



**Abdi Warsame**  
Council Member  
Sixth Ward

350 South 5th Street  
Room 307  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2206  
Fax 612-673-3250

[abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:abdi.warsame@minneapolismn.gov)

[www.minneapolismn.gov/ward6](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward6)



[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Affirmative Action Employee

## Council Member Abdi Warsame Report to the Neighborhoods 07.14

### I-94 Exit Ramp to 7th St

#### *Project Type:*

A cooperative project between the City of Minneapolis and MnDot. The project received a Minnesota Transportation Economic Development (TED) Program Grant.

#### *Why is this project being done?*

Reconfiguring the exit ramp from 5th St to 7th St is a recommendation in the City's Downtown Action Plan. It will improve the efficiency of Minneapolis' downtown one-way street network and allow for improved mobility and access to Downtown from the Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood once the existing 5th St Ramp is re-purposed (funded as a separate project).

#### *Project Limits:*

From I-94 Westbound over I-35W and connecting to Downtown at 7th St S.

#### *Duration of Construction:*

2015 Construction Season

#### *Traffic Impact:*

Traffic entering Downtown from I-94 will continue to use the existing ramp to 5th St S during construction. There will be some minor intersection work and re-striping and signing activities at the 7th St S and 13th Ave S intersection and along 7th St S between 13th Ave and 11th Ave S.

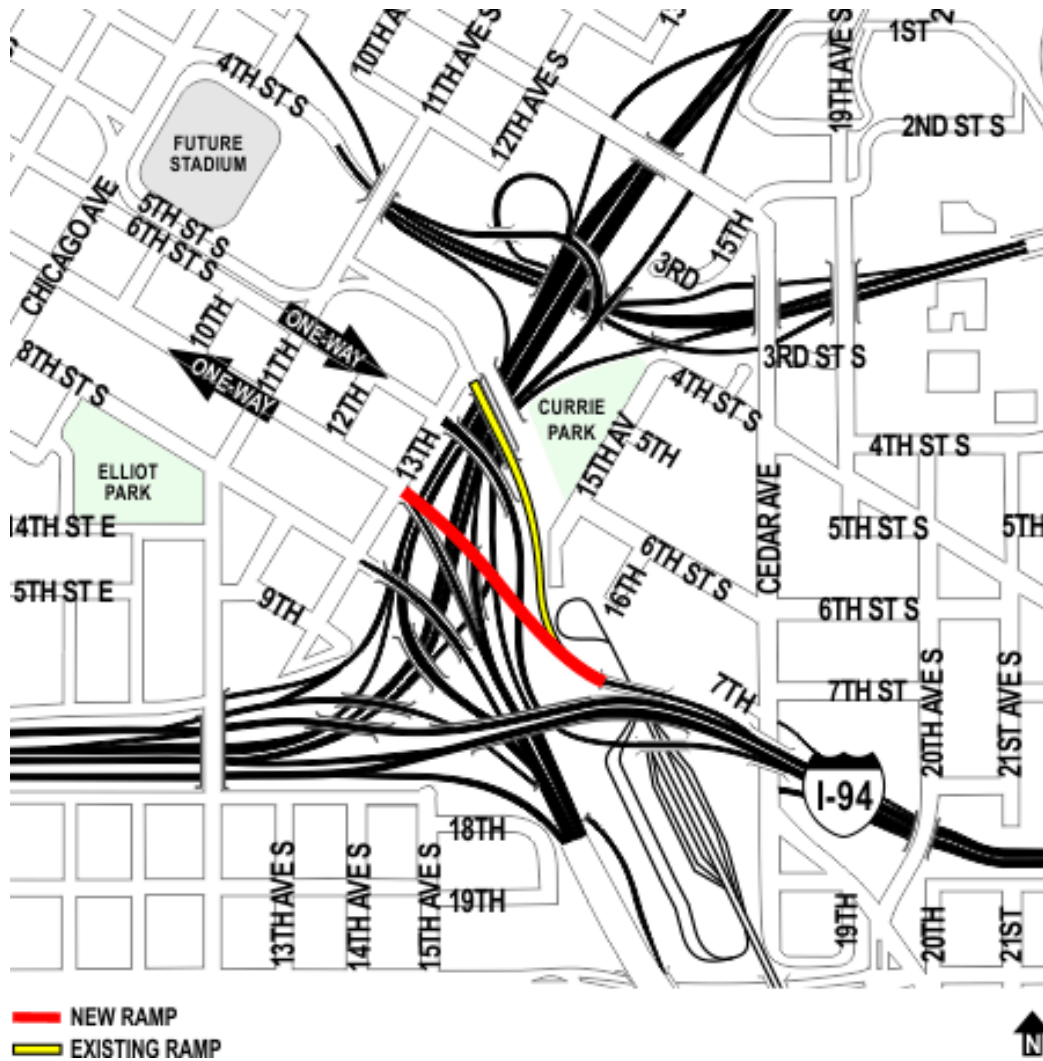
#### *What's coming in front of Friday Council Meeting?*

There are 3 recommendations for Friday's Council meeting:

1. Accept the grant funding and increase the project budget by that amount.
2. Authorize a scope of work with the consultant who will do the final design.
3. Layout approval

There was an open house on Monday June 30th and city staff informed me that they had a very low turn-out. Generally folks were supportive of the recommended layout with a few questions regarding final design, like parking configurations along 7th St. The project team has been analyzing the possibility of a right-turn lane to 13th Ave in order to respond to questions and concerns from a stakeholder however as of now the addition of the right-turn lane is beyond what the project budget can accommodate.

