bikes and cars mingling
 - Concerns about more bikes and bikers following the rules
 - More signs near schools
 - More information about path and where bikes will be on the road
 - Cost and timing
 - Albert & Jefferson—5 accidents, NW corner stop signs? N-S traffic, cars parking right up to the corner
 - Traffic calming on east side of Snelling
 - Stop signs by school
 - Safety on Jefferson from Hamline to Albert
 - Concerns re: Lex b/c of traffic near 35/Ayd Mill—bikes down median
 - Permanent speed display
 - Truck traffic
 - Special lanes/rules Lex by freeway entrance

8:40 VI. Wrap up

8:45 VII. Adjourn

Next Transportation Committee meeting: Monday, October 26th, 7:00 PM, Edgumbe Rec Center

All times are approximate. Agenda is subject to change due to additions or deletions. All meetings of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council are open to the public and residents are invited to attend. For more information about the Macalester-Groveland Community Council or its committees, please call 651-695-4000 or visit www.macgrove.org.