



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

*Traffic and Lighting Division
Paul St. Martin, Traffic Engineer
800 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Facsimile 651-298-4559*

January 13, 2014

To whom it may concern:

This letter serves as notice that the City of Saint Paul intends to build the third phase of the Marshall Green Street project at the intersection of Wilder and Marshall. As you may recall, after a series of community conversations in 2005 and 2006 about the future of Marshall Avenue, the Marshall Green Street project evolved with these goals:

- Improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers
- Provide a greener, more appealing gateway to the neighborhood and the city
- Provide pedestrian refuge at points along Marshall, creating a better north-south connection for pedestrians to safely cross to neighborhood businesses, bus stops, and other destinations

The Marshall Green Street project is aligned with several established city and neighborhood plans and policies:

- The Complete Streets policy, adopted in 2010, with the goal of designing and operating roadways with all users in mind – including bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
- The Merriam Park 2003 community plan to: improve pedestrian safety, increase green space, and reduce vehicle speeds.
- The Transportation Chapter of Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan to: improve safety and aesthetics for pedestrians, provide better access to transit use, integrate physical activity into daily routines, and increase accessibility by creating better connections within neighborhoods.

The planned project at Wilder and Marshall is the third phase of this ongoing project. Phase one of the project improved sections between Cretin and Cleveland Avenues as well as sections east of Fairview near Aldine. Phase two focused on the section between the Mississippi River and Cretin Avenue. The Wilder/Marshall intersection was identified as a high-priority location to improve pedestrian safety, due to the business district at Cleveland and Marshall. Center medians with pedestrian refuges have been shown to reduce vehicle speeds and crashes, including crash reductions at the intersections on Marshall where medians have already been installed.

The proposal for Wilder is for a planted median from mid-block between Cleveland and Wilder extending east to mid-block between Wilder and Moore, as shown in the drawing at the end of this letter. A planted median at this intersection will provide safe harbor for pedestrians who will only have to cross one lane of traffic at a time rather than three. The median will also reduce the number of left turn movements, and will therefore reduce conflict points between pedestrians and vehicles. It will also prevent mid-block u-turns that are common in this area among customers looking for street parking. The median will be planted with trees and native plants – like the other Marshall medians – to improve the aesthetics of the area, increase summer shade, reduce the urban heat island effect, and reduce the amount of impervious surface on Marshall, while modestly improving air quality. The median plantings will be maintained by the St. Paul Parks Department.

Process and timeline

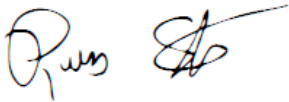
We are asking for community feedback on this planned project. There will be an opportunity for discussion via the Union Park District Council's Neighborhood Issues Committee meeting on **January 21, 6:00-7:30pm at Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St Anthony Ave.**

You can also provide feedback directly to Councilmember Stark by emailing ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us by 5pm on February 7.

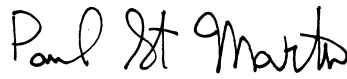
There will be a City Council public hearing on the budget amendment required to allocate the resources for this project. The project will NOT result in any changes to right-of-way assessments for neighboring property owners. The project will be paid for with a combination of City Capitol Improvement Budget funds allocated to traffic calming and pedestrian safety, as well as Neighborhood STAR Program capital funds that are allocated for neighborhood revitalization. The High Winds Fund at Macalester College is also assisting in financing this project. The project would be completed in the fall of 2014 and would cost \$130,000.

There will be a City Council public hearing on the budget amendment required to allocate resources to this project at 5:30pm on Wednesday, February 19, in City Council chambers on the 3rd floor of City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Sincerely,



Russ Stark
Ward 4 City Councilmember



Paul St. Martin
Assistant City Engineer, St Paul Public Works

