



April 12, 2010

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman
Office of the Mayor
390 City Hall
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Re: Resolution to Further Examine Reducing University Ave
From Four to Two Through Lanes of Traffic**

Dear Mayor Coleman:

On April 7, 2010, the Union Park District Council (UPDC) board passed a resolution urging the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and the Metropolitan Council to:

1. Take advantage of the LRT construction on University Ave to study the level of traffic reduction when only one lane in each direction is available; and
2. Broaden the criteria used to measure potential success to include walkability and street parking on University Ave, unlike the previous study on the issue that considers only car traffic.

The full resolution passed by UPDC is as follows:

***Resolution to Further Examine Reducing University Ave
From Four to Two Through Lanes of Traffic***

Whereas: *The current plan for CCLRT will result in the loss of approximately 85% of on-street parking; and*

Whereas: *For the small businesses, there is no substitute for on-street parking with frequent turnover; and*

Whereas: *For the pedestrian, on-street parking provides the protection of a physical barrier to the hazards of moving traffic and a more secure walking environment; and*

Whereas: *There are sidewalks along University Ave that are anticipated to be as narrow as ten feet; and*

Whereas: *With no on-street parking, buses would have to stop in the curbside traffic lane, causing all traffic in that lane to stop, and effectively reducing University Avenue traffic to one through lane and one stop-and-go lane.*

Whereas: *Reducing University Ave to one through lane in each direction could provide the necessary right-of-way to fully restore on-street parking; and*

Whereas: *The experience of other cities indicates that constriction of vehicle capacity can result in significant traffic reductions without diversions to parallel streets or harm to commercial vitality; and*

Whereas: *The interstate MAX LRT line in Portland, OR experienced a 37% reduction in traffic by reducing the number of through traffic lanes from four to two; and*

Whereas: *A similar reduction on University Ave would bring traffic counts down to approximately 18,000/vehicles day, a threshold previously set by St. Paul Public Works for four to two lane reprogramming; and*

Whereas: *The single lane studies done to date are entirely autocratic and seem to underestimate the reduction in traffic that would occur with the lane reduction in conjunction with LRT; and*

Therefore, be it resolved: That the UPDC supports restoration of on-street parking to the greatest extent possible, and urges the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and the Metropolitan Council to further examine the potential effects of reducing University Ave to one lane in each direction and explore further and amicable solutions for on-street parking and pedestrian facilities.

Be it further resolved: That traffic analysis for University Avenue should be based on a complete "Complete Streets" approach, and should include the effects of anticipated shifts in travel mode, findings from the long-awaited Northwest Quadrant study, and projections of further regional travel patterns.

Be it further resolved: That the study should assess qualitatively and quantitatively the pedestrian realm as it is affected by the loss of on-street parking. It should examine comparable corridors in peer cities. It should conduct field tests when construction necessitates narrowing the avenue to one lane in either direction. Finally, it should determine the level of traffic reduction that could be expected with a single lane conversion in conjunction with LRT and the resultant impact for all modes of travel.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Glen R. McCluskey, President
Union Park District Council
glen@unionparkdc.org

Cc: Saint Paul City Councilmember Melvin Carter, III
Saint Paul City Councilmember Dave Thune
Saint Paul City Councilmember Pat Harris
Saint Paul City Councilmember Russ Stark
Saint Paul City Councilmember Lee Helgen
Saint Paul City Councilmember Dan Bostrom
Saint Paul City Councilmember Kathy Lantry
Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough
Ramsey County Commissioner Jan Parker
Ramsey County Commissioner Tony Bennett
Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter
Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega
Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt
Ramsey County Commissioner Janice Rettman
Peter Bell, Metropolitan Council
Dan Soler, Metropolitan Council
Robin Caufman, Metropolitan Council