

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
c/o John McCarthy, Senior Budget Analyst

Subject: CIB Proposal for Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

I live at the corner of Hague and Fry, very near to the intersection of Snelling and Selby. I strongly support the proposed Union Park District Council's CIB proposal for pedestrian and traffic safety.

Living one block off Snelling and Selby, I am witness to daily occurrences of unsafe traffic in the neighborhood. Because of the heavy traffic at the intersection of Snelling and Selby, trucks and cars both try to avoid the intersection, so turn off onto Hague or Fry, thus putting pedestrians in jeopardy. Large commercial vehicles often cut off at Hague or Fry, and often they seem to be in a big hurry and rush down our street. It is also quite common that the stop sign on Hague is either completely ignored or that people just slow down a bit. I have witnessed this on a daily basis as my windows face out on to the intersection.

We are a wonderful mixed neighborhood with a combination of long-term homeowners, young families, and rental property. I love our diversity, and perhaps our most cherished asset is the children living here who enjoy playing outdoors, and regularly cross the streets to visit and play with each other. I fear that with the drivers who cut off of Snelling because they are in a hurry will also be in too much of a hurry one day and not see a child crossing or playing. Consequently, I strongly support the installation of a diverter in our intersection as a part of the full proposal to calm traffic in our area.

While I am grateful for the growth and prosperity in our neighborhood as evidenced by the development taking place at the corner of Snelling and Selby, I have a deep concern for the continued safety of pedestrians and the peaceful quality of life we enjoy. I sincerely hope you will fund our proposed improvements.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Zurlo
1627 Hague Ave
651-269-1305

March 27, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

The Snelling Selby Area Business Association supports the CIB proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area in principal. As business owners, we have been continually concerned for the safety and convenience of our customers, employees, and neighbors.

We support infrastructure changes at the Selby-Saratoga and Saratoga-Dayton intersections to promote safety, but we feel that the existing street parking on both the east and west sides of Saratoga and the north and south sides of Dayton be kept in place to help support the parking needs of area retail and apartment tenants. This is critical to us. We understand that staff from St. Paul Public Works proposed these changes to divert some traffic away from the Snelling-Selby intersection, making it safer for pedestrians to cross and less congested for traffic. While addressing our pedestrian safety concerns at a recent business association meeting, Paul St. Martin of Public Works indicated that these changes will be implemented.

We also understand that the adjacent residential streets will likely suffer additional through-traffic, and we support the goals of preserving safety and convenience in the adjacent residential neighborhoods. We look forward to full discussion and development of specific measures related to residential streets with the expert staff employed by the City of Saint Paul, in conversation with the District Council and members of our business association.

Finally, we support the request for funds to design and install placemaking elements in the Snelling-Selby area. We plan to collaborate with the Friendly Streets Initiative and the Union Park District Council to host an event in 2015 to work with local residents and business owners to determine what elements would be most effective and desirable.

The Snelling-Selby Area Business Association looks forward to collaboration with the City of Saint Paul and the Union Park District Council to promote the well-being of a thriving community of business and residential neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
(SIGNED)

Ed Conley
President, Snelling-Selby Area Business Association

March 26, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

As a 30-year resident of Hague Avenue, just around the corner from the Snelling-Selby intersection, I was very pleased with the proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area put forth by the Union Park District Council.

Pedestrian safety in the area has been an ongoing issue all the years I have lived here, but has become exponentially worse over the last few years. Now, with the addition of the Vintage apartments and a supermarket on the Snelling-Selby intersection, I foresee even worse problems in the future. There are businesses I like to visit and support in the area, but it has become more and more hazardous for anyone on foot to navigate the traffic on the corner. I generally try to avoid the intersection altogether when I am driving. I strongly support the changes and improvements suggested in the proposal with the hope they will alleviate some of the effects of the increasing traffic we are experiencing.

Those of us who live on Hague also have to contend with a great deal of cut-through traffic by cars and trucks avoiding the main intersection of Snelling and Selby (they don't like it either), or coming down our street to look for parking. All of us have witnessed cars coming down our street and either barely slowing or simply going right through the stop sign at the end of our block. There are many children on the block and I often fear for their lives.

