

**News from Cam Gordon  
Council Member, Second Ward  
September 2011**

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2/>

**2011 Budget.** The process to amend the City's 2011 budget finally ended in September. Responding to cuts in funding from the state, the Council passed a plan that would have kept all current firefighters on the job until the end of this year. The Mayor vetoed that action, citing the fact that it was not balanced through the end of 2012. The Council subsequently failed to override his veto by an 8-5 vote. I voted for the initial motion, and voted to override the veto. A compromise budget solution that saved 4 of the 10 laid off firefighters through the end of 2012, by taking 2011 funding for 13 other unfilled City positions, then passed unanimously. Council President Johnson moved a list of four other unfilled positions from other City departments, including the new bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. I voted against all of these additional changes. In my opinion, we should not make decisions about the 2012 budget before and outside of that budget process (this was my point of disagreement with the Mayor's veto as well). Two of Johnson's motions passed on narrow 7-6 votes, one failed on an 8-5 vote, and the bicycle and pedestrian coordinator motion failed on an extremely lopsided 11-2 vote. You can read more analysis about this on my blog.

**2012 Budget.** Mayor Rybak has submitted his 2012 budget and this year's budget approval process is now formally underway. The Mayor's proposal for no property tax levy increase in 2012 was approved by the Board of Estimate and Taxation in early September and so there will be no levy increase next year. To accomplish this, the Mayor has proposed budget cuts in many areas. With another hard year because of the recession and changes made to tax policy at the state legislature, many homeowners may still see property tax increase. The Ways & Means/Budget Committee began budget hearings on Sept. 22 and they will continue through mid-November, with each department making a presentation. For a schedule of all the department's budget hearings, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget). All budget hearings will be broadcast live (and rebroadcast) on City cable channel 79. You can find the rebroadcast schedule and also view the hearings online at [www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts). Final approval of the budget is scheduled for Dec. 14. Two public hearings will be held before the budget's approval, one on **Wednesday, Nov. 30**, 6:05 p.m. and one on **Wednesday, Dec. 14**, 6:05 p.m., both in City Hall, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, room 317. For more information on the Mayor's proposed 2012 budget, see [www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor) and <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/2012recc/index.asp>. My focus in the weeks ahead will be to better understand the proposed cuts and work to preserve those services and resources that provide the most benefits to residents and help target funds to the investments that will help most in making this a healthier, more sustainable and better city for the future.

**Neighborhood Funding.** The Council and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board continue to be on different tracks when it comes to NRP and the transition to a new framework. It is clear that the Council's action last year to recapture NRP Phase II funds has created significant complications for the new Community Participation Program (CPP). In September, the Policy Board formally asked the Council to unfreeze and fully allocate the Phase II dollars to the neighborhoods most impacted by the tornados of last spring. The Council decided to study that request further and then voted to move forward with a new consolidation plan in order to use the NRP funds for future CPP funding. The Committee of the Whole endorsed a staff plan that would extend 2011 CPP contracts through June 30, 2012, and increase contracted amounts from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000 following the 2011 CPP allocation formula. The plan would also authorize staff to proceed with "any work necessary" for the transfer of administrative responsibilities and oversight duties by January 1, 2012; and direct staff to draft revisions to the CPP guidelines and NRP ordinance. These revisions are needed so that we can legally use the NRP funds in 2012-2013 for the CPP. The proposed changes will include the establishment of a restructured NRP Policy Board and inclusion of other NRP statutory

requirements like the requirement that at least 52.5% of the funds be spent on housing. The new NRP Policy Board would be the body that would review 2012 and 2013 CPP applications as well as approve and monitor Phase I and Phase II NRP Action Plans and plan modifications. The role of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission during these two years is unclear and would be re-evaluated in light of this. The ordinance changes are projected to return to the Council for review and possible approval in November.

