

1492 Simpson St
Saint Paul, MN 55102

July 7, 2012

Dear Transit Planning Team,

I am writing to submit comments regarding the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan on behalf of the Como Park Regional Advisory Committee (CPRAC).

CPRAC is an ad hoc committee of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission created to facilitate community input on issues affecting the Como Regional Park. Its members reflect a diverse sampling of park stakeholders and regional park users, including the Parks Commission, city staff, District 6 and District 10 Community Councils, Saint Paul Community Education, businesses and the Como Men's and Women's Golf Clubs.

The draft plan of the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan shows a Lexington Avenue bus route running from University Avenue to Energy Park Drive, then west to Snelling Avenue, then north to Como Avenue. This route avoids Como Park altogether. We believe that this misses a tremendous opportunity for both Metro Transit and for Como Park.

We strongly encourage you to continue the Lexington Avenue route through Como Park, for two reasons:

1) Como Park would generate large ridership for Metro Transit.

Over 4 million people in 2011 visited the park's many attractions, including Como Zoo and Conservatory, McMurray Fields, Como Golf Course, the Lakeside Pavilion, picnic facilities, and bike and walking paths. And in 2012 the newly-opened Como Pool is attracting record numbers of youths and families to the park. All of these visitors are potential new Metro Transit riders.

2) Better transit service would ease parking congestion in Como Park.

The Como Regional Park Transportation Implementation Plan (2010) sets forth the guiding approaches for managing movement to and through Como Park. This document calls for a balanced approach, including transit, bike and pedestrian connections along with careful management of automobile parking. A new transit line to the park, linked to the regional light rail system, would provide metro-area users with a convenient alternative to the parking congestion they currently experience.

We understand that Metro Transit has to balance many factors in determining changes to the transit system, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft Transit Service Study

Sincerely,

Dan Marckel

Co-Chair, Como Park Regional Advisory Committee
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission