

I hosted a Land Use and Transportation Policy Roundable discussion, April 11th, at Pratt School. There I joined with a group of residents to address forthcoming policy decisions the City Council will face regarding land use and transportation planning. We focused some of the challenges of preserving industrial land and balancing that we needs for housing, affordable housing, commercial development and parks. Some early findings of the City's Land Use study were shared (is there a link) as well as those of the 10-year Transportation Action Plan. The issues raised included:

- A focus on better public transit citywide,
- Fighting to ensure that the central corridor transit way is success,
- Working to preserve industrial land throughout the city and in the Southeast Minneapolis Industrial (SEMI) area in particular,
- Helping develop a bio science corridor in the SEMI between Minneapolis can St. Paul
- Potental development in keeping with eh Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association's 29th Street Station Land Use Plan

Special concern about possible development behind the KSTP buildings and St. Paul plan to change the allow it to be sold for housing development.

Crime and Safety Forum 5-23-06. As part of my ongoing series of community forums on issues important to the Second Ward, I'm hosting a forum on crime and safety. We will discus neighborhood crime concerns, the Community Policing Initiative, the search for a new Chief, Restorative Justice and more May 23rd, 7:00-9:00pm Van Cleve Community Center.

Central Corridor DEIS. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Central Corridor LRT line is available to be viewed online at www.centralcorridor.com – click on the “links and documents” link. It can also be viewed in person at any St. Paul public library. There will be a public hearing about the DEIS on Monday, May 22nd, 6:30 PM, at the Radisson Metrodome, 615 Washington Ave SE. An open house for questions and answers will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

Dining Out for Life. I had a great time on the 27th helping fundraise for The Aliveness Project, which provides supportive services for HIV-infected Minnesotans, at St. Martin's Table. For more info on the program go here: www.diningoutforlife.com.

Instant Runoff Voting. I led the IRV task force all through April, giving a report to the IGR committee on the 25th. We delivered our final report in early in May.

Wind Turbines. In April, introduced a change to the zoning code to broaden and expand the allowable uses of electricity-generating wind turbines in Minneapolis. I believe that the solution to our energy problems is not just to increase the amount of renewable energy we use, but to increase the amount we generate in the urban environment.

The Industrial Land Use study has come out with a new Draft Summary and Redevelopment Analysis. Both documents can be viewed here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/industrial-landuse.asp>.

Riverside Market Site. I am participating actively in the Riverside Market Site task force, which is seeking to find neighborhood consensus on what uses we would like to see (and not like to see) on that site. The task force will be working closely with Seward Redesign, which is now part of the development team that owns the site. I believe that this process presents a great opportunity for the neighborhood to improve the services offered on the east end of Franklin, and come to a broader understanding of our development strategy for the neighborhood's major thoroughfare.

The West Bank is embarking on a Small Area Planning process. I will be working closely with Beth Elliott, the lead City Planner for the West Bank, along with community members and project consultants to help make this a success. I very interested in helping ensure that this process is open, inclusive and effective.

CRA Work Group. I am now Vice Chair of the Civilian Review Authority Work Group, which I helped form back in February to resolve dysfunctions in the City's most important police accountability system. For some of my thoughts on the meetings so far, read the Ward 2 blog: <http://secondward.blogspot.com>.

May is Bike Month, and Minneapolis will again be celebrating the Commuter Challenge Bike/Walk Event, which encourages commuters to get to work using healthier, more environmentally-friendly transportation modes. This year's event will take place on May 19th. Go here for more info: www.mplstmo.com

Southeast Como Tour. My office helped get Mayor Rybak to agree to come on a tour of Southeast Como on April 23rd. I will be working with the Mayor's office to address the concerns raised on the tour and schedule a broader community meeting about the challenges facing Southeast Como.

Safe City Initiative. Interim Chief Dolan recently presented the Minneapolis Police Department's Safe City Initiative. It can be viewed online here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060512/docs/01-Safe_City_Strategic_Plan_0502.pdf

Gophers Stadium. I worked with CM Hofstede and Senator Pogemiller to get \$200,000 more put into the stadium mitigation fund, to be overseen by the Stadium Area Advisory Group. We are working to establish an ongoing partnership between neighborhoods and U.

SEIU Organizing at Fairview Riverside. Responding to complaints that SEIU organizers were being unduly restricted by the Fairview administration, I accompanied their lead organizer into the hospital once last month. I also helped defeat a proposed noise ordinance change that would have made organizing and picketing by union members illegal within a certain radius around a hospital. I fully support SEIU's efforts and goals for a fair healthcare plan for healthcare providers.