**One Read.** This fall the City is sponsoring a “One Read” effort that I hope will unite people by having many of us read the same book and start deeper conversations about race, family and the history of our City. The book, *The Grace of Silence* by Minneapolis native and National Public Radio host Michele Norris, describes Norris’s experience as a child of the first black family on their block in a south Minneapolis neighborhood. Michele Norris and MPR News host Kerri Miller will be at the Guthrie **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm** for a discussion followed by a dessert reception. Tickets: \$10 – general admission; \$5 – seniors, students, limited income. You can purchase tickets at [www.GuthrieTheater.org](http://www.GuthrieTheater.org) or by calling the Guthrie at (612) 377-2224. The Seward Co-op Book Club is hosting a community discussion on *The Grace of Silence* on **Wednesday, November 9, 7-8:30pm** at the Co-op. It is free and everyone is welcome, but pre-registration at their customer service desk is required. You can find more about the the One Minneapolis, One Read event schedule, information and resources at [www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com](http://www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com).

**Managed Natural Landscape Ordinance.** The Managed Natural Landscape ordinance I authored passed the Council unanimously. I see this as a major step forward in allowing and encouraging residents to use more ecologically sustainable plantings in their yards, with all the attendant improvements to storm water management, biodiversity, air quality and more.

**Food Policy Council.** The resolution I authored creating the City’s first-ever Homegrown Minneapolis Food Policy Council has passed the Council unanimously. Now we need applicants to serve on it. Applicants may be people with experience working with one or more aspects of our food system or people who have strong interest in making the food system more healthy, sustainable and local. The council will develop policies and advise elected leaders on ways to expand access to healthy, sustainable, and locally grown foods and address other challenges, including food processing, promotion, distribution, consumption and composting. Applications are available at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards-and-commissions>. If you would be interested in being part of the exciting ongoing work to improve our local food economy, I encourage you to apply.

**Farmers Market Ordinance.** The Farmers Market ordinance I have been working on will come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on **October 24<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:30pm.

**Police and Fire Pensions.** The Minneapolis Police and Fire pension boards have voted to consolidate their pensions into the state’s PERA program. This change still needs to be approved by the City Council, but I believe it will pass. This deal is generous to the pension recipients and offers slightly better terms to Minneapolis taxpayers than the previously passed legislation that was not signed by the Governor. This has the potential to save Minneapolis taxpayers millions of dollars over the long term, end a long drawn out litigation process and stabilize payments in the next several years until, eventually, the programs will be completely managed by the state’s Public Employee Retiree Association.

**Proposed New Apartment Building Approval Process.** Council member Schiff has introduced a zoning code amendment related to the regulation and approval of new apartment buildings, condominiums, and mixed use development with a residential component. The amendment would remove the need for a Conditional Use Permit and public hearing for residential developments of five or more dwelling units. A public hearing on the amendment was scheduled for the September 19<sup>th</sup> City Planning Commission meeting but after getting requests for additional information and time for analysis the City Planning Commission postponed the public hearing until **October 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Following the hearing the Planning Commission will forward its recommendation to the City Council for consideration. More information is linked on item #12 here: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/2011/CPC\\_Actions\\_09-19-112.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/2011/CPC_Actions_09-19-112.asp). If the amendment passes, projects with five or more units would still be required to file an application for "Site Plan Review. Site plan review is done by staff and does not require a public hearing. It typically addresses issues such as building placement on a lot, exterior materials and windows, vehicle and pedestrian access, and landscaping and screening. As proposed, any project with 10 or more units would be required to go through the public hearing process for their site plan review application, which would preserve the existing public process and neighborhood notification. Buildings with between five and nine units—typically fewer than five projects per year, citywide—would become eligible for administrative approval as long as they are submitting no other applications such as variances, a rezoning, CUP to increase allowed height, etc.

**Additional Emergency Homeless Shelter to Open Again This Winter.** As the need for housing continues this fall, in September the Council again approved the application for additional shelter space this winter. This approval, which is good for 4 more years, is for an overnight seasonal shelter that will be operated during the colder months by the Salvation Army at First Covenant Church located at 810 7<sup>th</sup> St S.

**Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Benefit Concert.** I encourage you to attend a benefit performance that City preservation staff helped make happen, for Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery (2925 Cedar Avenue South). *Jeremy Messersmith* and *Lucy Michelle and the Velvet Lapelles* will be performing there on **Saturday, October 8**: Find out more here: <http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org/event.shtml>. All the proceeds from ticket sales will be used to help restore the cemetery's historic fence along Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. There will be a history hunt for kids and we are trying to line up a face painter. Tickets are \$10 in advance, with free admission for kids 12 and under.

