Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee:

As a 3M employee, I am writing to voice support for the Margaret Street Bike Route proposal that you are currently considering. The health and safety of 3M employees is of paramount concern to me both in the aggregate as well as personally. I ride from Minneapolis to 3M regularly and greatly appreciate the efforts the City of St. Paul has made to improve bicycle safety, such as extending bike lanes on Marshall Avenue west to the Marshall/Lake bridge and striping Ruth St. As more 3M employees commute by bike, having safe bike routes to 3M facilities is a priority. Designating Margaret Street as an official bike route, with appropriate signage (including potentially changing the direction of stop signs on Margaret) and pavement markings, will improve the safety of bike commuting to not just 3M Center, but from the west in general. Looking ahead, I would also like to see crossing aids for cyclists at major north-south streets along this route including McKnight Road, Ruth Street, White Bear Avenue, Johnson Parkway, Earl, Forest and 7th. Additionally, for local area residents cycling infrastructure is very limited. Adding bicycle boulevard infrastructure to Margaret Avenue would signal to local area residents that cycling is not limited to the "high-rent" neighborhoods. Finally, while it is great that St. Paul has added bike lane to Ruth St., to fully maximize the return on investment on any one transportation project, as you know, a complete network is needed. Adding bicycle boulevard features to Margaret will help to build that network and help to build St. Paul as a world-class cycling city.

I thank you for your time and support for this key project that will help to improve cycling in our shared metro area.

Sincerely,

Scott Bentrup