



TO: Transportation and Public Works Committee
RE: 15th Ave SE Lighting Project

SECIA

(see-key-ah)

**837 15th Avenue SE
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The Southeast Como

Improvement Association

works to maintain and enhance the

physical, social, and economic

environment of

our neighborhood.

Through programs that serve our

community's present and future

needs, through communication,

stewardship, and citizen

involvement, we strive to foster a

sense of community and to promote

the neighborhood as a vibrant place

to live and work.

Dear Transportation and Public Works Committee:

This letter is in regards to the proposed 15th Ave SE Lighting Project. The Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) supports this lighting initiative for several important reasons.

First, the addition of low level lighting should help to reduce the amount and severity of the crime along 15th Ave SE. In recent months the neighborhood has seen an alarming increase in the amount of muggings and aggravated assaults along this major SE Minneapolis thoroughfare.

Second, we feel the additional lights will add to the appeal of the businesses and rental units along the street. Again this is primarily due to the increased safety that this project will provide.

Finally, SECIA feels that the overall safety and livability of the SE Como neighborhood will be enhanced by providing a well lit and safe route from the University of Minnesota to Como Ave SE. There is a high amount of traffic, including bicycle, automotive and pedestrian, that would certainly benefit from improved lighting conditions.

SECIA has agreed to support this lighting initiative through promotion of the project, actively participating in collecting petitions and signatures, and in contributing funds to the overall initiative. The 15th Ave SE Lighting Project is an excellent step in promoting safety within the SE Como neighborhood.

**Lee Hibbard
SECIA President**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Office for Student Affairs
Office of the Associate Vice Provost
for Student Affairs*

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Minneapolis, MN 55455
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June 21, 2005

Transportation and Public Works Committee
c/o Beverly Warmka, P.E.
City of Minneapolis
Traffic and Parking Services Division
233 City Hall
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

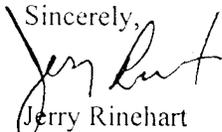
Dear Transportation and Public Works Committee:

I would like to express the support of the Office for Student Affairs for the low-level lighting initiative proposed for 15th Ave SE from 5th St SE to Como Ave near the University of Minnesota.

The mission of the Office for Student Affairs is to enhance the diverse educational, wellness, and personal development needs of our students and the University community. We support the academic and campus experience of all students in and out of the classroom. We also support initiatives that will positively impact the safety of our students who live in and walk through the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood.

Almost two years ago, the Panhellenic Council, an active group of over 500 student leaders, raised concerns about the level of lighting in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood along 15th Avenue SE and 4th and 5th Street SE where there is much student pedestrian traffic. These concerns were echoed by other neighborhood residents and also brought to the attention of the SE Como neighborhood and the 2nd Ward City Council member. The neighborhood associations sought out the opportunity to take advantage of the capital project slated for 15th Avenue SE and initiated the process to petition for a low-level lighting special assessment district. The Panhellenic Council continued to support this initiative and student tenants were then contacted to obtain their support as well. This project is a great example of the positive civic engagement of University students in their neighborhood and how they can partner with long-term residents to accomplish a shared goal. We strongly support the efforts of our students to realize the goals of this collaboration and feel it will benefit the pedestrians and community members who make use of 15th Avenue SE each day.

Sincerely,



Jerry Rinchart
Vice Provost for Student Affairs



Transportation and Public Works Committee
c/o Beverly Warmka, P.E.
City of Minneapolis
Traffic and Parking Services Division
233 City Hall
350 S 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

June 21, 2005

Dear Transportation and Public Works Committee:

We would like to express the support of the Panhellenic Council for the low-level lighting initiative proposed for 15th Avenue SE from 5th Street SE to Como Avenue near the University of Minnesota.

The Panhellenic Council is the governing body for sororities at the University of Minnesota. The foundation of each chapter at the University of Minnesota is focused on the importance of giving back to the community; not only to the campus community, but also to the Twin Cities community. Last year, Greeks at the University of Minnesota donated \$52,000 dollars and 6,400 hours of community service to various nonprofit organizations throughout the Twin Cities area. Students take time out of their hectic schedules to participate in neighborhood clean ups, volunteer at local shelters or organize events to raise money for a specific cause. Being involved in our civic activities gives students an opportunity to experience the "real world."

Almost two years ago, the Panhellenic Council, raised concerns about the level of lighting in the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood along 15th Avenue SE and 4th and 5th Street SE where there is much student pedestrian traffic. These concerns were echoed by other neighborhood residents and also brought to the attention of the SE Como neighborhood and the 2nd Ward City Council member. The neighborhood associations sought out the opportunity to take advantage of the capital project slated for 15th Avenue SE and initiated the process to petition for a low-level lighting special assessment district. The Panhellenic Council continued to support this initiative in conjunction with the Minnesota Student Association and student tenants were then contacted to obtain their support as well. This project is a great example of the positive civic engagement of University students in their neighborhood and how we can partner with long-term residents to accomplish a shared goal. We strongly support the efforts of our students to realize the goals of this collaboration and feel it will benefit the pedestrians and community members who make use of 15th Avenue SE each day.

Sincerely,

Kat Baugher
Executive Vice President, Panhellenic Council