**Pedicabs.** Council Member Schiff's amendment to the City's pedicab licensing ordinance has passed committee. It includes lifting the ban on pedicabs in downtown during rush hour, which I strongly support. I plan to move two minor amendments allowing the pedicab industry to continue to have flexibility on the width of their vehicles and the braking systems they use, as long as those brakes are effective in all conditions. I hear that Council Member Hofstede is planning to move two amendments as well, one which would significantly raise the liability insurance requirement from \$300,000 to \$3 million, and the other which would ban pedicabs from certain bridges. I do not support either of these ideas. Partly to give more time for these discussions, the ordinance has been delayed for one cycle. This will give the Bicycle Advisory Committee the chance to weigh in on these and other potential amendments.

**Minneapolis Declared a Walk Friendly Community.** The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center has announced that Minneapolis has earned a "Gold" level walk-friendly community award. The "Walk Friendly" title means a city or town is being recognized for their success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort. The only two other Gold award recipients are Chicago and San Francisco.

**University Alliance Events.** Please join the University Alliance for a University District Design Principles focus group on **Wednesday, October 5**, at 5:30pm, at Van Cleve Commons community room.

**Stadium Village Study.** The results of the retail and commercial market study, which is part of the Stadium Village planning process, are available for download on the city's Stadium Village study website at [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/Stadium\\_Village.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/Stadium_Village.asp).

**Fay Thompson Center Meeting.** The Minneapolis Pollution Control Agency will host a community information meeting on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**, 7-9:00pm at Van Cleve Park, on the

re-permitting of the Fay Thompson Center. The Center is located at 501 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE, and is the University's hazardous waste management facility. (Map at <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/ThompCtr/> )

**“Frontiers in the Environment” Series.** The University's Institute on the Environment “Frontiers in the Environment” series began again on September 21<sup>st</sup>. For more information, go here: [http://environment.umn.edu/news\\_events/events/frontiers.html](http://environment.umn.edu/news_events/events/frontiers.html)

**Hiawatha Transmission Line.** There will be two public hearings on the Certificate of Need application that Xcel Energy has submitted for the Hiawatha transmission line on **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**, one at 2pm and one at 6pm, at Plaza Verde, 1516 East Lake St.

**Employment Training Program Partner of the Year.** Since 1982, Minneapolis Employment Training Program (METP) has selected “Partners of the Year” from among agencies that provide employment services to Minneapolis METP participants. Based on performance during 2010, Employment Action Center, a Division of RESOURCE has been selected the “Youth Partner of the Year” and “Adult Partner of the Year”. I congratulate the the Action Center and commend them and all the agencies for their work helping people find good employment during these tough economic times.

**Healthy Housing Indicators** The Community Planning & Economic Development Department has released its *second* annual Healthy Housing Indicators Report. The report covers the period from 2006 through 2010 and looks at indicators of housing distress, housing investment, and housing value. Although city and national housing markets are still recovering from the housing crisis that began in 2006-07, data for 2010 show that as credit markets eased and new federal financing tools became available, new residential construction returned. In 2010, 878 new housing units were permitted in Minneapolis, more than the previous two years combined, and the highest unit total of any metro area city. In 2010 seven of thirteen key indicators moved in a positive direction, three were unchanged, and three moved in a negative direction. This was an improvement over 2009, when nine indicators changed for the worse compared to 2008, and seven of the nine hit a five year low point. A copy of the full report is available at [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/Healthy\\_Housing\\_Indicators\\_Analysis.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/Healthy_Housing_Indicators_Analysis.pdf). The related neighborhood level detailed numbers have been compiled in a file linked to the report. Here are the City's key programs that are designed to respond to the housing crisis:

- **Minneapolis Foreclosure Recovery Plan:**  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/Citys\\_Foreclosure\\_Recovery\\_Plan.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/Citys_Foreclosure_Recovery_Plan.asp)
- **Foreclosure Prevention:**  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/homeowner\\_facing\\_foreclosure.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/homeowner_facing_foreclosure.asp)
- **Homeownership Assistance:**  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/purchasing\\_a\\_foreclosed\\_home.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/foreclosure/purchasing_a_foreclosed_home.asp)
  - **CityLiving Mortgage Program:** [www.cityliving.org](http://www.cityliving.org)
  - **Take Credit Homeownership Information:** [www.cityliving.org](http://www.cityliving.org)
  - **Minneapolis Advantage:**  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/minneapolisadvantage\\_home.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/minneapolisadvantage_home.asp)
  - **Code Abatement and Home Repair Loans for Lower Income Households:**  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/city\\_living.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/city_living.asp)
- **LiveMSP.org** has great information on homebuying and provides a directory of homebuyer incentive programs and resources by neighborhood.

