

## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

## OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Capital Improvement Budget Committee Streets and Utilities Task Force c/o John McCarthy, Senior Budget Analyst City of Saint Paul – Office of Financial Services 15 W. Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 700 Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: CIB Proposals Submitted by the Railroad Island Task Force

Dear CIB Streets and Utilities Task Force:

I strongly support the three proposals submitted by the Railroad Island Task Force for the 2014-2015 CIB budget. All three proposals are included in the Railroad Island Small Area Plan, and are designed to improve the economic viability and social fabric of this neighborhood.

- 1. Improvements to the bridge on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street are important, not only for the Railroad Island Community, but also as part of the efforts of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to revitalize East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The pedestrian and bicycle access improvements would facilitate access to downtown, as well as to the Bruce Vento Trail at the intersection of Payne and 7<sup>th</sup>, and to the new Lafayette Bridge bicycle path on Kittson.
- 2. The stretch of Payne Avenue between East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Edgerton Avenue is the last remaining piece of the efforts to improve Payne Avenue between Maryland and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Payne Avenue is an important commercial corridor on the East Side, both from an historical and a revitalization perspective. The Reconstruction and Streetscaping of Payne Avenue will contribute to economic development, neighborhood livability, and pedestrian safety.
- 3. The redesign and reconstruction of the Payne/Seventh intersection will make it safer for pedestrians, and will offer an opportunity for the design and installation of an attractive gateway on Payne Avenue by providing space on both sides of the intersection for greenery, attractive lighting, and perhaps public art. Making the intersection more attractive may encourage more people to patronize local businesses, such as the Minnesota Music Café and Yarusso's Restaurant, and will certainly enhance the appearance of Railroad Island.

The residents of Railroad Island are working hard to improve their neighborhood. I encourage you to help them with their efforts by supporting these proposals.

J.......,

Kathy Lanfry

Council President - Ward 7