MGCC Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Location: Hybrid (Rec Center + Zoom)
Chair: Hugo Bruggeman

Attendees: Hugo Bruggeman, Spencer Ludtke, Tom Moss, Catherine Plessner, Dave Pasiuk, Ann Hartell, Karen Alf, Tom Alf, Deb Burns, John Kingrey,

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I. Welcome & Introductions
Chair Hugo Bruggeman opened the meeting. Introductions skipped as regular attendees were present. Tori Miller assisted with meeting logistics.

II. Approval of September 2026 Minutes
Motion to approve by Spencer, seconded by John. Unanimously approved (7 ayes). Chair noted minutes should be posted within one week of meetings going forward.

III. Additions or Deletions to Agenda
Dave raised that November's fourth Monday falls during Thanksgiving week. Motion to move November meeting to third Monday (November 16). Approved unanimously.

Tom Moss inquired about previous Committee discussion of Flock cameras in St Paul. Committee had limited prior discussion; No formal resolution brought to the Board on this topic.

IV. Resolution for Public Portal to Request Traffic Calming
This resolution revisits a 2022 proposal requesting a unified, transparent system for traffic calming requests. Background: Minneapolis and Philadelphia have implemented similar systems.

Discussion Points:
- Concern raised about whether this would reduce the committee's advocacy role
- Questions about implementation costs (Chair to research)
- Other district councils likely to support this initiative

Outcome: Will be revisited at November meeting, then presented to joint community council meeting in December.

V. Resolution/Letter to Public Works - Street Design Manual
Letter requests routine implementation of treatments specified in the Saint Paul Street Design Manual, particularly regarding Grand Avenue reconstruction where prior recommendations were not followed.

Edits Made: Ann Hartell suggested language emphasizing "evidence-based Complete Streets Elements" and updated supplements reflecting 10+ years of new research..

Vote: John moved, Tom M. seconded. Approved (7 ayes, 0 nays). Dave clarified letter requires Board approval before submission to Public Works. To be placed on November Board agenda.

VI. Review of Snelling & Grand Avenue Intersection

Spencer and Chris conducted observations at various times.

Findings:
- Walk signals activate automatically; push buttons appear non-functional
- No Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) observed at Grand/Snelling
- Drivers generally courteous; improved crosswalk visibility noted
- Some backup concerns near Macalester school during peak times

Recommendations:
- Install stop bars
- Address no-turn-on-red signage (missing at St. Clair)
- Invite Public Works traffic engineer to February meeting after stop bar study completes

Catherine raised equity concerns about ensuring other district councils receive equal access to such educational opportunities.

VII. Committee Updates

1. Sidewalk Infringement at Frat's (Spencer):
Six-month ongoing issue. City placed "compact car parking only" signs but Public Works indicates satisfaction despite apparent code violations (requires 16 feet for compact spaces, only ~13 feet available due to bollards). Mark Zoller (Accessibility Coordinator) promised further investigation. Spencer encourages residents to contact Ward 3 Council Office.

2. RHES Crossing Update:
Dynamic speed sign trailer deployed October 24 (set at 25 mph). Randy Newton acknowledged MGCC resolution. Committee will follow up on whether data collection occurs with the digital device.

VIII. Open/Old Business
No additional items discussed.

IX. Adjournment
Floor open for final comments: Enforcement Note (Dave): Five vehicles ticketed during Friday street sweeping in his neighborhood ($50 per ticket), demonstrating enforcement does occur.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2026, 6:30 PM (moved earlier to avoid Thanksgiving week conflict)

Summary of Action Items

Priority	Action Item	Owner	Target Date
High	Research cost estimates for traffic calming portal systems	Hugo	November meeting
High	Submit Street Design Manual letter to Board for approval	Hugo/Tori	November Board meeting
High	Review traffic calming portal resolution	All members	November meeting
Medium	Coordinate Public Works engineering presentation on signal operations	Spencer/Hugo	February 2027

Medium	Follow up on speed sign trailer data collection capabilities	Hugo/Ann	November meeting
Medium	Continue Fratelli's sidewalk enforcement coordination	Spencer	Ongoing
Medium	Share meeting with other district councils for equity	Hugo/Tori	December joint meeting

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Minutes Submitted By: AI Assistant (Transcript Analysis)
Prepared from official meeting audio transcription dated October 26, 2026

~~DRAFT~~ LETTER TO PUBLIC WORKS — Request for “Routine implementation” of the treatments of the St. Paul Street Design Manual

Macalester-Groveland Community Council

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Steve Dodge
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Nick Peterson
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Randy Newton
Division Manager, Traffic and Lighting
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copied to the Ward 3 and Ward 4 Council members

Requesting action by the Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering; copied to the Ward 3 and Ward 4 Council members.

Public Works (Director, City Engineer, Traffic Safety Manager),

The 2025 reconstruction of Grand Avenue from Fairview Avenue to Snelling Avenue delivered meaningful infrastructure improvements including underground utility modernization, new pavement, sidewalks, signal upgrades, green stormwater infrastructure, approximately 60 new boulevard trees, and new bike racks. Macalester-Groveland Community Council's (MGCC) recognizes and appreciates these investments.

However, several issues with the completed project were identified and reviewed post construction with Public Works staff during the MGCC Transportation Committee (TC) meeting on January 26, 2026. In particular, several pedestrian elements deviated from previous mutual agreements between Public Works and the MGCC, as established by MGCC Board endorsement of 2022 City plans. For details, see MGCC TC January 2026 meeting minutes; https://macgrove.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/MGCC-Transportation-Comm-Minutes-January-2026-1.pdf.

“Routine implementation” of the guidelines in the St Paul Street Design Manual (available at: https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media Root/Planning & Economic Development/Street Design Manual Final101416.pdf) could have prevented many, if not most of these issues. For this reason MGCC requests that Public Works implements the best practices from the Manual in future reconstruction projects of any city street. And, if conditions require otherwise, such deviations are identified, documented, shared on the project website, and discussed with the community during relevant public meetings. This request is both fair, practical, and cost effective as the Manual has been developed based on the existing standards, best practices, and in close coordination with City staff.

The MGCC affirms its commitment to constructive partnership with the City of Saint Paul Public Works Department and recognizes the technical complexities of street and corridor reconstruction. This Request is offered in that spirit—ensuring that future projects reflect current street design principles and are delivered with greater transparency, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

Finally, we ask that:

1. Public Works publishes the Complete Streets Checklist developed for the Manual and provides a copy of the Checklist to all district councils (by email).
2. Public Works provide MGCC the anticipated overall timeline for all project phases (community engagement, planning, scoping, preliminary design, final design, preletting, construction) for reconstruction of future sections of Grand Avenue.
3. Public Works develops and publishes an up-to-date Supplement to the 2016 Manual to reflect additional, evidence-based complete streets elements such as raised crosswalks.
4. The Director of Public Works provide a written response to this request.

Kind regards,

MGCC