**New Parks for Upper Mississippi Riverfront.** The Minneapolis Park Board is consider a proposal that recommends that the Park Board partner with the City of Minneapolis and other government and non-profit groups to develop four new green and public spaces in North and Northeast Minneapolis along the rive. Plans includes adding a trail system that connects with Farview Park and existing trails, installing floating islands for birds and aquatic plants, and creating and improving three parks: Scherer Park District, Upper Harbor Terminal Wetlands Park and Downtown Gateway Park. The park board is asking the public for feedback on the proposed

new parks and trails. This public comment period ends Nov. 6, 2011. For more information visit [minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com](http://minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com). You can also view the proposal and submit a comment card at any Minneapolis Park recreation center or Park Board Headquarters.

**Help Historic Preservation in Minneapolis.** Nine historic places in Minneapolis are competing for \$1 million in preservation grants through a new program from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. You can vote at [www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation](http://www.Facebook.com/PartnersinPreservation) for your favorite historic places from a diverse list of 25 sites from around the metro area. The historic place that receives the most votes will be guaranteed its full grant request, up to \$125,000, with the balance of the \$1 million being distributed to the remaining sites based on recommendations from an advisory committee. The nine Minneapolis sites are the American Swedish Institute, Basilica of Saint Mary, Emerge Career and Technology Center (Old North Branch Library), Harriet Tubman Center East (Former Saint Paul's Monastery), Hennepin Center for the Arts, Mill Ruins Park, Minnehaha Park, Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery and The Soap Factory. Open Houses will be held the weekend of October 8-9 at all 25 sites. Hours, special activities and additional information can be found at [www.preservationnation.org/partners-in-preservation](http://www.preservationnation.org/partners-in-preservation). The Twin Cities is the sixth region to host the Partners in Preservation program, with previous grants for preservation projects in the Seattle-Puget Sound area, San Francisco Bay area, Chicagoland, New Orleans and Greater Boston.

**University of Minnesota Bike Center.** A new U of M Bike Center is opened in the Ward September 29 in a former transit waiting area of the University's Oak Street Parking Ramp, just south of Washington Ave. S.E. It will feature 24-hour secure bicycle storage, repair services, a retail outlet, trip planning services, and showers and changing areas.

**Autumn Bike Walk Week.** The autumn Bike Walk Week is planned from **October 3 – 9**. The week will feature a variety of bike-related workshops, a Downtown Commuter Fair and the grand opening of a new bike lanes and a bike boulevard. Workshops include:

- **Bicycling as Transportation Presentation – Oct. 4.** This free presentation will help participants develop the skills need to use a bicycle for more trips – including your trip to work. The presentation will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Commuter Connection (located in the skyway off the U.S. Bank Building in Downtown Minneapolis).
- **Walk and Bike to School Day – Oct. 5.** Some schools may be organizing a walk or bike to school event. Check with the principal at your child's school.
- **Basic Bike Maintenance Lunch & Learn – Oct. 5.** This free course will cover basic maintenance techniques, including keeping a bicycle clean and lubricated and fixing a flat tire. The presentation will be held Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Commuter Connection (located in the skyway off the U.S. Bank Building in Downtown Minneapolis).
- **Bike Walk to Work Day – Oct. 6.** A Downtown Minneapolis Commuter Fair will be held in the IDS Crystal Court from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6. Stop by for free coffee and resources to help make your work commute easier.
- **Behind the Big Wheels: Bicycle Safety Demo – Oct. 8.** Large vehicles such as semis and bicycles share the road every day. In this unique demo event, bicyclists will be able to get behind the wheel of a big rig and sit in the driver's seat while checking where bicycles and pedestrians fall into blind spots. A new Share the Road educational piece directed toward bicyclists and commercial drivers will be onsite for public comment before final release. This event will be held Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Minneapolis Animal Control Building, 212 17th Ave. N.

