Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC)
Transportation Committee Meeting MINUTES
July 28, 2026

Location: Hybrid (Rec Center + Zoom) | Chair: Hugo Bruggeman

Attendees: Hugo Bruggeman, Ginny Housum, Brian C. Martinson, Regina Purins, Colin Fesser, Chuck Peters, Tom Alf, Karen Alf, Spencer Ludtke, Megan Paul, John Kingrey, Ann Hartell, Deb Burns, Dave Pasiuk, Jane McClure, Andrew Fraser, Patrick Sutton, Dan L., Laura Wallace.

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Hugo Bruggeman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

II. Approval of June 2026 Minutes

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Ginny Housum and seconded by Brian C. Martinson. A friendly amendment was accepted to correct a clerical error regarding the April minutes (already approved in May). The motion passed unanimously with 11 votes (7 online, 3 in-room).

III. Additions to Agenda: Finn & St. Clair Intersection Safety

Proposal: Resident Andrew Fraser presented on behalf of a group advocating for four-way stop signage and crosswalk markings at the intersection of Finn and St. Clair Avenue. The group submitted a petition signed by 152 neighbors.

- Issues Cited: History of collisions (3 reported 2024–2025), excessive speeding (40–45 mph in a 25 mph zone), poor visibility due to parked cars, and increased pedestrian traffic near local schools.
- Discussion: Committee members raised concerns regarding cost, enforcement of stop signs on steep hills, and efficacy. Suggestions included removing parking spots to improve sight-lines and investigating flashing beacon options.
- Motion: Colin Fesser moved, and Regina Purins seconded, that the Transportation Committee supports the petition for safety measures at Finn & St. Clair and requests the City take action. A friendly amendment was added to acknowledge the unsafe conditions.
- Vote: Passed (Approx. 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 4 Abstentions).
- Outcome: The resolution will proceed to the September 10 Board Meeting.

IV. Randolph Heights Elementary School Crossing Presenters: Megan Paul and Ann Hartell (Working Group).

- Focus: Safety improvements at Wellesley & Hamline intersections (one block north of Jefferson). Current infrastructure lacks signals and uses basic transverse crosswalks.
- Plan: Short-term requests include high-visibility ("zebra") crosswalks and signage. Longer-term goals involve Safe Routes to School plans and potential pavement art projects.
- Legislative Proposal: Regina Purins proposed state legislation for school zone safety funding. Chair Bruggeman advised this falls outside the CC advisory scope; Purins will pursue this via the Executive Committee separately.
- Vote: Resolution draft approved unanimously (12 Ayes). Proceeds to September 10 Board Meeting.

V. Western District Police Meeting Update Presenter: Ginny Housum.

- Enforcement: Police made 61 traffic stops in MacGrove over two weeks; ~20 were for failure to yield to pedestrians. Citations issued for cell phone use and seatbelts.
- Technology: Police highlighted drone utility in recent investigations (St. Paul Avenue shooting). Members noted Minneapolis' hesitation to adopt similar tech due to bias concerns regarding skin tone detection.
- Crime: Two suspects caught accounted for 55 recent burglaries in the neighborhood.
- Community Action: Residents urged to report alley prowling via non-emergency lines.

VI. Snelling & Grand Ave Reconstruction Presenter: Laura Wallace.

- Status: Both lanes of Grand Avenue will close at the Macalester intersection to accelerate timeline by two weeks.
- Concerns: Accessibility barriers reported (visually impaired resident trapped by barricades). Laura Wallace to contact city contact (Jeanette) immediately regarding pedestrian navigation.
- Impact: Local businesses retain parking access; committee encouraged to support merchants during construction.

VII. Hwy 51/Snelling Ave & Montreal Ave Study Presenter: Laura Wallace.

- Timeline: Resurfacing planned for 2030–2031.
- Public Input: Survey and interactive map available for residents to log safety concerns (Deadline: August 5). MnDOT willing to present to the committee in Sept/Oct.
- Action: Laura Wallace to coordinate MnDOT presentation.

VIII. Committee Updates

- Tree Steward Program: Mimi Gingold noted the revived program; residents encouraged to sign up via the provided portal.
- Parking Management & Sidewalk Infringement: Updates on the Alternative Parking Committee and sidewalk issues at Frats were deferred to the September meeting due to time constraints.

IX. No August Meeting

Motion: Hugo Bruggeman moved to cancel the August committee meeting to align with the Board schedule.

Second: Brian C. Martinson.

Outcome: Approved unanimously.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned. Next Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for 28 September 2026; items above will be presented to the Board on September 10, 2026.

