



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 4-26-11

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, May 17th, 9:30-11 am**

Items:

- 1) Central Corridor Pedestrian Lighting
- 2) Central Corridor Traffic Closures
- 3) Funders Collaborative Grant
- 4) Station Area Open Houses
- 5) Dining Out for Life
- 6) Central Corridor and Small Businesses
- 7) Central Corridor Forums
- 8) Bicyclist Fatality in Ward 2
- 9) Community Meeting on Neighborhood Programming
- 10) Urban Ag Plan Passes Council
- 11) Second Ward to Shrink
- 12) More Funding for Potholes
- 13) Emerald Ash Borer Spreads
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City is moving forward with pedestrian-level street lighting on the portions of University and Washington Avenues impacted by the Central Corridor LRT project. The City's general policy is to assess 100% of the costs of these lights to affected property owners, but in this case we have requested "betterment" funding from the Central Corridor project to help bring down the cost to property owners.
- 2) In mid-May, Central Corridor construction will close Washington to vehicle traffic between Pleasant and Oak streets until fall 2012. Metro Transit bus services will continue during construction but there will be detours to University Avenue and Fourth Street and major bus stop closures. For more construction updates, see www.centralcorridor.org.
- 3) I was glad to learn that PPERRIA was successful in securing a Central Corridor Funders Collaborative grant to develop a comprehensive predevelopment framework for the area surrounding the Prospect Park / 29th Ave SE Central Corridor LRT station. The area around this station is widely recognized as one of the best opportunities in Minneapolis for transformative redevelopment. I am very hopeful that PPERRIA's leadership in bringing together the participation of the appropriate stakeholders will help ensure that the development around the station will better serve the neighborhood and the City for years to come.
- 4) The City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and University of Minnesota invite everyone to discuss the future of the area between the U of M Campus and St Paul along Washington Ave and University Ave at two upcoming open houses: **Wednesday, April 27**, from 3-5pm at Rapson Hall, 89 Church St SE, or **Tuesday, May 3**, from 7-9pm at the Profile Event Center, 2630 University Ave SE. Come share your thoughts on parking and transportation challenges, market realities and development opportunities and growth and change, while keeping what we value. Meeting will include a brief presentation, followed by time for questions and discussion.
- 5) Please join me at Campus Pizza this **Thursday, April 28th** at noon, for Dining Out for Life, an annual fundraiser for the Aliveness Project, a local nonprofit organization that provides on-site meals, food shelf & other supportive services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families. To find other participating restaurants, visit www.diningoutforlife.com/Minneapolis. Thanks to other participating Ward 2 restaurants: the Birchwood Café, ChinDian Café, the Cupcake, Himalayan Restaurant, Pizza Luce in Seward, the Craftsman Restaurant, and the Weinery.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 6) The Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Met Council, the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative and Living Cities philanthropic collaborative have increased the amount of aid available to businesses along the route of the Central Corridor LRT to \$11 million, with more than \$6 million in forgivable loans and grants. The purpose of this program is to help businesses weather the impacts of construction. I have been very involved with Community Planning and Economic Development staff in the City's work on this proposal, and I hope that it helps keep our small businesses open through the construction of this important improvement to our transportation infrastructure.
- 7) The Central Corridor Community Agreements Coordinating Committee has organized two community forums on the Central Corridor LRT project's impacts on jobs and economic development. The first, which I will be moderating, is on **May 5th**, from 6-8pm, on Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Models. The second is on **May 10th**, 6-8:30pm, on Jobs and Careers, Central Corridor and Beyond. Both sessions will be held at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave W, Saint Paul.
- 8) As you have likely heard, a young woman was hit and killed on her bicycle at the corner of 15th Ave SE and 4th St SE last week. There is a very clear pattern emerging: of the last six bicycle fatalities in Minneapolis, four were caused by large trucks making turns. My office is organizing a meeting between members of Public Works, the Police Department, and the Attorney's Office to begin an interagency discussion about how best to address this deadly conflict between bicyclists and trucks. I also plan to hold a community meeting to get ideas from cyclists, truck drivers and others about how to prevent future deaths.
- 9) The Neighborhood and Community Relations department has scheduled four focus groups to gather input from neighborhood organizations around the City during the last two weeks of April. One of these meetings will take place on **Wednesday, April 27th**, from 6:30-8pm at Matthews Center. The purpose of these focus groups is to consult with neighborhood organizations prior to development of recommendations to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission and the City Council about neighborhood programs in 2012 and 2013.
- 10) The Urban Agriculture Plan has unanimously passed the City Council. I see this plan as a major step towards making Minneapolis a leader in the local food movement. It recommends allowing people to grow food commercially in Minneapolis for the first time, along with a host of recommendations that will make it easier for residents to start community gardens and grow food in their own backyards. I want to thank all of the community members who helped shape this plan, and who got engaged to make sure it made it through the Council process without major alterations. The plan will provide guidance for specific food-related land use, regulatory and zoning ordinance amendments that I hope to see in place by next year's growing season.
- 11) Demographic shifts over the last decade have left the Second Ward much more populous than the average ward. The Second Ward is going to get significantly smaller after the next redistricting. You can find more information and analysis of the 2010 Census results here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/census/2010.asp>, and on my blog.
- 12) On April 1st, the Council allocated an additional \$1 million to accelerate the City's pothole repair work to address the significant pothole problem resulting from this year's winter. Crews have been working all winter to temporarily patch potholes when they could, with the bulk of the work occurring since February. With warmer weather and asphalt plants open for the season, Public Works crews began making more permanent patches April 5. This additional funding means we will double the number of repair crews out patching potholes at the beginning of the summer construction and maintenance season. To report a pothole, please call 311, Monday through Friday, 7am-7pm. Public Works uses reports that come in from the public, as well as their observations in the field, to prioritize work and address street issues as efficiently and effectively as possible with the given resources.
- 13) Additional ash trees in Prospect Park have been confirmed to have Emerald Ash Borer. In addition, 5 trees are confirmed infected in Seward, along the top of the bluff between 33rd Avenue South and East 27th Street along West River Parkway, along with an additional 13 ash that are suspected of being infected. All of these trees will also be removed by MPRB Forestry staff. If you have an ash tree in your yard, please only prune it **before May 1** and **after Labor Day**. Only work on your ash tree when the emerald ash borer is dormant, because transporting any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.) helps spread the pest.
- 14) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board, Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Latino Advisory Committee, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Advisory Group for Redistricting 2011-2012, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Telecommunications Network, Thinc.GreenMSP Steering Committee, Workforce Council and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.