

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 5-23-16

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE
Thursday, June 16th, 9:30-11am

Cam Gordon

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Items:

- 1) Franklin Avenue Bridge
- 2) Franklin Avenue SE Reconfiguration
- 3) Complete Streets Policy
- 4) Intentional Community Ordinance
- 5) Park and Street Funding
- 6) Sick and Safe Time Ordinance
- 7) 80% Carbon Reductions by 2050
- 8) Police Body Cameras
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you have probably noticed, the Franklin Avenue bridge has closed for construction. If you have any questions or concerns, contact franklinbridge@hennepin.us or 888-474-8929. More information is available at www.hennepin.us/franklinbridge. Please shop locally during construction.
- 2) Franklin Ave in Prospect Park is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer and in April I signed off on the staff recommendation to include bike lane striping as part of the project. This is identified in the City's Bicycle Master Plan and has been the subject of community meetings and parking studies earlier this year. To accommodate the bike lanes and comply with state traffic lane width standards, parking removal is required on both sides of the street. In order to accommodate two exceptional parking needs, alternative configurations will occur at the two churches, St. Francis Cabrini (1500 Franklin SE) and St. Panteleimon (2210 Franklin SE) during regular church services. At St. Francis Cabrini, parking will be allowed on the South side of Franklin between Thornton, and the railroad crossing and on the bridge over I-94. At St. Panteleimon, where on street parking demand was significantly lower, a handicap transfer zone will be established on Franklin in front of the church. I am also working closely with the one household on Franklin Ave SE without off-street parking to find a way to get that provided on their property, and thank the Prospect Park Association for your attention to their needs. It's worth noting that by the end of this year, there will be a seamless bicycle connection on Franklin all the way from Cedar Avenue into St. Paul. I view this as a great step forward for traffic calming on Franklin and for people on bikes in southeast Minneapolis.
- 3) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has unanimously recommended a strong new Complete Streets policy for the City of Minneapolis. This policy adopts, for the first time, an important prioritization of road users: first people walking, then people biking or taking transit, and then people driving. The policy makes clear that this prioritization will be considered at every point in the development of a project, from planning, to funding, to design, to construction, to ongoing maintenance. I am enthusiastically supportive of this policy, and was an active member of the policymaker task force that oversaw its development. I expect this policy to pass the full Council on Friday. You can read the policy here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcm5p-179778.pdf>.
- 4) My office has organized a community meeting for **Tuesday, May 31**, from 6-8:30pm at the Central Library's Doty Boardroom to discuss the proposed Intentional Community ordinance, and I am also open to attending any neighborhood group that would like to receive a presentation on this concept. You can find a draft of the ordinance here: <https://sites.google.com/site/mplscic/ordinance>.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

If you want help translating this please contact NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3737

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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- 5) On April 29th the Council unanimously approved a plan that obligates it to spend \$800,000,000 over the next 20 years to close the unmet needs for our neighborhood parks and our city streets. I supported this proposal and believe that it offers a realistic way to address the current and future needs with acceptable revenue sources. The agreement includes language requiring both Public Works and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to use this additional funding in accordance with economic equity criteria, reporting back to the City Council annually on progress. The plan will provide an additional \$8 million in annual capital funds for neighborhood parks and a \$3 million increase the park's operating levy, as well as \$21.2 million annually for street capital improvements and an increase of \$800,000 per year for ongoing street maintenance. Most of it (82%) will be paid for through increases in the property tax levy, 7% from sales taxes and an increase in storm water fees, 5% from some clearly identified cash reserves in the first few years, and 5% from reductions in the special pension and tree levies. The proposal also stipulates that a large portion of the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing district, which currently supports the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department and helps fund neighborhood revitalization and organization work, will be decertified in 2020 to provide more property taxes to be used to support streets and parks. This means that we will need to be open minded and thoughtful in finding alternative funding sources to support critical neighborhood, community engagement and revitalization work in our city. Many more details can be found here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-176478>.
- 6) The Council has heard a public hearing about the proposed Sick and Safe Time ordinance. I am very supportive of this ordinance, and hope to see it pass. In fact, I plan to move to strengthen it by moving to amend it next week at Committee of the Whole by moving to remove the exemption for "casual" health care employees. I do not believe it makes sense to not give nurses and other health care workers the same benefits as other employees. This ordinance is part of the "Working Families Agenda," which I support. Many Minneapolis employees – and more poor employees and employees of color – lack the basic protections many people take for granted. This needs to change, and it is definitely the City's role to step in to correct this injustice. I expect and hope that this ordinance will pass this Friday.
- 7) The Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee has received an exciting report on a carbon reduction modeling project that the City's Sustainability staff have worked on with the company Siemens. The modeling system is called the City Performance Tool (CyPT), and allowed us to study a series of more than 70 technologies from building, transport and energy technologies. The great news: it is possible to reach the City's very aggressive goal to cut our carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. It is achievable, but only with a lot of work. This tool lays out how we can tackle that work, through a combination of interventions like greening the electricity grid, investing in a number of different building energy efficiency improvements, and reducing the percentage of trips made by car and substantially electrifying the car fleet. I encourage everyone who is interested to check out the presentation, here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/agenda/wcmsp-178225.pdf>. I want to thank our current and former Sustainability office staff for their work on this: Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Siri Simons, and Kelly Muellman. I also want to note that much of this has been made possible by policies I have championed, like adopting this aggressive 80% by 2050 goal, passing a strong Climate Action Plan, and pushing to create the Clean Energy Partnership.
- 8) The Public Safety Committee learned today that the first implementation of Police body Cameras, set to begin in the First precinct that includes the West Bank, will not begin until June 27th. I am hoping that expect a final policy governing police worn camera's to be completed by the end of May, and that a public hearing will be held on the next draft of that policy in early June (likely the 8th). After listening to the community concerns at meetings about the draft policy, I have concluded that it should be improved to include the following provisions: police should record interactions with all people who have not requested to be kept anonymous; police should notify subjects that, in certain instances, they have the option to remain anonymous and stop recording if they choose this option; police should allow civilians to review footage of themselves or their relatives and to request this be released to the public and stored for at least two years; and, the policy should prevent officers from reviewing footage of an incident before completing initial reports, statements or interviews about the incident. I will be working with Police Department administration to try to make these parts of the policy if possible.
- 9) Visit the City's website, <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm>, for a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. 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.