

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

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April 2, 2013

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
Streets and Utilities Task Force
c/o John McCarthy, Senior Budget Analyst
City of Saint Paul – Office of Financial Services
15 W. Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 700
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: CIB Proposals Submitted by the Railroad Island Task Force

Dear CIB Streets and Utilities Task Force:

The Railroad Island Task Force is a recognized subcommittee of the Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council. The Task Force was formed many years ago to mobilize neighborhood input and help shape the Railroad Island Small Area Plan and Updates. The goal of the Task Force is to make Railroad Island a great place to live, work, and own a business. This Task Force has successfully developed and implemented a number of strategies to accomplish their goals. The group is largely responsible for a renaissance of the area – leading to increased residential and commercial investment and preservation of assets essential to the character of the neighborhood.

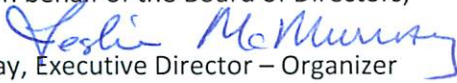
In 2007, a CIB proposal to repave and streetscape Payne Avenue between Edgerton and Bush was funded. The project was completed in 2009, and it looks great! One of their proposals submitted for your consideration is to complete the reconstruction and streetscaping of the last stretch of Payne Avenue south of Maryland. This portion of Payne Avenue has crumbling medians, freeway-style lighting, and two unsafe intersections. Traffic often exceeds the 30-mile per hour speed limit. The proposal addresses these issues, and improves the appearance and safety of the main thoroughfare of this neighborhood.

Another proposal focuses on the intersection of Payne and East 7th Street. The redesign of this intersection would provide an attractive gateway to Railroad Island and the Payne Phalen neighborhood. It would also address the issue of pedestrian safety at this busy intersection.

The third proposal that they have submitted is to improve pedestrian access and enhance the appearance of the bridge over the Railroad Tracks between Kittson and Payne. This bridge is an eyesore and projects a negative image of the East Side.

All three of these proposals are designed to improve the economic viability of the neighborhood. The District Five Planning Council strongly offers its support for all three of these proposals.

Sincerely and on behalf of the Board of Directors,


Leslie McMurray, Executive Director – Organizer
Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council

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