ADD RESOLUTION ON RANDOLPH HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CROSSING

320 South Griggs Street
St. Paul, MN 55105
www.macgrove.org

651-695-4000
mgcc@macgrove.org

To: Randy Newton: City Traffic Engineer
Randy.Newton@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Deb Barber: Director of Public Works
deb.barber@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Sarah Stewart: Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Saint Paul Public Schools
sarah.stewart@spps.org

Councilmember Saura Jost:
ward3@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Tom Basgen: Legislative Aide to CM Saura Jost: Tom.Basgen@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Nick Stumo-Langer: Assistant Mayor for Housing, Economic Vibrancy, and Infrastructure
Nick.Stumo.Langer@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Re: Hamline-Wellesley Crossing @ Randolph Heights Elementary School

To: Public Works Director Deb Barber and City Traffic Engineer Randy Newton

On September 10, 2026 the Board of Directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council (MGCC) considered a recommendation from its standing Transportation Committee. The following resolution was passed: Unanimously 14 Aye – 0 Nay.

Whereas, *the intersection is a main crossing for students and families traveling to and from the Randolph Heights Elementary School (RHES).*

Whereas, *school staff, families, and other community members observe inconsistent driver yielding behavior and a persistent pattern of high vehicle speeds on Hamline.*

Whereas, *the safety of this crossing has been a growing concern, especially during school pickup/dropoff times when the designated parking bay on Wellesley east of the Hamline intersection gets full and parking spills over to the west of Hamline; this results in increased numbers of pedestrians crossing Hamline.*

Whereas, *the crossing is unsignalized.*

Whereas, *the crossing currently has only one, transverse crosswalk that does not meet current design guidelines for a high visibility crosswalk. (See attached images.)*

Whereas, *signage warning drivers on Hamline that they are approaching a school zone is minimal and does not meet current design guidelines for high visibility and complete signage for a school zone. (See attached images.)*

Whereas, *young pedestrians are less visible to drivers because of their smaller size and therefore may not be seen by drivers when at or approaching the curb; this is especially a concern for southbound traffic on Hamline where drivers may be focusing on the traffic signal ahead at Hamline and Jefferson.*

Whereas, *there is a national and local trend of increasing numbers and severity of crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists; this trend makes proactive action on safety concerns--especially for our youngest and most vulnerable road users--an imperative.*

RESOLVED, The MGCC Board requests the following:

- Install high-visibility, zebra-striped crosswalks at the Hamline-Wellesley intersection
- Upgrade existing signage on Hamline to a complete School Zone sign assembly in high visibility green north of Wellesley and south of Jefferson
- Install temporary bump-outs (bollards) at the corners of the Wellesley-Hamline intersection to increase pedestrian visibility to drivers and reduce pedestrian crossing distances/exposure across Hamline.
- Install and monitor a temporary speed trailer on Hamline near RHES (*Note:* a mobile speed trailer was requested in fall of 2025 and the city has not indicated when it will be installed.)
- Initiate a collaborative process with the RHES PTO and MGCC to develop and install a pavement art project at RHES (see the recently published guidance from the Local Roads Research Board at: https://mdl.mndot.gov/_flysystem/fedora/2025-11/2025RIC13.pdf)

Very Sincerely,

Macalester-Groveland Community Council
Brian Wagner
MGCC Board President

Hugo Bruggeman
MGCC Grid 2 Representative and Transportation Committee Chair

MGCC Transportation Committee: Randolph Heights Elementary School Working Group
Katherine Cairns
Ann Hartell
Meghan Paul
Regina Purins

Laura Wallace
MGCC Executive Director

Cc: Principal Tim Williams

July 28th, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to formally endorse the Mac-Groveland Community Council resolution to create and sustain a safe route and intersection for community members and students of Randolph Heights Elementary School.

In my eight years as the principal of Randolph Heights, the intersection of Hamline and Wellesley has been a tremendous pressure point for the school. We have a number of students who are dropped off at school by their parents and our drop-off zone on Wellesley often is over-crowded. Because of this, many parents park on the west side of Hamlin on Wellesley and send their child through the intersection to school. I repeatedly ask families not to send students across Hamline as it is extremely busy in the morning, but that request is not always honored.

The start time for Randolph Heights changed several years ago to 7:30 a.m. and that has added to the decrease in safety around that intersection. In the late fall and winter months, visibility is decreased because of the darkness. Our PTA donated flashlights and lights to attach to backpacks for students walking to school in the morning, but students being dropped off do not always have those available to them.

Darkness, limited signage, motorists commuting at speeds above the limit and young students not always aware of their surroundings all contribute to the possibility of a tragedy. I believe the proposal from the MGCC can help mitigate some of these factors and make the intersection and Randolph Heights safer for our students.

Randolph Heights has been a proud member of this community for one-hundred and ten years, and we look forward to serving this community moving forward. My sincere hope is to make this intersection safer in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Tim Williams, Principal

Randolph Heights Elementary

Attachments:

Existing Conditions (Photos taken April 2026)

(a) Eastbound Wellesley approaching Hamline. Worn transverse crosswalk on the south leg (right) of intersection. No marked crosswalk on the north leg (left) of the intersection.

(a)

(b) Worn transverse crosswalk on south side of Hamline-Wellesley intersection. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church on the right; RHES out of frame on the left.

(b)

(c) Minimal signage on northbound Hamline approaching Wellesley. RHES is on the right:
(c)