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

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

Attendees

Hugo Bruggeman (Chair), Ginny Housum, Regina Purins, Spencer Ludtke, Anne Hartell, Dave Pasiuk, Sarah Johnson, Kathy Cairns, Mimi Gingold, Deb Burns, John Kingrey, Chris Liefeld, Laura Wallace, Cheng Xiong (Public Works), Jeannette Rebar (Community Engagement), Steve Dodge (Street Engineering), Deanna Seppanen, Wendy Sevenich, Brian C. Martinson.

I. Welcome & Introductions (6:30 PM)

Chair Hugo Bruggeman opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

II. Approval of April 2026 Minutes (6:35 PM)

Ginny Housum moved to approve the April 2026 meeting minutes; motion was seconded. After vote counting clarification, the motion passed with 8 ayes and 4-5 abstentions (primarily from committee members not present at the original meeting).

III. Additions or Deletions to Agenda (6:37 PM)

Mimi Gingold requested discussion of St. Thomas parking issues. The item was moved to Working Groups Updates section for later discussion.

IV. Part I: Snelling/Grand Construction: Signal System & Bump-out Update & Street Closures (6:40 PM)

Presenter: Cheng Xiong, Public Works Project Manager

Project Overview

- Intersection improvements at Snelling Avenue & Grand Avenue (Trunk Highway 51)
- Installing bump-outs at all four quadrants
- Traffic signal update with new signal heads and mast arms
- Intersection resurfacing (funded partially by MnDOT)
- ADA pedestrian ramp upgrades and sidewalk renewal
- Construction Impacts

- Timeline: Mid-late June through August 28, 2026 (deadline tied to Macalester move-in)
- Snelling Avenue: Expected to remain open with at least one lane in each direction
- Grand Avenue: Closure expected at intersection; local business access maintained
- Consultant project managers hired for construction management and community engagement

Key Questions from Committee

- Spencer Ludtke: Right-turn-on-red ban on all directions? Cheng to consult traffic engineering; existing restriction on westbound due to A-Line bus conflict
- Brian C. Martinson: Leading pedestrian interval duration? Final timing pending new signal installation; city standard will apply
- Brian C. Martinson: Bike detection technology? Overhead camera system replacing loop detectors; no dedicated bike lanes
- Brian C. Martinson: Funding sources? MnDOT Local Partnership Program; 50-50 split for signal costs; Common Sense corridor funds included
- John Kingly: Traffic stacking on Grand when turning vehicles wait for pedestrians?
- Bump-outs may alleviate confusion; considered no-right-turn-on-red option
- Hugo Bruggeman: Stop bar painting before crosswalk? Existing design meets MUTCD standards; stop bars typically used on skewed intersections
- Hugo Bruggeman: Temporary traffic control during construction? Temporary signal system to maintain more free-flow on Snelling during Grand closure
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Action: Steve Dodge to coordinate written response to unanswered traffic engineering questions (such as Right-turn-on-red ban).

V. Part II: Snelling/Grand Construction: Communications Process with Business & Community (7:10 PM)

Presenter: Jeannette Rebar, Community Engagement Coordinator

- Communication Plan
- Notice letters and emails to businesses/residents (week of June 5-14)
- Community meeting scheduled for early-mid June (after Grand Old Day)
- Weekly email updates and weekly stakeholder meetings during construction
- Project webpage continues to host information (same as Grand Avenue project)
- Business Access Considerations
- "Local Access Only" and business access signs to be posted
- White-on-black signs directing traffic to businesses (similar to Grand Avenue strategy)
- Breadsmith/Jamba Juice corner entrance requires special access accommodations
- Contractor parking to occur primarily on west leg of Grand Avenue to preserve customer parking
- Transit Impacts

- Route 63 bus expected to detour during Grand Avenue closure (potential Summit Avenue route similar to last year)

VI. Letter to the New Director of Public Works (7:35 PM)

Letter prepared for Deborah Barber (new City Director of Public Works) acknowledging her prior service on Met Council Transportation Committee and expressing appreciation for community partnership.

- Letter Edits Discussed: Anne Hartell suggested broadening beyond commercial corridors to include all corridor types (e.g., Hamline Avenue)
- Recommendation to emphasize forward-looking engagement on future projects
- Final letter to include meeting minutes and presentation slides as attachments
- Background Provided: Brian Martinson noted his positive working relationship with Barber, highlighting her advocacy for transit and active participation in community events despite living outside city limits.

VII. Working Groups Updates (7:45 PM)

Randolph Heights Elementary School Safety, by Kathy Cairns

- Principal confirmed three meeting dates with committee members
- Police department increasing patrols along Hamline and Wellesley near school
- Principal expressed support for safety efforts

Parking Enforcement/St. Thomas & Union Park, by …

- Mimi Gingold raised concerns about lack of pedestrian warning markers at Randolph Heights School area compared to other school zones. Issue deferred; follow-up needed on parking coordination with St. Thomas University.

VIII. Review of Open/Old Business Items (8:00 PM)

Due to time constraints and approaching storm, remaining agenda items (including parking enforcement discussion) were deferred to June meeting.

IX. Adjournment (8:00 PM)

Meeting adjourned early due to approaching storm and internet connectivity concerns. Mimi Gingold requested follow-up phone call with Chair regarding parking matters.

ADD LETTER AS SEND TO PUBLIC WORKS

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

651-695-4000
mgcc@macgrove.org

June 2nd, 2026

Dear Nick Peterson, Deb Barber, and colleagues at Public Works

Thank you for meeting with the MGCC community on January 26, 2026, to discuss the recently completed reconstruction of Grand Ave. We appreciate that you and four key engineers and planners from Public Works were able to join us. Your participation made the meeting both constructive and valuable.

For a concise summary of our meeting, we have added a copy of the meeting minutes and the deck of slides to this letter/email. Below we highlight some of the key questions and next steps that we hope Public Works will further evaluate and consider in your future projects on commercial corridor type streets in our city.

Community Questions
• When the state aid road status was known by the city, why weren't the constraints due to state aid roads shared during the 2022 community engagement period?
• None of the corners appear to have 20-foot radii. When will the city adopt the progressive practices outlined in the 2016 street design manual on street corners where access of large vehicles is prohibited, or only allowed by exception?
• Future sections of Grand should revisit MGCC's 2022 endorsement of city-designed options.

Next Steps
City staff will review current pedestrian signage at Macalester campus crossings and at Cambridge/Grand intersections in consultation with the traffic engineer. They will evaluate 1) additional signage for yielding to pedestrians at raised crossings, and
2) additional sightline/parking restrictions to improve pedestrian safety for crossing Cambridge and pedestrians' visibility of right turning vehicles.

Additionally, city personnel will reassess Grand Avenue's built conditions (sidewalk widths, boulevard slopes, and curb radii) with the traffic engineer. After reviewing community input, staff will outline any required modifications or recommendations and make every effort to notify MGCC in a common effort. We appreciate the time and look forward to collaborating on future projects.

Kind Regards,

Laura Wallace
MGCC Executive Director

Macalester-Groveland Community Council

cc:
Hugo Bruggeman
MGCC Grid 2 Rep. & MGCC Transportation Committee Chair
Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Mimi Gingold
MGCC Grid 1 Rep. & MGCC Board Secretary
Macalester-Groveland Community Council

Brian Wagner
Board President
Macalester-Groveland Community Council