



**DOWNTOWN  
MINNEAPOLIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION**

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June 12, 2018

Mr. Simon Belnski, Transportation Planner  
City of Minneapolis – Public Works  
301 4th Ave S - Suite 785  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

RE: Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Project

Dear Simon:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association in follow up to the presentation that JoNette Kuhnau from Kimley-Horn gave to our Land Use Committee meeting on June 5, regarding the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Project.

Ms. Kuhnau reviewed the scope of the project, which includes the redesign and reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue from Washington Avenue to 12th Street. The project also charts the course for the public realm vision for the entirety of the Hennepin Avenue Corridor from the Sculpture Garden to the Mississippi River. Ms. Kuhnau also explained the need for the project. The street is 30 years old and the infrastructure is worn out. Furthermore, the street simply does not meet the city's current transportation needs, which encompass transit, passenger vehicles, biking and pedestrians. Finally, Ms. Kuhnau reviewed the budget for the \$30 million dollar project, the outreach and engagement strategies used to get public input and the project layout.

After hearing the presentation, asking questions and having some discussion, the Land Use Committee passed a motion to support reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue. The DMNA supports the current 2D concept for drives lanes, bike facilities, sidewalk/pedestrian areas, and bus shelter locations as the framework for the project to move forward to its next phase. The Association is very concerned, however, that the theaters and other businesses remain viable during construction. We urge the city to do all possible to avoid "scaring away" patrons and customers by driving and parking arrangements that are confusing or ever changing. Specifically, we urge that at least one lane of traffic be kept open on Hennepin at all times. The DMNA looks forward to future updates on the planning process and reserves the right to offer additional comments including on scheduling.

We appreciate JoNette's presentation and her willingness to listen to the community's concerns. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at [christie@thedmna.org](mailto:christie@thedmna.org), or by phone at 320-583-4573.

Sincerely,

Christie Rock Hantge  
DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator

CC: Ward 3 Council Member Steve Fletcher  
Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman  
Joe Tamburino, DMNA Board Chair