



Highland District Council
1978 Ford Parkway Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116
651-695-4005 Fax 651-695-4019
Email: info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org

Building a More Vibrant, Welcoming, and Safe Neighborhood

Resolution in Support of Snelling Avenue Center Median

WHEREAS Snelling Avenue is home to many residents and businesses in Highland Park and is a major thoroughfare with average daily traffic (ADT) of approximately 20,000 vehicles between Ford Parkway and Randolph Avenue, is a major truck routes, and is home to high-volume transit routes including the A-Line BRT and the Route 84 bus; and

WHEREAS Snelling Avenue's current design of 4 traffic lanes and 2 parking lanes requires pedestrians to traverse approximately 65 feet of fast-moving traffic coming from multiple directions including turning vehicles, presenting a dangerous and intimidating obstacle; and

WHEREAS the vicinity of Snelling Avenue includes numerous schools and institutions that serve populations with reduced physical abilities to cross the street safely, including young students, the elderly, people who are sick or disabled, and people with limited senses of hearing or sight; and

WHEREAS the Highland District Council has long sought solutions to reduce speeds and alleviate pedestrian safety concerns on Snelling Avenue as noted in the District 15 Plan, and subsequently adopted in the 2009 City of Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan, which recommended, "Traffic calming elements along Snelling Avenue to improve aesthetics, reduce speeding, and increase safety"; and

WHEREAS raised center medians have been demonstrated to reduce traffic speeds and significantly reduce both the crash rate and severity of injuries received in crashes, as demonstrated in federal studies as well as locally by the successful center median on Snelling one half mile to the north; and

WHEREAS a public meeting was held on November 30, 2015 to gather input on design elements, the key elements of which were incorporated into the final design, in particular: the preservation of parking on one side of Snelling Avenue, and the provision for parking bays in select locations on the side of the street with restricted parking; and

WHEREAS the design of the median provides a refuge for pedestrians, reduces crossing distance, limits dangerous turns from side streets that conflict with pedestrian movements; allows pedestrians to focus on traffic from only one direction, and is an attractive addition to Highland Park; and

Resolution 2016 – 05T



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WHEREAS due diligence has been paid to the affect the median would have on side street traffic and to access to residences, businesses, and institutions;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Highland District Council supports the installation of a center median on Snelling Avenue between Ford Parkway and Randolph Avenue, as designed and presented by Saint Paul Public Works, preferably with a 10' wide raised median and trees and "Z"

crossings through the median. The HDC asks Public Works to consider exceptions and design contingencies to mitigate the impact of the median on institutions that generate large amounts of vehicle traffic at one time including as churches and funeral homes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Highland District Council opposes an all-concrete median as it would be perceived as unattractive and less effective as a pedestrian refuge.

Approved April 7, 2016

By the Highland District Council Board of Directors