**The Franklin LRT Station Area Streetscape and 22nd Street Reconstruction.** In September, two Council committees approved moving ahead with street improvements near the Franklin Light Rail Station. The Franklin Avenue LRT Station Area Streetscape project will consist of improvements to the pedestrian realm from Bloomington Ave S to 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S and will include the installation of lighting along the corridor and under the Hiawatha and LRT bridges, installing

pedestrian countdown crossing timers on the signals, new pedestrian ramps at the intersections, some curb modifications resulting in reduced pedestrian crossing distances, and the installation of boulevard trees. Boulevard trees will also be planted along Cedar Ave south of Franklin to the LRT bridge and lighting will be added under the LRT bridge crossing Cedar Ave. It will also include the reconstruction and realignment of E 22<sup>nd</sup> St between Minnehaha Ave and Cedar Ave to provide a new right-in/right-out connection to Cedar Ave. These projects have been in discussions since prior to the opening of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit line and are projected to cost over \$3.6 million. Funds will come from federal grants, special assessment, state funds, Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council grants and a Public Works transfer of \$180,000 of unneeded funds from another project and \$180,000 in City funds appropriated in 2005 as a local match source for several of the other grants, also be committed for eligible project costs.

**New City Electric Vehicle.** The City will unveil our first next-generation all-electric vehicle on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. In partnership with the Drive Electric Minnesota Coalition and with financial support from Xcel Energy, the Public Works Fleet Services Division has purchased one of the nation's first all-electric Ford Transit Connect vans. This van will replace a Ford F250 as the parts runner truck for Fleet Services. At 20,000 miles a year, this is one of the City's most heavily used light duty vehicles. Anticipated fuel savings for this zero emissions vehicle over the F250 is in excess of \$40,000 over the next 8 years. I'm excited to see the City taking the first step towards the electrification of our road transportation system.

**New American Indian Community Specialist.** The City has hired Christine McDonald as the City's American Indian Community Specialist. Christine will start her new position on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will serve as the primary staff person for the revived American Indian Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Workgroup between the City and our urban American Indian community. Christine will work to foster strong connections and partnership with the American Indian Community in Minneapolis and beyond.

**Minneapolis Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy Amendments.** The City Council is taking another look at our policy for using Tax Increment Financing. First approved in 2000, the policy helps guide staff in forming recommendations, provides a framework for the City Council and Mayor to use to evaluate proposals and informs the public of the City's position on the use TIF. In April 2011, the Council directed staff to prepare an amendment to the policy to clarify City intent regarding the use of tax increment financing for public infrastructure, transit corridors and job creation. The proposed amendment adds definitions and language encouraging development proposals that accomplish objectives related to transit-oriented development, public infrastructure improvements, job creation and increasing the tax base. A guideline is also added stating the City may exercise, when appropriate, the option granted by the Minnesota TIF Act (Minn. Stat. §§ 469.174-469.179, as amended) to pool TIF revenue for the purpose of assisting qualified low-income rental housing anywhere in the city. Neighborhood organizations are invited to review and comment on the proposed amendment to the policy that can be found here on item #4 here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110923/CD20110922agenda.asp> or here [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110902/docs/TIF\\_Policy\\_RCA.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110902/docs/TIF_Policy_RCA.pdf).

**Justice in the Seward Market Homicides.** Mahdi Hassan Ali, the person most responsible for the triple slaying in Seward in January of last year, has been found guilty on multiple counts of first and second degree homicide. I hope that this gives the families of the victims some peace. I will continue to work on youth violence prevention policies and programs, to try to keep tragedies like this from occurring in the future.

**Felony Charges in "Ped" Phanthavong Hit-and-Run.** Amy Senser, the driver who hit and killed True Thai chef Anousone "Ped" Phanthavong, has been charged with a felony in this case. I am glad to see charges brought. It is absolutely unacceptable to leave the scene of an accident, any accident, much less one involving a pedestrian. It is entirely possible, given the close proximity of Fairview Hospital, that Ms. Senser's decision to flee contributed to Mr. Phanthavong's death. My heart goes out to Ped's family and friends at True Thai.

**West Bank Walk October 15<sup>th</sup>.** Working with CPED staff, my office is organizing a walk on **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, at 10:30am, on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, to note what works and what doesn't work for pedestrians and other road users. We will need the support of the West Bank Community Coalition and others to make this event a success. My hope is that it will produce information that can be used by the CHANCE program to help determine what sorts of improvements the City should make on 6<sup>th</sup> St with the \$30,000 from the Riverside Plaza project, and on 15<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> through the reconstruction planned for 2014.

