ST. PAUL Smart Trips

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March 1, 2013

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 Snelling Avenue Multi-Modal Improvements – Van Buren to Taylor

To the Capital Improvement Budget Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of St. Paul Smart Trips to express our support for CIB funding for Snelling Avenue Multi-Modal Improvements – Van Buren to Taylor as proposed by Hamline Midway Coalition. St. Paul Smart Trips is a 501c3 non-profit organization that improves access and mobility for those who travel in and around Saint Paul. We work to help those who live and work in the City to reduce car trips and to bike, walk, bus and carpool more often.

This project implements recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Snelling Avenue Multi-Modal Transportation Plan (completed in January, 2013) Smart Trips was a member of the Task Force that provided input on the Snelling Multi-Modal Plan and we believe that this project will:

- Improve the functionality of this section of Snelling Avenue as a multi-modal street by improving safety and mobility for all users and modes of transportation, especially pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and people with disabilities.
- Improve routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and people with disabilities to key destinations, especially Hancock Elementary School and Hamline University, BRT stops, and the many small businesses in the area.
- Provide safer, ADA compliant crossings for a segment of Snelling Avenue that is currently dangerous due to high traffic volumes and speeds.
- Reconnect the Hamline Midway neighborhood across Snelling Avenue, which is often seen as a barrier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Treat
Executive Director