Last summer, I was part of the Friendly Streets event here. One of the most popular proposals of that initiative was the model diverter that was set up across our intersection. It is an idea I fully support as a way to greatly reduce the cut-through traffic and speeding vehicles we now have to live with. I hope you will give the diverter strong consideration as you review this proposal.

Thank you,

Margaret Schally
1619 Hague Avenue

March 27, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

As a resident who lives one block from the Snelling-Selby intersection, I strongly support the Union Park District Council's CIB proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area.

I am extremely concerned about pedestrian safety and traffic congestion in the Snelling-Selby area. My neighbors and I appreciate walking to the local businesses. However, I have given up attempting to cross Snelling at marked crosswalks at Hague or Laurel for fear of endangering my life due to the congestion and high-speed of traffic on this four-lane avenue. With the construction of the new Vintage apartments and supermarket, I have no doubt the number of cars in the area is bound to increase dramatically. Therefore, it is urgent that specific steps be taken to address the impacts of increased traffic in the area. I support the project's proposals to make infrastructure changes and calm traffic.

My family and I live on Hague Avenue, where we already experience a lot of cut-through traffic avoiding the main intersection of Snelling and Selby and trolling for parking on our street. As I sit on my front porch or look out of my home office, I watch almost every car ignore the stop sign at Hague and Fry, sometimes at considerable speed. I have two children who play in our front yard near that intersection, and they frequently cross the street at that stop sign to visit their friends.

Having participated in the Friendly Streets event where a diverter was modeled, I am fully supportive of the diverter as an easy and inexpensive way to discourage soon-to-be-increased cut-through traffic on Hague Avenue. It will help preserve the safety and the residential nature of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marek Reiter
1623 Hague Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

March 12, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

My name is Brian Quarstad and I'm a member of the Snelling-Selby Task Force and a resident who lives in the area. I wanted to let you know I am fully in support of this CIB proposal.

Because of my serious concerns about pedestrian safety and traffic congestion in the area, I volunteered to be part of the Task Force. With the construction of the new Vintage apartments and adjoining supermarket in progress, I am especially concerned about the impacts increased traffic will have on the quality of life for those of us who use this intersection and live near it. I have my own personal stories of nearly being hit numerous times at the N.E. corner of Selby and Snelling and most residents can tell you similar stories. It's dangerous and we must address it.

Along with other residents, I worked with local business owners, and staff from St. Paul Public Works, MnDOT and Metro Transit to develop the recommendations in this funding request. It was a very positive experience with members of MnDOT and the city commenting how impressed they were with the citizen members knowledge of issues and willingness to work with them on solutions. Some aspects of the recommendations are being implemented by MnDOT and the Vintage developer. But, CIB funding is required to complete the most important part of the recommendations: infrastructure changes at the Selby-Saratoga and Saratoga-Dayton intersections to divert traffic away from the Snelling-Selby intersection, making it safer for pedestrians to cross and less congested for traffic.

The Task Force recognized that the infrastructure changes at the intersection are an important start, but are not sufficient, and felt strongly that other efforts needed to be made to calm traffic. So, this CIB request also seeks funds to design and install placemaking elements in the area to achieve traffic calming.

Finally, as a resident living nearby, I recognize the need to discourage cut-through traffic and preserve the quality of life in the immediately adjacent residential neighborhood. This CIB request addresses that concern by seeking funding to install a diverter at a nearby intersection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian N. Quarstad



UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL

1602 Selby Avenue, Suite 10, Saint Paul, MN 55104
651.645.6887 | info@unionparkdc.org | www.unionparkdc.org
An Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer

February 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

The Union Park District Council fully supports the CIB proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area.

This project implements recommendations from three studies undertaken by the Union Park District Council in 2014 to address the concerns of residents and business owners about pedestrian safety and traffic congestion in the Snelling-Selby area. With the construction of the new Vintage apartments and adjoining supermarket, it is urgent that steps be taken to address the impacts of increased traffic in an area that has long been viewed as unsafe for pedestrians and challenging for drivers.

