

SAINT PAUL BICYCLE COALITION

December 20, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

The Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition supports Benita Warns' Capital Improvement Budget proposal to fund the construction of a pathway connecting the Lexington Avenue off-street bike path with the bike lanes on Pierce Butler Route, which passes underneath Lexington. Currently, for cyclists to reach Pierce Butler from Lexington (or visa-versa) they have to go south to Hubbard, west on Hubbard to Dunlap, and north on Dunlap to Pierce Butler. Depending on their direction of travel, this can add between a quarter and a half mile to a cyclist's trip.

The project would involve putting a paved pathway from the Lexington Avenue bike path, just south of the bike/pedestrian bridge over BNSF rail line, down the hill to Pierce Butler. At Pierce Butler, there are good sightlines for bike and pedestrian crossings, so there would be a marked crosswalk (preferably "colonial striped" with warning signs and pavement markings) to bring the pathway across Pierce Butler, so that cyclists wishing to go west bound on Pierce Butler, could cross the road.

This proposed CIB project would be inexpensive but would provide a great deal of connectivity. Currently, there are no finished east-west bikeways south of Pierce Butler that are accessible from Lexington. Minnehaha Avenue is a designated bikeway but has no bike lanes at Lexington. Only Pierce Butler has striped lanes to accommodate bicycles. We need a better, easier connection for cyclists to reach it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andy Singer and Jeff Zaayer, Co-Chairs

Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition

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<http://www.saintpaulbicyclecoalition.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Paul-Bicycle-Coalition/133657969979958>



peopleforbikes™

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February 26, 2015

Streets and Utilities Task Force
Capital Budget Improvement Process
City of St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Task Force,

I am writing this letter in support of a paved, multi-use path from the bicycle/pedestrian bridge on Lexington Avenue down to the Pierce Butler Bicycle Route. PeopleForBikes is please to extend our support to this worthy project.

Across the United States, municipalities, counties, regions and states are recognizing the many benefits and low cost of investing in bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Multi-use paths that allow people to walk and bicycle with safety and ease – like the facility proposed – are relatively inexpensive and reap multiple rewards, including improved health for the people who use them, better air quality, less congestion, and opportunities for economic benefits as people have more options for getting around. The proposed connector between bicycle routes on Lexington Avenue and Pierce Butler will provide safety and efficiency for people traveling by bike or on foot. We applaud the Task Force for considering this investment, and encourage your members and constituents to join us in supporting it.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for supporting great projects that allow residents to bike and walk to where they live, learn, work and play.

With regards,

Zoe Kircos
Grant Manager



ST. PAUL Smart Trips

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ST. PAUL, MN 55101

March 4, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
c/o John McCarthy, Senior Budget Analyst
City of Saint Paul – Office of Financial Services
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: CIB Proposal for connection between the Lexington Parkway Bridge and Pierce Butler Route

To the Capital Improvement Budget Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of St. Paul Smart Trips to express our support for CIB funding for a direct connection between the Lexington Parkway Bridge and Pierce Butler Route as proposed by Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles. St. Paul Smart Trips is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that improves access and mobility for those who travel in and around St. Paul. This project is also endorsed by St. Paul Women on Bikes, a Smart Trips program that works to make riding a bike in St. Paul safer and easier for women, children, and families.

Pierce Butler Route is currently an important east-west connection through the northwest section of St. Paul. It is very difficult to reach, however, from the adjoining neighborhoods. The proposal to connect the Lexington Parkway Bridge over the railroad tracks south of Como Park to Pierce Butler Route will make connections from the Hamline Midway and Frogtown neighborhoods to attractions like Como Park, Como Zoo and University Avenue much more accessible by bike.

Especially given that this project was awarded funding in the past through the Capital Improvement Budget, we support the completion of the project during this cycle of funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Treat".

Jessica Treat
Executive Director
St. Paul Smart Trips