

Macalester-Groveland Community Council

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 26, 2011 | 6:30 PM

Edgcumbe Recreation Center | 320 Griggs Street | Saint Paul

Attending: Jay MacBride (chair), Amber Dallman (vice-chair), Mary Davis, Milton Papageorge, Leo Viktora, Joel Clemmer, David Redmond, Ben Hartberg, Mike Kowski (minutes), Lauren Anderson (staff)

Guests: Tim Flanigan, Jr.

Minutes: Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting with the following addition. At the July meeting a statement from Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) concerning the Jefferson Avenue/Cleveland Avenue median test was read but not included in the minutes. The minutes shall be revised to include this statement.

Cleveland & Jefferson Pedestrian Bike Refuge update

Lauren informed the Committee that the Executive Committee had met and discussed the recommendations from St. Paul Public Works (PW) concerning the refuge. The Executive Committee is NOT in favor of supporting the refuge due to the process followed by Public Works.

Leo pointed out to the group that prior to the upcoming neighborhood meeting to discuss the refuge PW had planned on mailing out notification to all affected neighbors within two blocks of Jefferson Avenue. Only recently was it discovered that a large number of residents were not notified. In light of this error a second public meeting will be scheduled for October.

Lauren then stated that PW is requesting the formation of a Task Force to re-open the investigation/study of "measures" to be used along Jefferson. This Task Force would be composed of volunteers from the two meetings.

Leo ended the discussion by stating there were a number of questions he wanted answers to including:

- If there was a study at Jefferson/Cleveland why did PW not provide more information as to the results?
- What measures will the Task Force be investigating?
- What is the current vehicle and bicycle ADT for Jefferson?
- Why were the sharrows painted over? (this question may involve speaking with Councilman Harris or his assistant Mr. Rosemark.

Kowalski Bike Clinic

Amber informed the group that a new neighbor in the area is proposing to teach a course in Mac-Grove similar to one to be taught in south Minneapolis on "using a bike to get around the neighborhood". This course would help neighbors learn how to utilize bicycles to do such things as shop local retailers. This would be the tie-in to Kowalski's and may help the Mac-Grove Community Council reconnect with Kowalski's. Amber said she would like to attend the meeting and will report back in October.

GABA representative

The Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) is requesting a more formal interaction between the Mac-Grove Transportation Committee and themselves. Sarah Paul has volunteered to attend our meetings and keep the Committee apprised of GABA activities

After some discussion it was agreed that Lauren would extend an invitation for Sarah to attend our meetings with the frequency of attendance to be determined later.

Saint Paul Bike Plan

Amber reported that the city is working on developing a bike/ped plan and as such has hired Emily Erickson as Sustainability Coordinator. There is also currently a public process underway to help facilitate this development.

Joel commented that existing facilities within the city are disjointed and segmented and could benefit from more community involvement.

Leo added that there is currently a city sponsored survey to collect information from residents about biking in St. Paul. He asked if this survey could be referenced in our newsletters and in the Villager.

Grand & Finn update

Lauren informed the Committee that as a result of our request for added enforcement an officer had been assigned to monitor the intersection for a two day period. This is a good start but the first day (Sept. 6th) the officer was at some other location because he informed his supervisor that the intersection was fully controlled (4 way STOP), Finn & Grand is not.

Working on his own, Dave Pausik had conducted an impromptu crossing study. He attempted to cross this intersection and was ignored by 17 vehicles and 1 Metro bus.

Leo is following up with a request through the St. Thomas TDM plan for a crosswalk at this location he will also be investigating the possible locations for a Dynamic Speed Sign.

Meeting time/minute takers

It was decided to continue with a 6:30 pm start time. Minute takers through the end of the year are Milton (October), Ben (November) with no meeting in December.

Other business

1. Kowalski's is having landscaping done along their main sidewalks. This raised the questions of getting an entrance closed. Jay commented that Kowalski's sees no need to undertake this type of change to their business without a complete traffic study being undertaken by PW. This is NOT a high priority for PW.
2. ALRC benches along Snelling Avenue. No new information presented, it will be revisited next Spring.
3. Leo asked a question concerning snow-plowing along bike routes. With more year-round riders are these routes plowed more often or sooner? This would be good information to have when the Jefferson corridor is being discussed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.