

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to the Seward Neighborhood Group
May 25, 2016**

**Cam's Next Seward/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, May 26th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

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

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Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612- 673-3737;

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612- 673-3737

Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

- 1) Franklin Avenue Bridge
- 2) Franklin, Minnehaha, Cedar Intersection.
- 3) 29th Ave S Bike/Walk Street.
- 4) Complete Streets Policy
- 5) Intentional Community Ordinance
- 6) Park and Street Funding
- 7) Sick and Safe Time Ordinance
- 8) 80% Carbon Reductions by 2050
- 9) Police Body Cameras
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Franklin Avenue Bridge has closed for construction and is expected to stay closed to cars, bikes and pedestrians until Labor Day. . 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) The Council has approved a County redesign that will transform the large and problematic of the intersections of Cedar, Franklin, and Minnehaha. This has been identified as an area in need of improvements for well over 10 years and I was delighted to see it coming forward for reconstruction. When this project is complete, Minnehaha will be closed north of Franklin. Cedar will meet Franklin in a squarer, more 'normal' way. The intersection of Minnehaha (to the south) will also meet Franklin in a squarer way. The bike lanes on Franklin that currently disappear west of 21st Ave S will extend all the way through this area. People on foot will be able to walk much more comfortably from Seward to the Franklin light rail station. Space will be created on the north side of Franklin for future development (though this will take some work to move the utilities that are currently under Minnehaha). I want to thank the Seward neighborhood Organizations, Public Works staff, County Commission Peter McLaughlin and Hennepin County staff for their work on this. The County has been a great partner on this, as has been my colleague Abdi Warsame who has been very engaged in pushing for this project since this area was moved from Ward 2 to Ward 6.
- 3) I recently learned that we will be receiving a \$300,000 grant to transform 29th Ave S into a "Bike/Walk Street," sometimes also known as a bicycle boulevard, from at least Franklin Avenue to Lake Street. Public Works staff are currently working on plans, which may include some traffic diverters that will allow people on bikes and on foot to continue, but prevent cars from using 29th as a through street. There will be additional conversation about the test closure of 29th at the Greenway, and whether to keep that closure or replace it with some other solution that will work well for both the Greenway and 29th.
- 4) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has unanimously recommended a new Complete Streets policy for the City of Minneapolis. This policy adopts, for the first time, a prioritization of road users: first people walking, then people biking or taking transit, and then people driving. 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 very supportive of this policy, and was an active member of the policymaker task force that oversaw its development. You can read the policy here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-179778.pdf>.

- 5) My office has organized a community meeting for **Tuesday, May 31**, from 6-8:30pm at the Central Library's Doty Boardroom to discuss my 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>.
- 6) 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>.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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/wcmssp-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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.