

## **A Resolution Regarding the MnDOT Central Avenue Northeast Reconstruction Project**

Date: April 21, 2025

Motion: Moved by: Seth Stattmiller Seconded by: Billy Binder

WHEREAS; MnDOT will be reconstructing Central Avenue (TH 65) from University Ave SE and I-694 in 2028; and,

WHEREAS; During the March 17, 2025 Hennepin ATC meeting a concept layout option was shown that includes 4-to 3-lane conversion, northbound bus only lane, sidewalk level separated bike lanes, boulevard and sidewalk space among other street elements; and,

WHEREAS; The project will connect Northeast Minneapolis and Downtown Minneapolis with bike lanes for the first time in history along MN Highway 65; and,

WHEREAS; Former first Ward City Council Member Kevin Reich asked former MNDOT Commissioner Tom Sorel to add bike lanes to the MNDOT Central Avenue paving project between 29th and 18th Avenues in 2012, and;

WHEREAS; The bike lanes were added by former Commissioner Sorel (first on a state highway) and proved to be popular and safe enough to ride by bike riders and safer to walk by pedestrians, and;

WHEREAS; Studies show that improved infrastructure results in expanded usage, and;

WHEREAS; Bicycle ridership on University Ave is already hundreds per day, and;

WHEREAS; Significant numbers of riders already ride "against" the one way bicycle traffic on University Ave, and;

WHEREAS; The project as envisioned will connect extensive bike and pedestrian activity in many diverse communities in a north/south direction through the heart of Northeast Minneapolis and will be a game changer in these communities, if done properly, to encourage all that our Active Transportation Committee (ATC) stands for;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

That the Hennepin Active Transportation Committee is excited about the MNDOT Central Avenue project, strongly supports what we have seen from MNDOT to date and stands ready to work closely to fine tune the layout, lane widths, turning radii, connections to other east/west bike and

pedestrian routes, etc, as the design progresses beyond 15% completion. The ATC asks that MNDOT increase the width of the planned seven-foot eastbound bike lane on University Ave to ten feet to provide for maximum future flexibility.

Hennepin County Active Transportation Committee:

Tammy McLemore – District 1	Aye	Larissa Lavrov – District 4	Absent
Nicole Armstrong – District 1	Aye	Henrik Kowalkowski – District 5	Aye
Seth Stattmiller – District 2	Aye	Lou Dzierzak – District 5	Aye
Billy Binder – District 2	Aye	Luke Van Santen – District 6	Aye
Dave Carlson – District 3	Abstain	Anne Vogel – District 6	Absent
Ethan Kleinbaum – District 3	Aye	Greg Anderson – District 7	Aye
Haley Foydel – District 4	Aye	Clara Sandberg – District 7	Aye