ST. PAUL Smart Trips

55 E 5TH ST. SUITE 202
ST. PAUL, MN 55101

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 for Improvements to E. 7th Street Bridge – Kittson to Payne

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 improvements to E. 7th Street Bridge from Kittson to Payne project 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 bicyclists and the bridge between Kittson and Payne is particularly problematic. Narrow sidewalks, chain link fencing, the lack of a shoulder and fast moving vehicle traffic all contribute to make this an unattractive gateway between these two sections of the city.

Widening the sidewalks, upgrading to wrought iron fencing to match existing treatments in the immediate area and reconfiguring the lanes to dedicate space for cyclists would greatly enhance the bridge so that it can serve all modes effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Treat

Jessica Treat
Executive Director