

Report to PPERRIA, 3-27-06

Items:

- I. Ward 2 blog
- II. Wi-Fi CBA meeting 3-28-06
- III. Wi-Fi Community Meetings
- IV. Community Policing Initiative
- V. Commuter Challenge Bike/Walk event 5-19-06
- VI. Ward 2 Land Use and Transportation forum 4-11-06
- VII. Transportation Action Plan workshops
- VIII. Violence prevention grants
- IX. Environmental initiatives
- X. Bridal Veil Falls bridge construction

- I. Starting this month, my office will be regularly updating a public policy weblog (commonly known as a “blog”). For a link, email me at cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. The blog will outline some of what I’m working on, give the reasons for my votes and other actions, and share some stories of life in City Hall. Please feel welcome to comment on my posts. I hope this can be an effective tool for residents of Prospect Park to know what I’m up to, understand my reasoning and give me feedback in a public forum.
- II. The Alliance for Metropolitan Stability is holding a series of meetings to design the Community Benefits Agreement that we’re working to make part of the Wi-Fi network contract. There will be a public meeting 3-28-06, 5:30-7:30 PM, at 2525 E Franklin Ave, Suite 200. Please call (612)332-4471 to RSVP and visit <http://digitalaccess.org> for more information.
- III. The City is hosting a number of informational meetings and open houses so that the public can learn more about Wireless Minneapolis. Those who attend will also have the opportunity to share their ideas and feedback about what community benefits should be negotiated to help bridge the digital divide. The next of these meetings will take place on April 4, 6-8pm, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave S. More information is available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis>.
- IV. The Minneapolis Police Department is holding an event to update residents on the ongoing Community Policing Initiative. It takes place Thursday, March 30th, from 4-6 pm at the Zurah Shrine Center, 2540 Park Ave S. A report on the Initiative will be posted on the City website on the 30th, and if you can’t attend the event, please email comments to police@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

- V.** 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. If you're interested in helping to plan the event and/or getting Prospect Park connected to it, please call Mackenzie Turner at 670-3987 or email her at: mturner@mplstmo.org.
- VI.** Please join me for a forum on land use and transportation policy on April 11th, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE. The City is engaged in an extensive land use study, especially focused on industrial land uses. We are also in the midst of establishing a 10-year transportation plan for the city. The City Council will likely face difficult policy decisions in the months ahead. Your participation and input will be greatly appreciated.
- VII.** The City of Minneapolis is hosting a series of workshops to give the public an opportunity to share their ideas on how the City can improve its transportation system. The workshops will provide an overview of the City's 10-Year Transportation Action Plan, which is under development, and will provide information on the transportation challenges facing the City. The nearest workshop to Prospect Park will be held on Thursday, April 20, 6:30–8:30 pm, at the CWA Hall, 3521 East Lake Street. More information is available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news>.
- VIII.** At the last Health, Energy and the Environment committee I moved and won unanimous passage of the Department of Health & Family Support's great plan for violence prevention. Under this program, HFS will allocate up to \$500,000 over two years of Local Public Health funds for violence prevention grants to community based organizations serving youth. It is my hope that this program will have a direct impact on violence prevention this summer and next.
- IX.** My office is currently working on three separate environmental initiatives. 1) Streamlining the permitting process for installing solar systems (both heat and PV). 2) Changing the current overly restrictive regulations of windmills in the City. 3) Significantly strengthening the City's green procurement policies and practices. We will keep in communication with PPERIA on these initiatives.
- X.** The East River Parkway Bridge, over Bridal Veil Falls, is deteriorated and in need of replacement. A study was conducted in 2004 to determine the best solution and a series of neighborhood meetings was held to help guide the study. As a result of those meetings a preferred plan was approved by neighborhood members and by both the City Council and the Park Board. The approved plan includes the removal of the existing bridge, construction of a new bridge with 28' roadway, 6' sidewalk (north) and 16' mixed-use trail (south). The alignment of East River Parkway will be modified to intersect more perpendicularly with Franklin Avenue. It is anticipated that construction will begin May 1, 2006. Contact Don Elwood with any questions: don.elwood@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.