

To: Minneapolis City Council
Minneapolis Public Works

From: Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: April 6, 2016

Subject: 3rd Avenue Project

3rd Avenue Project

The PAC strongly agrees with all points in the recent BAC resolution on 3rd Avenue as copied below.

The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee supports the original, three-lane layout proposed by Public Works staff for the portion of 3rd Ave S to the south of 7th Street, and opposes the removal of the center medians and/or the proposed planted buffers in that section. The original layout already represents a compromise for bicycling and walking but remains a Complete Street for all users because it is more fully protected for bicycles, more protected and pleasant for pedestrians, and safer for motorists because it is not a four lane configuration. The BAC would support a one-year pilot of a three-lane layout that leaves the center medians in place but defers the construction of the planted buffers until the end of the pilot.

Additionally, the BAC is concerned that the original layout, which was vetted twice by this committee, has been replaced by a substantially different and significantly worse layout without any communication with the BAC.

In addition, while we acknowledge that this is primarily a bike-focused project, we feel that any street redesign or reconstruction in the City should be seen as an opportunity to correct deficient pedestrian environments, such as the 4'8" unobstructed sidewalk currently along City Hall. Council should adopt a specific timeline for improvements there as part of the approved plan for this project.

We are also concerned that a proposed 'compromise' that would make up for lost median greening by adding planters behind the curb will clutter and constrict the pedestrian right-of-way.

From a pedestrian perspective, few improvements would make up for the safety that could be gained by reducing traffic lanes.