



Independent School District 625

360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Office of the Superintendent

Valeria S. Silva
Superintendent of Schools

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March 4, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee
and Task Force Members
700 City Hall
15 W Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear CIB Committee Members and Task Force Members:

I am pleased to communicate my support of Saint Paul Public Works' Capital Improvement Budget application for planning for Safe Routes to School.

Saint Paul Public Schools fairly recently transitioned to neighborhood schools where more students can attend school in their own neighborhoods. This is a perfect moment for the school district, City of Saint Paul, and other stakeholders, to work together to intentionally plan for Safe Routes to School. Not only will this help Saint Paul students get to school safely on foot or by bike, but also all Saint Paul residents who walk or bike near schools.

CIB funds will help initiate a planning process for Safe Routes to School. Having a citywide plan in place will allow the school district and City to implement safety improvements when opportunities near schools arise during the City's scheduled work. It will also better position us to apply for funds from MNDOT and other funding agencies to accelerate the work of capital and education improvements related to Safe Routes to School.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Valeria Silva



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 Safe Routes to School plan development

To the Capital Improvement Budget Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of St. Paul Smart Trips to express our support for CIB funding for developing a Safe Routes to School plan as proposed by the City of St. Paul's Department of Public Works. 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 St. Paul Smart Trips program that works to make riding a bike in St. Paul safer and easier for women, children, and families and by St. Paul Walks, a program of St. Paul Smart Trips focusing on getting drivers to slow down for pedestrians, specifically at intersections, whether they are marked or unmarked.

Last October, a young boy was hit and severely injured on Rice Street in St. Paul walking to school. These tragic incidents are far too common and can be avoided. Programs like Safe Routes to School provide important tools for schools to safely get children to and from their classes as well as infrastructural upgrades near schools to help ensure crashes like this don't happen.

Additionally, Safe Routes to School programs improve public health by encouraging active transportation for students to get to school. In an era where children are leading far more sedentary lifestyles than previous generations, is it important to provide safe places for them to walk and bike to increase physical activity as part of their daily commute.

Lastly, these benefits do not only apply to children going to school. Neighbors reap the rewards of Safe Routes to school programs, too. The infrastructure that results from these funds often leads to higher rates of biking and walking in the surrounding area. This positively impacts individual and public health as well as the local economy.

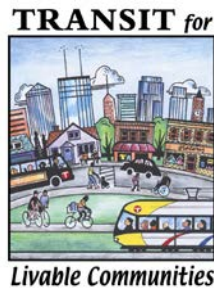
For these reasons, we believe that a Safe Routes to School plan must be updated and implemented in St. Paul to ensure the long-term health and safety of everyone traveling in and around our city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jessica Treat
Executive Director
St. Paul Smart Trips



Transit for Livable Communities
2356 University Avenue West, Suite 403
Saint Paul, MN 55114
651-767-0298
tlc@tlcminnesota.org
www.tlcminnesota.org

March 10, 2015

Capital Improvement Committee
City of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
Room 280 City Hall / Courthouse Building
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear CIB Committee:

Transit for Livable Communities is writing in support of the \$200,000 request for funding for to undertake or update planning for Safe Routes to schools in Saint Paul.

Safe routes to schools projects – sidewalks, trails, on-street routes, signage, curb extension, traffic signal upgrades – all contribute to a more walkable, bikeable city for students and community members. Walking and bicycling to school leads to healthier more engaged students and saves families and the school district money on bus/car travel. More walking and bicycling also reduce traffic congestion near schools.

With funding to update and improve the city's Safe Routes to schools plan, the city will be better able to prepare timely and competitive applications for state and federal funding. If a transportation funding package is adopted by the Minnesota legislature this year, an updated plan could put the city in a very good position to compete for new regional funding that has been proposed by the Governor and the Senate.

Sincerely,

Barb Thoman
Executive Director

March 5, 2015

Saint Paul Capital Improvement Committee:

I write in support of providing planning funds for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects in Saint Paul. The health benefits and educational advantages of bicycling and walking transportation for K-12 students are well documented and cannot be overstated. <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>. Initiatives across the country have created a growing SRTS movement. Parents have been, and will continue to be, resistant to this movement here unless their children's trips are protected with safe infrastructure.

Saint Paul has not taken full advantage of the significant and expanding funding opportunities for SRTS at the state and federal levels. And there is more urgency to complete a planning process to be able to tap the funds. "Due to the increased benefits seen from planning, MnDOT is moving towards requiring SRTS planning efforts for infrastructure. 70 percent of 2013 implementation grants awarded had completed SRTS planning," according to the MnDOT website <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/grants.html>. MnDOT reports \$700,000 of SRTS federal awards announced in 2014. It is critical for Saint Paul to have a SRTS completed plan to be able to access these resources and improve infrastructure and programming.

I hope you will give full attention to this opportunity as part of the CIB process.

Regards,
Joan Pasiuk
1984 Jefferson

Note: I participated as the representative for Bike Walk Twin Cities to the Sprockets Transportation Work Group in 2014. Sprockets is a collaboration of community organizations, City of Saint Paul, and Saint Paul Public Schools. The work group heartily endorsed improved transportation options for students as part of the commitment to excellence for in-school and out-of-school learning.



Minnesota is a state where bicycling is a safe, easy, fun and cool choice for everyone.

Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
PO Box 5078
Saint Paul, MN 55101
www.bikemn.org

March 5, 2015

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman
City Hall
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mayor Coleman

The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota supports the Capitol Improvement Budget proposal to develop safe routes to school plans citywide. This is a great investment in the future of the City of Saint Paul. A recent study by the Rockefeller Foundation and Transportation for America found that 80% of Millennials (18-35 year-olds) in 10 larger cities (including Minneapolis) agree with the statement "I would like to live in a place where I don't need to rely on a car to get around". That means they want safe and convenient transit, biking and walking options. I am also sure it means they want their kids to be able to safely walk or bike to school.

BikeMN will also support a grant request from the City to MnDOT for a safe routes planning grant. And, we'd love to help encourage public participation in the proposed safe routes planning and help with an education campaign so people understand that the daily physical activity provided by walking or biking to school not only is good for the health of the individual, but that physically active kids learn better.

BikeMN truly hopes that Saint Paul funds the Safe Routes to School – Plan Development CIB request and we look forward to working with you to implement it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Grilley", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dorian Grilley
Executive Director

c: Members of the Capital Improvement Budget Committee