



# WEST SEVENTH STREET / FORT ROAD FEDERATION

882 7th St W Suite 6, St Paul, MN 55102 • 651.298.5599 • [fortroadfederation.org](http://fortroadfederation.org)

## **D9 Fort Road Federation Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

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This meeting was conducted virtually.

Call to order **6:35pm**, by Sara Fleetham

**Introductions** (name and neighborhood) - [Digital Sign-In](#) for guests

Sara Fleetham, Board Member

Julia McColley, Executive Director, FRF

John Yust, Board Member

Joe Landsberger, Community Member

Guests:

Laura Krause, Sr Transportation Planner, City of St. Paul Public Works

Bill Dermody, Principal City Planner, Planning and Economic Development, City of St. Paul

### **Agenda**

No objections to the agenda.

### **III. Community**

**Community Input** ....was received in the course of the meeting.

### **V. Committee Business**

#### **Action Items**

#### **1. Pleasant Avenue Reconstruction Project Overview - [Slides](#)**

Laura Krause presented a detailed overview of the Pleasant Avenue reconstruction project set to begin in 2025. The project aims to improve pedestrian connectivity, drainage, and safety while replacing pavement and underlying utilities. After input from the community, Laura shared that the project has been expanded to include Victoria and Jefferson, and encouraged the FRF and the community team to voice their questions or concerns. The project's scope is still being evaluated, with a public meeting planned for the fall. Some considerations discussed: drainage, natural springs and peat, wetlands, creating a shared use path, parking for events at the Ice Arena and the line queue for the Yard Waste site. Laura will speak directly with staff at the Yard Waste site and will see if any speed studies have been done on St. Clair and/or Jefferson to help inform the

project. More information and community input opportunity here: [Pleasant Avenue Reconstruction | Saint Paul Minnesota \(stpaul.gov\)](#) and/or [Laura.Krause@stpaul.gov](mailto:Laura.Krause@stpaul.gov)

## 2. St. Paul Drive Through Zoning Study and Proposed Changes

Bill Dermody discussed the potential changes to the zoning code in Saint Paul regarding drive-throughs. He highlighted the city's aim for more pedestrian and transit-oriented development and sought feedback on the potential changes. Bill shared a map of current drive-throughs across the city – banks, pharmacies, coffee shops and restaurants. Concerns raised from the study included stacking limits (cars in line), pedestrian access and environmental impact. There are no current restrictions for putting in a drive through in some B zoned areas.

The committee expressed discussed the potential impact of decreased drive-through services in their community, with concerns raised about accessibility, community connection, and the availability of delivery services. The impact of parking availability changes and access to business with the Riverview Corridor project were also discussed. The committee acknowledged banks and pharmacies needs are different than coffee shops and restaurants and agreed to prioritize the character of W7th Street. The committee was also specific regarding the desire for the city to remain nimble with zoning in the case of another COVID type emergency as it relates to business access for all.

Bill mentioned concern for W 7 th if no changes to zoning are made because so much of W 7 th is in a zone currently without drive through restrictions. Public Hearing is June 7. Bill asks for W7th/Fort Road Federation comment before June 7 to be included with the hearing documents.

A potential recommendation from the Planning Commission would most likely come in July and a decision by the City Council in the fall. [More information is available here.](#)

**The Transportation and Land Use Committee recommends that the Board support the proposed code amendments to significantly reduce new drive throughs.** This will not affect existing drive throughs.

## 3. Announcements:

Riverview Corridor Open House – Riverview Corridor will host a public meeting at Palace Community Center on May 14, 5pm-7pm. There will be information about the modern streetcar and arterial bus concepts, and an opportunity for public feedback.

Community Discussion – Structured conversation with neighbors about the future of West 7th and the Riverview Corridor project at CSPS Hall, June 4, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. The intention is not to agree on a preferred alternative (streetcar vs. bus), but rather we want to capture and share the values of our West 7th neighbors and advocate for what's important to our community, regardless of the mode of transit chosen. Feedback will be recorded, summarized, and shared with the Riverview Corridor Team, Councilmembers, and other parties.

## VI. Adjourn – 8:07 pm

### UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS:

- Next Meeting: June 5, 6:30 pm, Fort Road Federation Office