



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 4-16-14

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Thursday, May 7, 9:30-11:00am  
Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue**

- 1) Green Line Opening
- 2) State of the City Address
- 3) Bike Week
- 4) New Long-Term Climate Goal
- 5) Energy Discussion at the PUC
- 6) Funding for 'Father Advocates' Study
- 7) Somali American Day
- 8) Cedar Avenue Sidewalks
- 9) Pot holes
- 10) Small Business Support
- 11) Spring Street Cleaning
- 12) Rideshare Hearing
- 13) Homeline
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Green Line LRT is opening on June 14<sup>th</sup>, and I'm excited to see that the West Bank has been chosen as one of nine sites for opening celebrations. It sounds like the West Bank Business Association and other stakeholders are doing a good job planning the event, with the support of the Met Council. I look forward to participating in this celebration of the West Bank's second LRT line.
- 2) Mayor Betsy Hodges will deliver her first State of the City Address on April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 12-1:30pm, at the American Indian Center at 1530 E Franklin Ave. I look forward to hearing more about her vision for the future of our city.
- 3) Bike Week is May 4-11<sup>th</sup>. There will be activities every day of the week, as well as commuter pit stops where riders can get their bikes checked, get lights, maps, and more. Visit <http://www.mpls bikeweek.org/> for more information.
- 4) The Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee has adopted a new long-term carbon emission reduction goal for the City of Minneapolis: we will strive to reduce carbon emissions by 80% or more by 2050, from a 2006 baseline. This is in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations and the 2050 goals already adopted by the State of Minnesota and Hennepin County, and was recommended by the City's Sustainability staff and the Community Environmental Advisory Committee. The work to draft this recommendation was in response to a staff direction I made back in February of this year. I enthusiastically support setting this goal, and hope that we can push well past reaching it. However, we need to be clear that this is a very aggressive goal. Reaching it will require a fundamental transformation of the way we use energy in buildings, in our transportation system, and how we deal with waste.
- 5) Along with staff from the Center for Energy and the Environment, I will be presenting the City's Energy Pathways Study to the Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. I view this as a good opportunity to share the results of this study with the PUC, to continue laying the groundwork for a partnership between the City and our energy utility partners, Xcel and Centerpoint. These partnerships will enable the City and the utilities to reach the City's Energy Vision laid out in the Pathways Study, which in turn will help us achieve our carbon reduction goals (a 15% reduction by 2015, a 30% reduction by 2025, and now an 80% reduction by 2050). These goals are in keeping with the State and PUC's own goals for energy use,

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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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

- 6) The City has received a three-year federal grant for more than \$871,000 to study the benefits of Father Advocates who help provide services to expectant and new fathers. The idea is to study the impacts that these sorts of programs have on child and maternal health. I see this as a great opportunity to get good information on something that sounds like a great idea for improving health.
- 7) The Council has unanimously passed a resolution declaring July 1<sup>st</sup> “Somali American Day” in Minneapolis. I was delighted to support this resolution introduced by my colleagues Council Member Warsame.
- 8) The Council has approved the funding and design for the Cedar Avenue sidewalk renovation and reconstruction. It also set a public hearing to be held June 17, 2014 to consider the project and the abandonment and removal of areaways in conflict with the project. The sidewalks will be reconstructed along Cedar Ave S from approximately 3rd St S to 7th St S. This includes full removal and replacement of the west side curb, sidewalk on the east and west side of Cedar Ave, and striping of the roadway to the new configuration. This area has been identified by the city as a Pedestrian Priority Corridor and serves 1,470 pedestrians per day. So, I am especially glad to see this long awaited project coming forward and appreciate how the additional funding provided by the county and city will help keep assessments low to area property owners. While I recognize that there are some concerns remain about the design and loss of some street width, these sidewalks have been in need of repair for decades and are unacceptably narrow in several places. I hope the concerns can be addressed and we can move forward to no more delays. New pedestrian level street lighting will also be included in the project and significant (over \$1.5 million) public funding will help offset the usual assessments to individual property owners. Construction is expected to be completed this summer or in early fall.
- 9) In response to the intense weather this winter and damage to our streets the Council is poised to vote to reallocate \$1,000,000 from the Contingency Fund for the purpose of providing additional resources to perform an accelerated level of pothole patching in 2014.
- 10) In March the Council received our annual report of the City’s small business lending programs. The city offers six different small business loan programs: 2% Loan Program, Alternative Financing Loan Program, Energy Efficiency Loan Program, Business Development Fund Loan Program, Working Capital Guaranty Program, Homegrown Business Development Center loans, Business Recovery Loan Program, and the Business Health and Safety Loan Program. Last year the city provided 49 such loans totaling \$2,426,000. These are estimated to have leveraged \$14,591,000 from private lending and helped create 273 new jobs and retain 339 jobs in 2013. I believe that these programs play a critical role supporting business investment in neighborhood commercial districts. For more details you can find the full report here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-121554.pdf>.
- 11) The City has scheduled spring street sweeping to start with posting on Monday, April 21, for the first day of sweeping on Tuesday April 22. Please help your friends, neighbors and customers look for the posted signs to avoid a ticket or tow – and help the City get the winter accumulation of sand and debris off of our streets and out of our waterways.
- 12) There will be a public hearing on Council Member Frey’s ordinance to license electronic rideshare or “peer-to-peer” services on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, sometime after 1:30pm. On March 29<sup>th</sup> .
- 13) A widely respected nonprofit organization providing free legal, organizing, educational and advocacy services to tenants throughout Minnesota is finally expanding their service to Minneapolis residents. Beginning in April, renters in Minneapolis can use Home Line’s free service to get help with any rental issue, learn more about renters’ rights, or receive free legal advice by emailing Home Line attorneys at [homelinemn.org](http://homelinemn.org) or by calling their free Tenant Hotline at 612.728.5767. Learn more at [homelinemn.org](http://homelinemn.org).
- 14) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. There are more than 40 open positions on the following six City boards and commissions: [Civil Rights Commission](#); [Bicycle Advisory Committee](#); [Workforce Council](#); [Public Health Advisory Committee](#); [Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission](#); [Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#); Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City’s website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.