



UNION PARK DISTRICT COUNCIL

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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 Cleveland Avenue Lighting Improvements

The Union Park District Council supports this CIB request. Better lighting is needed on Cleveland for the following reasons:

- 1) The majority of University of Saint Thomas (UST) students who live off campus reside on the other side of Cleveland Avenue. The concentration is especially strong on Laurel and Selby Avenues immediately east of campus. Students who live on Marshall or north of Marshall also frequently cross at Cleveland to get to their homes.
- 2) Between Summit and Selby avenues, Cleveland lacks any obvious place to cross. Combined with the number of cars parked along Cleveland, students and other pedestrians often are darting out between parked cars and are largely invisible.
- 3) UST is encouraging more permanent residents to use the amenities of campus. It expects to see a growing number of residents walking to campus and crossing along Cleveland for concerts, athletics events and other activities.
- 4) Many members of the UST student body are unaccustomed to living in a city. Many students who live in the neighborhood grew up in Twin Cities suburbs (without sidewalks or heavy traffic) or in smaller communities in Greater Minnesota. Although UST acknowledges its responsibility for educating students about the realities of urban living, it also relies on the city and broader community to help keep them safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Reiter, Executive Director
Union Park District Council