The project team is happy to attend any neighborhood or business association meetings to provide an update; you can contact Jennifer Hager at 612-673-3625. Final design is expected to begin very soon with construction during the 2015 construction season.



## HOME Line: a resource for tenants

HOME Line provides free legal, organizing, educational and advocacy services so tenants can solve their own rental housing problems.

Tenant hotline at 612 728-5767



### *New Somali and Spanish Speaking Tenant Advocates*

New Tenant advocates are working on addressing the needs of Somali and Spanish speaking renters. Both staff are trained in tenant landlord law and now providing advocacy in Somali and Spanish on our tenant hotline. In addition, they are now beginning community outreach to organizations that serve these respective communities. Please feel free to contact either staff if you have ideas or contacts with organizations to help us connect with these immigrant communities.

Claire Branigan

Spanish speaking Tenant Advocate

[Claireb@homelinemn.org](mailto:Claireb@homelinemn.org)

Zeynab Egale

Somali-speaking Tenant Advocate and Outreach Coordinator

[Zeynabe@homelinemn.org](mailto:Zeynabe@homelinemn.org)

## Health and safety improvement loan program now available for small businesses in Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis has launched a new business health and safety improvement loan program to help small Minneapolis businesses that often struggle to pay for needed code compliance and other remedial minor physical improvements for regulated businesses. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to general repairs, flooring, grease trap installation, floor drains, automatic roof vents, food service equipment such as walk-in coolers, washing and cooling equipment and pollution reduction upgrades as part of the green business program. If you have a small business or know someone who does, this program would make it easier to get needed improvements done.

The program is managed for the City of Minneapolis by the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). For more information, contact MCCD at 612-843-3262 or email [Daniel Bonilla](mailto:Daniel.Bonilla@mccd.org).

## All-Star Week begins in Minneapolis

With MLB All-Star Week beginning in Minneapolis, the City and its partners are working together to make sure the events are a success, both for Minnesotans and for the many people who will be coming to town. The Minnesota Twins, Major League Baseball, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Meet Minneapolis and Metro Transit are just some of the partners working to host events and make sure traffic and transit move smoothly to help everyone get where they're going during the events.



### *Street closures*

Several streets downtown will be closed to traffic at different points July 11-15, when Major League Baseball All-Star Game events and the Basilica Block Party will be taking place.

The street closures that will be in place the longest for All-Star Game events are:

- **6<sup>th</sup> Street North, from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North to Hennepin Avenue** – Closed 9 a.m. Friday through Tuesday.
- **South and east side of Grant Street E and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, from Marquette Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Street South** – Closed 12:01 a.m. Friday through Tuesday.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, between 4<sup>th</sup> Street South and 5<sup>th</sup> Street South** – Closed 8 a.m. Sunday through Tuesday.
- **Twins Way, from Royalston Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Street North** – Closed from noon Sunday through Tuesday. The section from Royalston Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Street North will briefly open to traffic Sunday morning until 10 a.m.

Shorter-term street closures for All-Star Game events include:

- **Nicollet Mall from Alice Rainville Place to 6<sup>th</sup> Street South** – Closed from 10 p.m. Monday to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday for the Red Carpet Show. There will be additional one-block closures for cross streets leading up to the parade. Drivers who use parking ramps along affected streets will be able to use those ramps during the closure.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Street, from Marquette Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Street North** – Closed from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday for the Red Carpet Parade.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Street North, from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North** – Closed from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.
- **West River Parkway, from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South** – Closed 7 p.m. Monday to 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. The section of the parkway from Portland Avenue to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South will close all day Monday until 10 a.m. Tuesday.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, from Portland Avenue to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South** – Closed from 9 p.m. Monday to 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. Side streets along this stretch will also be closed to Washington Avenue during this time.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North ramp to I-394** – Closed intermittently Sunday through Tuesday. However, it will be open to buses to Ramp B only.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, from Portland Avenue to 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South** – Closed from 9 p.m. Monday to 1:30 a.m. Tuesday. Side streets along this stretch will also be closed to Washington Avenue during this time.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North ramp to I-394** – Closed intermittently Sunday through Tuesday. However, it will be open to buses to Ramp B only.

For more information visit [www.allstargame.com](http://www.allstargame.com).

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## Have questions on Road Projects?

Chris Engelmann is available!



### In person

When: Thursdays

Time: 10-11am

Where: Job Shack

### Phone

612-673-3274

### Online

[Chris.Engelmann@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Chris.Engelmann@minneapolismn.gov)

## Cultural Corridor

Discussions are currently on their way about Cultural Corridors within the City of Minneapolis. Ward 6 is home to the Native American corridor on Franklin Ave. This area is meant to enhance the contributions that the Native American community brings to all the city's residents, not only in terms of culture but also of economic development through its organizations and businesses.

Future projects could include a n East African Cultural Corridor in the Cedar Riverside and a Latino Cultural Corridor on Lake Street.

## **Taxicab Ordinance 341**

As you know the ordinance regulating the taxicab industry in Minneapolis, Ordinance 341, has been modified. It has come in front of the Community Development and Regulatory Services committee, and will be in front of the full Council on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The opening of this ordinance focused on alleviating some of the regulatory burdens imposed on the industry and eliminating out dated practices. As the market evolves to allow Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), it is important that taxi cab drivers and companies have the opportunity to compete and continue to provide a service to the city's residents and visitors. For the full text of the ordinance go to:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-127998.pdf>