

SAINT PAUL BICYCLE COALITION

March 19, 2013

Dear CIB Committee or Whom it May Concern,

The Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition opposes the Union Park District Council's "*Ayd Mill Road North End Study*" Capital Improvement Budget funding request.

As a participant in the Saint Paul Greenway Committee (now on hiatus), the Bicycle Coalition still hopes that a portion of the Ayd Mill Road right-of-way can become a linear park and bicycle-pedestrian trail.

The proposed *Ayd Mill Road North End Study* is too narrow in scope. It doesn't discuss the overall disposition of the roadway but merely focuses on the north end and a potential connection with Interstate 94. Neither the "linear park" nor the "no-build" (south-end disconnection) options are considered, nor are the final number of lanes any roadway will have. The City Council passed a resolution supporting a 2-lane road connection, yet former Mayor Randy Kelly and the Public Works Department have unilaterally pursued a 4-lane road and 4-lane connection to I-94. This is a major freeway project that would further subdivide our city. The current 4-lane road and any future 4-lane road precludes the creation of any real park or greenway that people would actually enjoy cycling, jogging or walking in. It transforms Ayd Mill Creek into a valley of asphalt.

The Bike Coalition is concerned that a *North End Study*, while narrow in scope, could become binding on the future disposition of the entire roadway. For example, if it chooses a 4-lane or other major freeway-type connection to I-94, it would force the remainder of the road to be 4-lanes, precluding any future linear park or greenway. We're also concerned that it's being promoted by The Public Works Department and other freeway connection proponents. When Randy Kelly unilaterally opened the south end of Ayd Mill Road for his now permanent "test," the City Council endorsed a 2-lane road connection and called for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and full public process. The proposed *Ayd Mill North End Study* is an attempt to avoid doing this full, supplemental E.I.S. and/or to predetermine its outcome. We urge the CIB committee and others not to fund it.

Sincerely,

Andy Singer and Jeff Zaayer, Co-Chairs
Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
651-917-3417
andy@andysinger.com
jeffzaayer@yahoo.com
www.saintpaulbicyclecoalition.com