



March 20, 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 to Redesign & Reconstruct Payne & E. 7th Intersection

To the Capital Improvement Budget Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of St. Paul Smart Trips to express our support for CIB funding for the redesign and reconstruction of the Payne and E. 7th St. intersection as proposed by the Railroad Island Task Force. 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.

E. 7th Street is a critical access point between downtown and the Eastside. As currently configured, the corridor is not very attractive or safe for pedestrians and cyclists and the Payne Avenue and E. 7th St. intersection is particularly dangerous. Vehicles exiting westbound E. 7th onto Payne or exiting Payne onto westbound E. 7th have free right turns which encourage high speed turning movements and discourage drivers from yielding to pedestrian traffic at the intersection or cyclists travelling westbound on E. 7th.

Redesigning the intersection so that Payne Avenue and E. 7th meet at right angles would greatly enhance the safety of the intersection for all users. A right angle design that eliminates free right turns would reduce turning speeds and improve pedestrian sight lines for turning motorists. Additionally, this design would allow for an additional pedestrian crossing on the westernmost leg of the intersection. As one of two primary entrances to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Swede Hollow Park, redesigning this intersection would improve access for cyclists and pedestrians to these valuable natural assets.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Treat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Treat
Executive Director