**Bike Lanes on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>.** My office organized a community meeting on the proposed bike lanes on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Aves south from Riverside to Franklin. The project is supported by the Seward Neighborhood Group and Augsburg College, and the overwhelming majority of West Bank residents who have contacted my office. I will support the installation of these lanes, and I look forward to seeing them painted before this winter.

**Improvements to Bike Lanes on 15<sup>th</sup>.** The City has unveiled innovative new bike lane treatments on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue southeast. They include green bike lanes in the "conflict zones" approaching and in the intersections of 5<sup>th</sup> St SE, 4<sup>th</sup> St SE and University Ave. This is an important improvement, in part because the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> is where University student Audrey Hull was hit and killed by a truck this April. This new lane striping will help raise awareness of bicyclists and let drivers know that they are legally required to yield to bikes, which I believe will help prevent future tragedies. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SE carries more bicyclists on an average day than any other street in Minneapolis, at 3,500. That's a higher than 12% mode share, meaning that one in eight people on 15<sup>th</sup> are on bikes. I want to specifically thank Steve Mosing in the Minneapolis Public Works Department for making this happen, and the Hull family for their continuing, constructive engagement in making Minneapolis a safer place for bicyclists.

**Improvements to Greenway Crossing at 28<sup>th</sup>.** In response to an accident earlier this year that led to a serious injury, the Greenway's crossing of 28<sup>th</sup> Street E has been significantly upgraded. To deal with the "double threat" problem caused by four-lane roads, the City had already throated the road to one lane in each direction with paint. Unfortunately, a large number of drivers were ignoring these pavement markings, creating an unsafe situation. To address this issue, the City has now installed a center median refuge area that has two major effects: it physically ensures that there is only one driving lane in each direction, completely eliminating the double threat, and it gives bicyclists and pedestrians a safe place to wait for traffic to stop.

**New Parking Meters Coming to Stadium Village.** In October all the parking meters will be removed and replaced with new multi space "smart" parking meters in the Prospect Park Stadium Village area. The multi-space meter pay stations let you use debit cards, credit cards or coin. For more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/parking/meters.asp>

**2600 Minnehaha.** The City has allocated another \$70,000 to the cleanup of the pollution at 2600 Minnehaha. The end goal is to make this a developable parcel, to increase jobs in the city.

**Oak Street Apartments.** The Planning Commission has approved the Doran Company's request for a variance to allow 22 (47.8%) of the parking stalls for a 60-unit, mixed-use development to be compact stalls. The proposed development is to be located at 309-13 Oak St SE.

**Meisa Day Center at Seward Square.** The new adult day care at Seward Square Apartments, located at 2121 S 9<sup>th</sup> St, has been approved by the Planning Commission. This project was also reviewed and approved by the Seward Neighborhood Group.

**Solar at the U.** The City has partnered with Xcel, through the Energy Innovation Corridor project, to allocate \$230,000 in EIC grant funds for a 40 kilowatt solar project on the University Office Plaza building.

**Please Consider Serving on a City Board or Commission.** In an effort to make it easier to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensure a more open process, and increase the diversity of the applicant pool, we now focus our appointments to boards and commissions once in the spring and once in the fall. **Applications are now being accepted for the over 80 open positions** on 16 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Applications will be reviewed beginning September 30; however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of position descriptions see [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions). There are openings on the following: [Minneapolis Arts Commission](#), [Basset Creek Watershed Management Commission](#), [Board of Appeal & Equalization](#), [Civilian Police Review Authority](#), [Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights](#), [Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee \(CLIC\)](#), [Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities](#), [Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board](#), [Minneapolis Housing Board of Appeals](#), [Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission \(HPC\)](#), [Minneapolis Telecommunications Network \(MTN\)](#), [Minneapolis Planning Commission](#), [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners](#), [Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy](#), [Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission](#). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).

**Ward Office Hours.** Every Tuesday morning I hold "Office Hours" in the Ward from 9:30-11:00am. Please feel free to call for an appointment or just stop by.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

Cam Gordon  
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<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2/>