



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 4-21-11

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 3rd, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Riverside Avenue Reconstruction
- 2) Mobile Food Vending
- 3) Great Streets Funding for WBBA
- 4) West Bank "Forum on Foot"
- 5) Resurfacing Projects
- 6) Central Corridor and Small Businesses
- 7) Central Corridor Forums
- 8) Community Meeting on Riverside & 8th St
- 9) Meeting on Future of Neighborhood Programs
- 10) Urban Agriculture Policy Plan
- 11) Second Ward to Shrink
- 12) Additional Funds for Pothole Repair
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The tentative date for the start of construction work on Riverside is early to mid July. City staff have organized a number of public meetings: a paving assessment meeting on **April 28th** at 7pm, and a lighting assessment meeting on **May 12th** at 7pm. Both meetings will be held at the Seward Towers East Advantage Center. There will be public hearings before the Council's Transportation and Public Works committee on **May 3rd** on the general assessment and **May 15th** on the lighting assessment. Both of those meetings will start at 9:30am, in room 317 of City Hall. My office has been involved in discussions about keeping a good ambulance access route open to Fairview Hospital. It is unclear whether the property owners along the first phase of the project (from Franklin to 23rd Ave S) will decide to opt out of funding upgraded pedestrian lighting. I am organizing a meeting with Augsburg to help address their concerns, and will continue to work to find a way that we can invest in this improvement.
- 2) The mobile food vending ordinance has passed the Council. It includes language that prohibits mobile food vendors from operating from parking spaces within 100 feet of an existing restaurant's front door. It gives Licensing staff the authority to decide which parts of the city should be opened to mobile vending. Given the West Bank Business Association's formal position in favor of mobile vending, I expect that commercial corridors in Cedar Riverside will be included.
- 3) City staff recommended that the West Bank Business Association receive only \$10,000 (of the requested \$50,000 maximum) in 2011. At the Community Development committee this week, I moved an amendment that raised this allocation to \$30,000, by moving funds from the University area business association collaborative, of which the WBBA is also a member. The WBBA remains in this collaborative. I will be meeting with City staff and continuing to have conversations with both the WBBA and the other business associations in the collaborative (the Stadium Village Commerce Association and Southeast Business Association) about the staffing of the collaborative, how its funds will be used, and what programs the additional \$20,000 for WBBA will support. I would have strongly preferred that staff had recommended full funding for both of these incredibly worthwhile and timely requests.
- 4) The University District Forum committee is planning its next forum as a walking tour on **April 26**, from 5:30-6:45pm in the West Bank Central Corridor station area. The West Bank Business Association and Cedar Riverside Partnership are co-sponsors. Haila Maze from the City, Andrew Gillett of Hennepin County, and Adrienne Peirce of WBBA will be the tour narrators.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 5) A number of roads on the West Bank will be resurfaced this year. Hennepin County is planning to mill and overlay Cedar from Washington Ave to I-94. The City is planning to resurface Butler Place. This is in addition to the construction work beginning on the Central Corridor, and the complete reconstruction of Riverside, from Franklin to 23rd Ave S. It will be a busy year, and I ask that everyone remain patient as we take these necessary – and in some cases long overdue – steps to improve our transportation infrastructure.
- 6) The Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Met Council, the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative and Living Cities philanthropic collaborative have increased the amount of aid available to businesses along the route of the Central Corridor LRT to \$11 million, with more than \$6 million in forgivable loans and grants. The purpose of this program is to help businesses weather the impacts of construction. I have been very involved with Community Planning and Economic Development staff in the City's work on this proposal, and I hope that it helps keep our small businesses open through the construction of this important improvement to our transportation infrastructure.
- 7) The Central Corridor Community Agreements Coordinating Committee has organized two community forums on the Central Corridor LRT project's impacts on jobs and economic development. The first is on **May 5th**, from 6-8pm, on Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Models. The second is on **May 10th**, 6-8:30pm, on Jobs and Careers, Central Corridor and Beyond. Both sessions will be held at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave W, Saint Paul.
- 8) I will be hosting a meeting with residents and City Public Works staff on Wednesday, **May 4th**, at 7pm at the Davanni's at the corner of Riverside and 25th Ave, to discuss the proposed layout for the intersection of Riverside and 8th St S.
- 9) The Neighborhood and Community Relations department has scheduled four focus groups to gather input from neighborhood organizations around the City during the last two weeks of April. One of these meetings will take place on **Wednesday, April 27th**, from 6:30-8pm at Matthews Center. The purpose of these focus groups is to consult with neighborhood organizations prior to development of recommendations to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission and the City Council about neighborhood programs in 2012 and 2013.
- 10) The Urban Agriculture Plan has unanimously passed the City Council. I see this plan as a major step towards making Minneapolis a leader in the local food movement. It recommends allowing people to grow food commercially in Minneapolis for the first time, along with a host of recommendations that will make it easier for residents to start community gardens and grow food in their own backyards. I want to thank all of the community members who helped shape this plan, and who got engaged to make sure it made it through the Council process without major alterations. The plan will provide guidance for specific food-related land use, regulatory and zoning ordinance amendments that I hope to see in place by next year's growing season.
- 11) Demographic shifts over the last decade have left the Second Ward much more populous than the average ward. The Second Ward is going to get significantly smaller after the next redistricting. You can find more information and analysis of the 2010 Census results here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/census/2010.asp>, and on my blog.
- 12) On April 1st, the Council allocated an additional \$1 million to accelerate the City's pothole repair work to address the significant pothole problem resulting from this year's winter. Crews have been working all winter to temporarily patch potholes when they could, with the bulk of the work occurring since February. With warmer weather and asphalt plants open for the season, Public Works crews began making more permanent patches April 5. This additional funding means we will double the number of repair crews out patching potholes at the beginning of the summer construction and maintenance season. To report a pothole, please call 311, Monday through Friday, 7am-7pm. Public Works uses reports that come in from the public, as well as their observations in the field, to prioritize work and address street issues as efficiently and effectively as possible with the given resources.
- 13) Additional ash trees in Prospect Park have been confirmed to have Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, 5 trees are confirmed infected in Seward, along the top of the bluff between 33rd Avenue South and East 27th Street along West River Parkway, along with an additional 13 ash that are suspected of being infected. All of these trees will also be removed by MPRB Forestry staff. If you have an ash tree in your yard, please only prune it **before May 1** and **after Labor Day**. Only work on your ash tree when the emerald ash borer is dormant, because transporting any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.) helps spread the pest.
- 14) There are openings on the Charter Commission, Animal Care & Control Advisory Board, Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC), Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Latino Advisory Committee, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Advisory Group for Minneapolis Redistricting 2011-2012 of the Minneapolis Charter Commission, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Thinc.GreenMSP Steering Committee, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Minneapolis Zoning Board of Adjustment, To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.