

February 20, 2019

Jason Staebell
Hennepin County Transportation
1600 Prairie Drive
Hamel, MN 55340

Dear Mr. Staebell,

Thank you for your leadership on the Webber 44 project. The Victory Neighborhood Association (ViNA) appreciates Hennepin County's efforts to make the County Road 152 corridor work better for the many Victory Neighborhood pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and drivers who travel it regularly.

As you are aware, County Road 152 where it approaches and crosses Penn Avenue has been the location of a number of serious crashes over the past five years. These crashes have had adverse impacts on the success of the businesses found at the intersection and on the real and perceived safety of residents and visitors traveling in the area. Small business development and safety are foremost priorities for ViNA and our residents, and in these interests, we feel it prudent to submit official feedback on the Webber 44 design concept as it pertains to the intersection of County Road 152 in the vicinity of Penn Avenue.



The Webber 44 project design between Penn and Newton Avenues.

With unique, on-the-ground insight regarding how neighbors use and travel the corridor, the Victory Neighborhood Association has identified the following Webber 44 design elements that may result in unfavorable reconstruction outcomes for the corridor's traffic safety and business vitality:

- The median found between the D Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations on 44th Avenue just east of Penn Avenue is painted. ViNA requests some or all of that median be replaced with a raised median to help prevent illegal passing while buses are stopped at the transit stations.
- The design concept does not include a left turn lane for those travelling west on 44th Avenue and needing to turn onto Penn Avenue heading south. Similar to the median situation described above, ViNA anticipates drivers making dangerous passing or turning maneuvers to travel around buses stopped at the westbound BRT station and feel a left turn lane would help mitigate these actions.
- ViNA also requests the westbound BRT station to be moved back to the originally proposed location one half block east, to the vicinity of 4401 Newton Avenue. We believe the newly

Victory Neighborhood Association

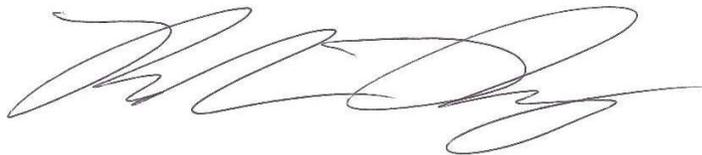
2200 44th Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412

proposed location near 2126 44th Avenue will take away important streetscape marketing opportunities for the three businesses located on that block and will result in transit access being further away from the corridor's single and multi-family residences.

Additionally, with the relocation of the BRT station, it is the hope of the Victory Neighborhood Association that parking can be restored to the north side of 44th Avenue's Oliver/Penn block. ViNA believes this will help the businesses located on that block to regain some of the customers they lost when parking was removed from the area five years ago.

We understand that there is limited property available to meet all of the needs of the corridor's users, but the Victory Neighborhood Association respectfully requests Hennepin County's thoughtful consideration of the issues we've described above. We welcome the opportunity to discuss potential solutions with county and Metro Transit staff and appreciate your willingness to ensure the Webber 44 project results in a safe and thriving roadway in Victory.

Sincerely,



Brandon Knez, Chair
Victory Neighborhood Association

CC: Commissioner Irene Fernando, Hennepin County
Bill Emory, Hennepin County
Paul Miller, City of Minneapolis
Cody Olson, Metro Transit
Robert Lilligren, Metropolitan Council