The three facets of this CIB proposal will provide for:

1. Implementation of recommendations from a Snelling-Selby Task Force to make infrastructure changes at the Selby-Saratoga and Saratoga-Dayton intersections to divert traffic away from the Snelling-Selby intersection, making it safer for pedestrians to cross and less congested for traffic. Staff from St. Paul Public Works and MnDOT participated in the Task Force, and its recommendations were adopted by the Union Park District Council Board on June 4, 2014.
2. Installation of a diverter at the intersection of Hague and Fry to discourage cut-through traffic and preserve the quality of life in the immediately adjacent residential neighborhood. This was the top recommendation of the Hague Avenue Friendly Streets Initiative that gathered input from residents and business owners through surveys and interviews in the summer of 2014.
3. Designing and installing placemaking elements in the Snelling-Selby area to achieve traffic calming. A Friendly Streets event is planned for the spring of 2015 to allow local residents and business owners to determine what elements to install, and where.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Reiter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being more prominent than the last name "Reiter".

Julie Reiter, Executive Director
Union Park District Council

March 22, 2015

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

Re:

CIB Proposal for Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

I am writing to voice my support for the Union Park District Council's CIB proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area.

I would love this project to come to life. My husband and I live on Hague/Pierce intersection. There are young children and old people in this neighborhood who will be much safer if the traffic in our block slowed down.

There are a lot of nice stores and coffee shops in the area that we walk to on daily basis. There is often awkwardness and concerns when crossing the small intersections along the Snelling/Selby. Any process that makes these walks easier and safer for the pedestrians is greatly appreciated and supported.

We feel very grateful to the people who created the "Friendly Streets" event last year because they took on themselves to work for the wellbeing of the rest of us. We thought that the diverter idea was great. It will not only make our walk safer but also more beautiful.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Hend Al-Mansour
1664 Hague Avenue.
St. Paul, MN 55104.

March 26, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

My wife and I strongly support the Union Park District Council's CIB proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area.

We have chosen to live in St. Paul and specifically in Union Park because it is an extremely walkable community. We are willing to make the monetary investment of paying higher tax bills and other sacrifices such as making due with poorly plowed and maintained city streets in order to live in a place where neighbors still greet each other on the street.

We live on Hague Avenue just one block from the Snelling-Selby intersection and we are extremely concerned about pedestrian safety and traffic congestion in the Snelling-Selby area. The traffic at Snelling-Selby was already a mess before the intersection began its recent renaissance. I am excited about the continued investments by local businesses in our community, but the city must keep pace with these investments or the traffic situation will soon become untenable. The construction of the new Vintage apartments and supermarket makes now the perfect time to take specific steps to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. We support the project's proposals to make infrastructure changes which will alleviate traffic and prevent motorists from making poor decisions that will impact our neighbors directly.

We participated in the Friendly Streets event where several options for pedestrian improvements were modeled. We fully support a diverter being installed at Hague Ave. and Fry St. as it seems like a relatively low-cost investment which will enhance public safety and our quality of life. We believe several other pedestrian enhancements are urgently needed in our area, but we know such investments may need to be made over several years. However, we feel the diverter project cannot wait. If there is no action taken, the traffic issues will be exacerbated and cut-through traffic on our street will reach an unacceptable level.

I am a lifelong St. Paul-ite and my wife has made this her adopted hometown. We desperately want to stay in the neighborhood we love. Motor traffic has been the city's priority for too long and pedestrian safety issues and other enhancements need to be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James and Jamie Hammar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being more prominent.

James and Jamie Hammar
1637 Hague Avenue

March 24, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

As a member of the Snelling-Selby Task Force and a resident who lives in the area, I fully support this CIB proposal.

