

Macalester-Groveland Community Council
Transportation Committee
February 27, 2023

Attendees: Hugo Bruggeman, Jack Fei (Secretary), David Pasiuk, Spencer Ludtke, Kensey Lipstreuer, Regina Purins, Katherine Cairns, Lynn Ihlenfeldt, Gene Johnson, Art Punyko, Brian Martinson.

1. February Meeting Minutes Approved

2. Blue Line Riverview Connection Study, (Scott Mareck)

- How to connect Blue Line, A-Line and Highland Bridge
- Projected Growth In Trips
- Cases Evaluated
 - Do Nothing
 - Expand Local Service
 - Randolph 74 BRT
 - Create 46 BRT
 - Cleveland BRT
- Local Bus Most Rated Best, Do Nothing 2nd, BRT options not effective
- Ramsey County will not make decision, St Paul will decide with Metro Transit.

3. Summit Avenue Regional Trail (Hugo Bruggeman)

MORE DAILY TRIPS ON FOOT AND BY BIKE; PLANNING SUMMIT AVENUE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

WHEREAS the reconstruction of Summit Avenue presents a rare opportunity to restore, preserve, and enhance this city street as the leafy, expansive linear park and community social space of its original conception;

WHEREAS Summit Avenue serves as a route to seven middle and high schools in the area* as well as many other youth destinations including parks, recreational centers, faith institutions, commercial establishments including tea and coffee shops, candy and ice cream stores, book and toy stores, dance and fitness clubs, and summer camps;

WHEREAS the current, 90% Draft, Summit Regional Trail Plan lacks information, analysis or explanations to develop Summit Avenue as a safe corridor for children, families and youth to make more of their daily trips to the many destinations near Summit Ave on foot and by bike;

WHEREAS the current, 90% Draft, Summit Regional Trail Plan does not refer to Saint Paul's 2017 Safe Routes to School plan, which does support children and families in making daily trips by bike or on foot;

WHEREAS the community engagement for the plan has not sufficiently included input from children and youth under 18 years old**;

WHEREAS year after year, a well-configured and safer Summit Avenue could provide thousands of these children, youth and their families with the option to more safely bike or walk along one of the nations greatest Victorian residential boulevards--which, over a ten-year period would impact the lives of tens of thousands of children and youth on their daily trips to school and to many other destinations in the area;

WHEREAS these omissions become an issue of equity as well as children's and youth's rights to health, happiness, safety and protection;

WHEREAS promoting walking and biking on Summit Avenue for daily trips in this part of the city would show our commitment to support future generations and to combat climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Parks and Recreation Department will engage with youth community members and families, as well as school boards and PTO's of middle and high schools, faith institutions, and business associations in the vicinity of Summit Ave to inform and develop a section of the Summit Regional Trail Plan that presents information, analysis, requirements and recommendations to reconstruct Summit Avenue as a safe corridor for children and youth to make more of their daily trips to visit the many destinations along Summit Avenue by bike and on foot. This section should also have a few pictures of youth biking; not any such picture is included in the current plan.

* Every year 500 to 600 students start grade 6, and a cohort of about 4.200 students is enrolled across all grades of these seven schools

** For instance, in the survey of over 1,300 participants children and youth under 18 formed 7% of survey respondents, while this age groups forms about 17% of the neighborhood's population.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 24th 6:30 p.m.