

St. Paul Greenway Meeting
September 11, 2009
St. Paul Smart Trips' office

Present: Mike Madden, Paul Nelson, Andy Singer, Laura Baum, Brian McClellan, Brian Longley, Matthew Ides, Nadya Trytan, Bill Turek

Welcome and introductions

Minutes from July 30, 2009 meeting

No changes were made to July minutes

Presentation of St. Paul Greenway Project

Updates from Ward 4

Baum provided updates from Samantha Henningson with Ward 4, who could not make it to the meeting. The City of St. Paul is being sued by Canadian Pacific (CP) rail to prevent the city from suing for right of way along Ayd Mill. Henningson reports that the city's lawyers believe the city is in good standing. Henningson will provide updates at future meetings. Regarding the Ayd Mill Resolution, adopted by the City Council September 2, 2009, Henningson reported that there is an existing ordinance that outlaws bikes on Ayd Mill. Ward 4 is working to get this changed so that bikes can be allowed on portions of Ayd Mill, as described in the resolution.

Baum also shared some questions and answers, which were posed to the city by Mike Madden and answered by John Maczko with Public Works:

Q: Does the Ayd Mill Road (AMR) trail cross the tracks near Lexington?

A: No. The trail is on the west/south side of the tracks. The trail never crosses the CP tracks.

Q: Does the trail join Benhill Road to reach Victoria?

A: No. The trail is on the south side of the tracks. It is between 35E and the tracks as it contacts Victoria.

Q: Can you send a map that shows the trail's relationship to the tracks?

A: Yes [map was included with committee packets]. It is important to note that the proposed easements for the trail are from Marshall to Victoria (all off street). There would be connections to Grand, St. Clair, and Jefferson (all off street along the existing ramps). The bikes would be on street on Grand, Victoria and Griggs (to Summit) and Marshall to Pascal.

Draft resolution & draft vision

There was discussion of the draft documents, presented by Nelson. Members of the committee asked that the resolution wording be tweaked slightly to reflect that the committee wants the trail to be of a certain dimension, but would not necessarily oppose it if those dimensions were not achievable.

There was discussion of the distance necessary between the centerline of the railroad and the trail. Nelson reported that on the Midtown Greenway separation is 20 feet. CP rail is asking for 25 feet. Longley suggested adding something in the resolution about the desire to have a connection over the Mississippi River. Madden shared some of the history of Ayd Mill that he composed. A full copy will be shared with the committee at the next meeting. There was discussion about having more maps to show the public, particularly showing existing and proposed bike routes in the area. Trytan suggested including rain gardens or other stormwater treatment along the trail.

Funding

The committee discussed the status of past, current and future funding opportunities for the Greenway in the context of the three project phases.

- Western city boundary to Prior Ave
- Prior Ave to start of Ayd Mill Road
- Start of Ayd Mill Road to Victoria St
 - City of St. Paul has re-applied for Surface Transportation Program (STP) federal funds for the Ayd Mill section of the trail, but only north to Lincoln Ave

Next meeting

Goals for the next meeting include:

- Concluding work on the resolution, which Nelson can send to the committee via email;
- Editing the Health, Well-being, Environment and Energy document;
- Discussing details for the inter-neighborhood summit; and
- Discussing safety issues and how they can be addressed.