



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

*Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor*

*1500 City Hall Annex  
25 West Fourth Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  
Fax: 651-266-6222*

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Griggs Street Neighbors,

In September of this year, you were sent a flyer inviting you to join City of Saint Paul staff for three public meetings in October regarding the Griggs Street Bikeway. Information on these meetings was also shared through the City's website ([www.stpaul.gov/griggs](http://www.stpaul.gov/griggs)), City Council offices, neighborhood groups (Lex-Ham, Hamline-Midway, and Union Park), the Pioneer Press, the City Facebook page, and the Bicycling Saint Paul e-newsletter. Several dozen residents attended the public meetings and nearly 120 residents participated in the companion online surveys. The purpose of this letter is to share with all of you a little more background on the Griggs Street Bikeway, the outcome of the public process so far, and the final opportunities for public feedback coming in January 2012.

***Project Background***

The Griggs Street Bikeway will provide a key north-south bicycle and pedestrian connection, by providing a safer roadway for drivers, cyclists, and walkers alike. Creating safe space for non-motorized transportation options is a critical component of a balanced and flexible transportation system, which itself is an important priority for the City of Saint Paul. Such a system means that residents of and visitors to Saint Paul have the benefit of choice and options in getting where they want to go.

The Griggs Street Bikeway extends from Summit Avenue to Minnehaha Avenue, connecting existing bike routes on Summit and Minnehaha via the improved Griggs route. This project was planned for in the Bike Walk Central Corridor Action Plan, adopted by City Council in May of 2010. Construction for the Griggs Street Bikeway will take place during Spring or Summer of 2012. The Griggs Street Bikeway is a project funded through the Federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program (for \$400,000) to provide improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on Griggs Street.

***October Public Process***

The first public meeting took place on Monday, October 3, where City staff shared project background and context and also heard input from residents regarding the transportation issues on Griggs Street today. At that meeting, we heard concerns about potential parking loss and about compatibility of roadway designs with snow plowing. We assured residents that the project as envisioned would not result in a loss of parking on Griggs Street and that selected designs would take snow plowing into consideration. We also heard about safety concerns with specific intersections, including Concordia, St. Anthony, Selby, and University. We made sure to pay particular attention to these intersections when creating our preliminary design proposal.

The second public meeting took place on Sunday, October 9. The meeting was a mobile workshop where residents joined us on foot and on bike to visualize and discuss design options along Griggs Street. We got lots of great feedback from this meeting and the online survey that accompanied it. Among other thoughts, we heard that residents liked signage and traffic circles, especially those with beautiful plantings, but didn't care for speed humps. All of this feedback was considered as staff put together a preliminary design for the Griggs Street Bikeway.

The third public meeting took place on Tuesday, October 11. At this meeting, City staff shared and received feedback on a design proposal developed as a result of the first two meetings and the companion online surveys. The design includes sharrows, signage, and traffic circles at certain intersections. For more information on the design, and the types of treatments proposed, please see [www.stpaul.gov/griggs](http://www.stpaul.gov/griggs).

Since these three meetings, the preliminary design proposal has been recommended for approval by the City's Transportation Committee and Planning Commission. This recommendation will next be considered by the City Council in January.

### ***Final Public Meeting and City Council Public Hearing***

We will be holding a final community meeting to share the final design for the Griggs Street Bikeway and answer questions about it on **January 10, 2012** at the Central Corridor Resource Center (1080 University Avenue), from 7:00-8:30pm. This final design will be considered at a City Council public hearing at 5:30pm on Wednesday, **January 18, 2012**. The City Council public hearing is your final opportunity to share your thoughts about the project. The City Council will consider testimony from the public as they vote whether to approve the staff's design proposal for the Griggs Street Bikeway in anticipation of construction in 2012.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please see the City's project website at [www.stpaul.gov/griggs](http://www.stpaul.gov/griggs) and feel welcome to contact me, Emily Erickson, directly at [Emily.Erickson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Emily.Erickson@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651.266.6059.

Best,  
Emily P.G. Erickson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily P.G. Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "E".

Sustainable Transportation Planner