

SAPCC Transportation Committee

February 22, 2022

Present: Pat Thompson, Nick Studenski, Scott Jensen, Karen Nelson, Bailey Waters (new email: baileymariewaters@gmail.com)

Waters moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Nelson seconded. It passed unanimously.

1. Rethinking I-94 update

Revised Purpose & Need statement, goals will be released by summer (late June?). At the last Policy Advisory Committee meeting, MnDOT was told by elected to combine the primary and secondary parts of the statement. Mitra Jalali commented that they need to prioritize the community's needs equally with the roadway's needs.

Today there was a community leaders meeting for Rethinking I-94. Nothing new until June from MnDOT, when there will be a revised purpose and need. Sheldon Mains from Seward group said at the meeting that the community leaders have been working with MnDOT for years on this (since 2017) but it has never been included in their reports or findings.

Our Streets Minneapolis launched their Twin Cities Boulevard vision. Everyone should look at this and we will consider endorsing it after hearing a presentation about it at our next meeting. <https://www.twincitiesboulevard.org/> We could ask more about the cross-section on the visualization. You can check out the FAQ on the website because it is quite substantial.

One concern is that a change like this would increase property values too much, pushing people out of the neighborhoods. The proposal has substantial parts addressing this, such as a land bank for reclaimed land. And keeping things unhealthy is not an answer.

This vision is published by Our Streets Mpls but it is not just a Minneapolis vision: they are the organization housing a grant that was obtained by people from all along the corridor.

The highway removal example in Seoul that it could be very good.

One thing to watch for in the Rethinking I-94 process is MnDOT leveraging support for the Rondo land bridge against any other change. In effect, they are saying "we gave you the land bridge," so then they can do whatever they want with I-94 (rebuild, widen).

2. Health effects of highways update

The working group met last week and discussed what kind of a forum it wants – whether it's education-focused or advocacy focused. Decided it would mainly be educationally focused, having more opportunities available for advocacy. They discussed who to invite and how and that there should be other forms of getting the education out, like flyers. The forum would likely be in early May and ideally in person. St. Peter Clavier church has offered to be the location. Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate is a key organizer. Nelson suggested contacting ISAIAH, a faith-based org that is good at getting politicians to attend these sorts of events. Ask to see if they could attend one of the organizing meetings.

3. Capital Improvement Budget submissions update

These items were submitted from either our group, our board, or are just in general alignment with SAPCC stances. We are not sure if the city will get back to us by March on if they want a more formal proposal. Can we still turn in other items? We aren't sure.

- Mirrors in SSAP for situational awareness at exits of parking at large apartment buildings/commercial buildings
- Remove railroad tracks on Wabash for bike safety
- Lighting at Cromwell/Manvel/Robbins near the Transitway access point
- Street lights on Raymond south of University (west side especially, intersection at Myrtle). *Note that the lighting north of Raymond station has 1 light, but it still could be better.*

- Pedestrian support at Raymond / Hampden (four-way stop?)
- Snow clearance / hand railings at bus stops
- Speed cameras on arterials to catch drag racers
- Pedestrian plaza (closed street) on Charles at Raymond
- Upgrade the Pelham bike lane
- General calls for speed bumps, bump outs, medians, safe pedestrian crosswalks
- Curb-protected bike lanes

4. Mural update

Voting on the preferred artist was underway during the meeting, ended later that night. Decision to be made the next day.

Given the location at the corner of Territorial and Carleton, this will be a very large mural seen even from University looking up Carleton. May into early June is when the work will start. We can then make a plan for the event on the opening of the mural.

The paint for the crosswalk has really taken a hit. Concrete is not a good surface for even pavement paint. The street mural on Seal is still looking great though!

5. Benches update

They are public art with a seating area. Its title is “rest bright.” It turns out Public Works has to put out the notice of the public hearing at City Council to nearby neighbors and we can’t do it. The hearing will be on March 16. Benches need to start construction so we meet the installation deadline.

6. Testimony on county road speed limit bill

Betty had previously spoken at a county commissioners’ meeting on speed limits on county roads within the city. They are working on a bill to allow the county to change the speed limit. There was supposed to be a hearing today in a House committee, but it has been delayed. Pat and Betty are slated to speak about it and the meeting will happen in a few weeks.

7. Met Council / MnDOT Twin Cities Highway Mobility Needs

A recent study commissioned by MnDOT and Met Council found that \$6 billion should be spent to expand highways in the metro area over the next 5 years. (https://www.ourstreetsmpls.org/tab_alert) Waters moved to submit a statement that disproves of highway expansion and says we prioritize livability and lowering emissions. Jensen seconded. Studenski will write the statement for the board. Unanimously approved.

8. City Public Works 5-year money

Kathryn Murray received the proposed 5-year allocation plan for Public Works. It does not include money for the Ellis rebuild, which had been said to be in 2023 or so, and as far as we can tell also does not include the Territorial mill and overlay (though there is a general \$100K budget for M&O in 2022. There is "Vandalia Commercial area M&O" in 2024-26. It is unknown what streets would be in the “Vandalia Commercial” area.

9. St. Thomas/Town & Country

An unsolicited offer from the University of St Thomas has been made to purchase the Town & Country Club. The conversations had likely started a while ago. Various discussion on what will happen vs. what should happen. (The next day it was announced that the Town & Country board turned St. Thomas down.)

10. Staff review

Please give any feedback you have on Kathryn’s performance to Waters by the end of March. The feedback is mainly being obtained from board members, but committee members are welcome to give feedback.

11. Organizing files

Studenski mentioned that in Land Use Committee, they have a Google Drive folder with the notes from each meeting. He suggested that we post our notes in a folder. Nick could create a Google Drive to post these in.