

Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Transportation Committee

May 24, 2021

Attendees: Hugo Bruggeman (chair), Spencer Ludtke, Jack Fei (Secretary), Colin Voerding, Dave Pasiuk, Kensey Lipstreuer, Brian Martinson, Alexa Golemo (staff), Zak Yudhishthu, Colin Fesser, Nora Ptacek, Gene Johnson, Jessie Duhn, Ann Dolan

1. New Introductions: Regina Purins.

2. 8:00 March 2021 minutes passed.

3. 9:30 Traffic Enforcement Discussion (Hugo Bruggeman) Discussion of “Driving while Black (David Harris) & Why We Do Not Support Traffic Enforcement (Emily Wade & Elisa Schufman) articles.

- 12:00 Nora – There is an ‘emotional cost’ to black drivers.
- 12:45 Colin F – Little has changed 22 years elapsed since “Driving While Black” was written.
- 14:00 Zak – Significant costs are borne by blacks who get pulled-over.
- 16:00 Hugo – Analysis of “Driving While Black” contents and organization.
- 20:00 Brian – William Finney (ex-St Paul Police Chief) collected data about police stops to bring light to racial profiling. Isabel Wilkerson (“Caste: the Origins of our Discontent”) and Sarah Seo (“Policing the Open Road”) explain the harm done to black drivers. Selective police pre-textual stops targeting black males enforce caste boundaries.
- 24:00 Jack – Less talk and more focused action. Pass resolution(s) like the one in Brooklyn Center: *RESOLVED that the City of Brooklyn Center will ensure an unarmed civilian Traffic Enforcement Department has the responsibility for enforcing all non-moving traffic violations in the City, including by creating the civilian Traffic Enforcement Department and by any other appropriate changes in ordinance, practices or policies, including restricting or eliminating the types of traffic infractions enforced by the City’s armed law enforcement officers. Transportation is part of a broader policing reform issue.*
- 29:00 Dave – Hero culture has become the norm in police departments. The expectation is “do something after a stop” and “don’t let them get away”. This hero masculine police culture creates risk to police and results in unnecessary public injury and death.
- 32:30 Colin V – Concern about accountability with civilian traffic enforcement.
- 35:00 Colin F – Pre-textual stops are used by the St Paul Police, particularly for drug offenses. Data shows disproportional stop rates by population: Whites: 40% of stops vs. 57% of population; Blacks: 27% stops vs. 16% population. **Crime can be found where one looks for it.** St Paul Police believes their stops are “color blind” and oppose “civilian enforcement”.

4. 45:00 Future Project Discussions (Hugo Bruggeman)

- “Ideas for future meetings” spreadsheet:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1kxAFVL0dtfy1FQLr4XhM5mzFdvVtst_t
- How to organize, score & rank topics in order of importance for discussion & action.
- 48:15 Brian – Focus more project attention on City-wide issues
- 53:00 Dave – School Zone speed limits / speed reduction need follow up.

4. 1:02:00 **New Business**

- Discuss Saint Paul Version of Brooklyn Center Resolution, next meeting. Invite Mitra Jalali.

5. 1:07:00 **CDBG and CIB Process Update** (Jack Fei)

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) – HUD funding source. Funds administered by the City. Funding programs target low income housing and business. Applicants for CDBG include St Paul City Departments (mostly Planning & Economic Development and local Community Organizations. The process is mature and well understood by participants.

CIB (Capital Improvement Budget) – Bonding 11.5 million / yr for 2022 & 2023. Annual programs, Hamline Library Remediation, North End Community Center, and Bruce Vento Safe Routes to School are recommended for full funding. Other transportation related projects are not considered due to the large funding requests for buildings.

CIB Meeting - CIB & CDBG Public Hearing: June 14th @ 3:30 PM.

- 1:22:00 Rethinking I-94. May MDOT meeting was cancelled. MDOT will be available for outreach to community groups like MGCC.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 28th @ 6:30 pm.