I volunteered to be part of the Task Force as a neighbor and parent who crosses the intersection of Snelling and Selby Avenues on foot with two small children every day. With the construction of the new Vintage apartments and Whole Foods in progress, I am especially concerned about the impacts increased traffic will have on the quality of life for those of us who use this on foot, especially as more residents crowd the corner and a major new shopping destination draws neighbors in.

Along with other residents, I worked with local businesses and with staff from St. Paul Public Works, MnDOT and Metro Transit to develop the recommendations in this funding request. These are recommendations that all parties settled on carefully, after much debate and consideration, and felt could please all parties. Some aspects of the recommendations are being implemented by MnDOT and the Vintage developer. But, CIB funding is required to complete the most important part of the recommendations: infrastructure changes at the Selby-Saratoga and Saratoga-Dayton intersections to divert traffic away from the Snelling-Selby intersection, making it safer for pedestrians to cross and less congested for traffic.

The Task Force recognized that the infrastructure changes at the intersection are an important start, but are not sufficient, and felt strongly that other efforts needed to be made to calm traffic. So, this CIB request also seeks funds to design and install placemaking elements in the area to achieve traffic calming.

Finally, as a resident living nearby, I recognize the need to discourage cut-through traffic and preserve the quality of life in the immediately adjacent residential neighborhood. This CIB request addresses that concern by seeking funding to install a diverter at a nearby intersection. These blocks work as a complex whole, and better safety for walking along Snelling or Saratoga can't come at the expense of safety walking along Fry or Hague.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Colin Fesser
1583 Laurel Avenue

March 24, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

As a member of the Snelling-Selby Task Force and a resident who lives in the area, I fully support this CIB proposal.

Because I do not own a car and rely on walking and Metro transit to get around, it was important for me to be a member of the Task Force. My main concern was Pedestrian Safety at the corner of Snelling-Selby, especially with the Whole Foods market entrance being right on the corner. The other concern for me is the increased traffic that will be added to an already overburdened intersection, specifically the right turns at the Northeast corner.

Along with other residents, I worked with local business owners, and staff from St. Paul Public Works, MnDOT and Metro Transit to develop the recommendations in this funding request. Some aspects of the recommendations are being implemented by MnDOT and the Vintage developer. But, CIB funding is required to complete the most important part of the recommendations: infrastructure changes at the Selby-Saratoga and Saratoga-Dayton intersections to divert traffic away from the Snelling-Selby intersection, making it safer for pedestrians to cross and less congested for traffic.

The Task Force recognized that the infrastructure changes at the intersection are an important start, but are not sufficient, and felt strongly that other efforts needed to be made to calm traffic. So, this CIB request also seeks funds to design and install placemaking elements in the area to achieve traffic calming.

Finally, as a resident living nearby, I recognize the need to discourage cut-through traffic and preserve the quality of life in the immediately adjacent residential neighborhood. This CIB request addresses that concern by seeking funding to install a diverter at a nearby intersection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen Beagan

March 26, 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 Pedestrian safety and traffic improvements in the Snelling-Selby area

Dear Capital Improvement Budget Committee members:

I live with my husband and two young children one block from the Snelling-Selby intersection and I strongly support the Union Park District Council's CIB proposal for Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvements in the Snelling-Selby Area.

For the past eight years I have experienced increased traffic on our corner specifically (Hague and Fry). The frequency of cars and trucks using our intersection is hard for others to understand. It is not uncommon to have one to two cars or trucks every minute pass through, frequently without even stopping, even at 10PM at night. Not only am I extremely concerned about pedestrian safety and traffic congestion on my street and intersection but in the Snelling-Selby area altogether. My neighbors and I appreciate walking to the local businesses, but don't feel safe crossing Snelling or Selby in that area. With the construction of the new Vintage apartments and supermarket, it is urgent that specific steps be taken to address the impacts of increased traffic in the area. I support the project's proposals to make infrastructure changes and to calm traffic.

My husband and I participated in the Friendly Streets event where the diverter was modeled, and we would like to support a diverter as a way to try to preserve our safety and quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah and Jason Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sarah and Jason Barrett
1631 Hague Avenue