March 17, 2013

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
c/o John McCarthy
15 W. Kellogg Blvd
Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55102
john.mccarthy@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee:

I am writing in support of the Margaret Street Bike Route project currently under consideration for CIB funding. As a regular bike commuter from the St. Anthony Park neighborhood to the 3M Center campus in Maplewood I am struck by how much safer I feel cycling west of 35E, on designated bike routes, than east of there. Without designated routes car and truck drivers often don't anticipate cyclists, or worse, challenge cyclists' right to be on the road. I am not alone, the number people commuting by bike across the Twin Cities is growing steadily. Ensuring that cyclists have safe routes throughout the city should be a priority for St. Paul.

The Payne-Phalen corridor is a great first step in improving cycling east of 35E, but it is only the beginning of what is required to make the east side of St. Paul bike-friendly to commuters. A continuous east-west bike route from 35E to Maplewood is what is now needed. Designating Margaret Street as an official bike route, with appropriate signage and pavement markings, will do much to improve the safety of bike commuting on St. Paul's east side. Next steps should include crossing aids for cyclists at major north-south streets along this route including McKnight Road, Ruth Street, White Bear Avenue and Johnson Parkway and connection to the Payne-Phalen corridor.

Sincerely,

Steven Yetter
1499 Hythe Street
St. Paul, MN 55108

Cc:

Christopher Coleman
Mayor
City of Saint Paul
390 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Kathy Lantry
Councilmember - Ward 7,
City Council President
City of Saint Paul
320-C City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102
ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us