



40 S. 7th Street, STE 212 PMB 172
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
Phone: (612) 659-1279
Online: www.thedmna.org

January 19, 2016

RE: DMNA Support for the 3rd Avenue Redesign,

Dear Simon Blenski and Chris Engelmann:

The DMNA Board would like to thank you for presenting plans for the redesign of 3rd Avenue. At the recommendation of the DMNA Land Use Committee, the DMNA Board voted to support the City of Minneapolis' plan to redesign 3rd Avenue as presented to the committee on 1/5/2016. If significant changes are made to the redesign plan, the board requests notification and the opportunity to amend its support.

As 3rd Avenue is a heavily trafficked north-south throughway, its redesign offers great opportunity to improve traffic flow, bicycle safety and the pedestrian experience along an important downtown corridor. As mentioned in your presentation, the volume of automotive traffic along the corridor has remained stable while there has been a significant increase in bicycle traffic. The DMNA believes that it is wise to redesign the street to both accommodate the current growth in cycling traffic as well as further encourage it. As protected bikeways have had demonstrated success in improving cyclist safety and increasing the use of bicycles elsewhere in Minneapolis, the DMNA supports their integration into 3rd Avenue through downtown. It is also important to note that protected bikeways carry the added benefit of improving the pedestrian experience by providing a buffer between the sidewalk and automotive traffic. This is particularly important given the narrow sidewalks along certain segments of 3rd Avenue.

The DMNA values the greenery that lines 3rd Avenue. As such, we encourage the project team to work closely with the Downtown Improvement District to identify opportunities to relocate the greening that may be lost when medians are removed to accommodate changes in lane configuration.

To help drivers understand the changing use and traffic flow on the street, DMNA further encourages the project team to work closely with property owners/managers to identify and mitigate areas with high potential for conflict between cyclists in the bike lane and automobiles as they exit/enter properties along the avenue.

DMNA Board looks forward to supporting the City in the execution of this important project.

Regards,

Nick Cichowicz
DMNA Board Chair