

SAINT PAUL BICYCLE COALITION

March 8, 2013

Dear CIB Committee or Whom It May Concern,

The Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition strongly supports the Capital Improvement Budget request for “Snelling Avenue Multi-Modal Improvements—Van Buren to Taylor.”

The Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition participated in a MnDOT-sponsored planning process for Snelling Avenue with a number of transportation and community groups. We created the plan recommendations located at-- <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/snellingstudy/>
The plan calls for improvements to sidewalks, crosswalks, curb-ramps, lighting and the addition of bike lanes along various parts of Snelling Avenue. The proposed CIB funding request is to implement some of these planning recommendations.

The idea is to improve the access and safety of bicyclists and pedestrians who must cross or use Snelling Avenue. Among other things, this project would help begin a much-needed pair of protected bike lanes on Snelling, starting at Hewitt Avenue that will eventually go all the way north to Como Avenue.

Snelling is the only street that cyclists and pedestrians can use to get across the BNSF and Union Pacific rail lines and thus access the Como Avenue neighborhoods and fairgrounds to the north. The nearest parallel streets that cross these obstacles are Lexington, a mile to the east, and Raymond, two miles to the west. Snelling Bicycle and pedestrian users in this area include a large number of students and staff at Hamline University as well as school children and community members. This area of Snelling and the section to the north of it provides access to Hamline University, Hmong College Prep Academy, Hancock Elementary School and various businesses, office parks and the State Fairgrounds. Due to high vehicle traffic speeds and volumes, this area of Snelling is very dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. This CIB project and the overall Snelling Multi-Modal Plan will greatly calm traffic and improve safety. We urge you to fund it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andy Singer and Jeff Zaayer, Co-Chairs

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