



**Resolution Re: Reducing Motor-Vehicle Traffic and Increasing Pedestrian
and Bicyclist Access to Mississippi River Boulevard**

Passed by MGCC Board of Directors 9.10.2020

Whereas, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, there were consistently large volumes of bicyclists and pedestrians on Mississippi River Boulevard-- some of the largest in the city as is evidenced by the City's annual pedestrian and bicycle count reports;

Whereas the trails along the west side of Mississippi River Boulevard (between the roadway and the river) have a combined width of 6 feet or less in many places;

Whereas the inadequate width of the trails and lack of a northbound bike lane results in conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters and automobiles, which have been documented in city reports for decades, such as the Grand Round report from 2000;

Whereas this situation has worsened during the pandemic, given the need for social distancing of at least 6 feet;

Whereas this situation will become even worse with the development of the Ford site, because the volume of bicyclists and pedestrians will greatly increase;

Whereas the volume of motor vehicles is much smaller, which leads to frequent speeding by cars, which is both a nuisance and a danger to all users of the boulevard including home owners;

Whereas a temporary lane closure for southbound vehicular traffic was put in place on April 22 to create additional outdoor space for pedestrians and bicyclists to social distance along the roadway;

Whereas, the City of Saint Paul, in their Grand Round report, states that reconstructing and modernizing old streets creates a better experience for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists;

Whereas, on June 15, the City started some Mississippi River Boulevard improvements with variety of scheduled construction and repair projects in preparation for a mill and overlay in early September, but the improvements do not include widening the trails or equivalent measures to create a better experience for pedestrians and bicyclists;

Whereas making the April 22 lane closure permanent is an immediate solution to increase the space for bicyclists and pedestrians on Mississippi River Boulevard, until a more fitting solution can be found;

Be it resolved that the city should make the Mississippi River Boulevard lane closure permanent, thus making it a one-way, northbound one-lane roadway, and make additional improvements to enable pedestrians and bicyclists to better access the Boulevard from the bridges on Ford parkway and Marshall Avenue.