



SECIA

(see-key-ah)

**837 15th Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN
55414**

**www.secomo.org
secomo@secomo.org**

612-676-1731



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.

March 10, 2010

Shaun Murphy
NTP Project Coordinator
Minneapolis Department of Public Works
350 S 5th Street, Room 233
Minneapolis, 55415

RE: Como Ave SE and 15th Ave SE Bike Lane Project

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Southeast Como Improvement Association (SECIA) passed two motions concerning the potential parking changes on Como Ave SE and 15th Ave SE at our March 2nd regularly scheduled Board meeting. Although SECIA is supportive of alternative transportation in general, and in encouraging increased cycling in particular, the Board has reservations about the removal of parking for the purposes of an on-street bicycle lane.

SECIA's first motion was to oppose the removal of parking on 15th Ave SE. This was not a unanimous decision, but instead was almost an even split among the present Board members. The major concern was the impact that the removal of parking would have on Van Cleve Park. Our park is the heart of the Como neighborhood and is extensively used by Como residents, University of Minnesota students, area schools, sports leagues and suburban residents. Parking is already at a premium, and losing 28 parking spaces on 15th Ave SE would only compound the problem.

SECIA's second motion was unanimous. If parking is removed from the east side of 15th Ave SE, then the SECIA Board believes that the remaining parking on the west side of 15th Ave SE must become restricted parking. SECIA feels that a 90-minute restriction, from 7 am until 5 pm, weekdays, would mitigate the loss of parking on the east side of the street. University of Minnesota students currently use 15th Ave SE as commuter parking when they take public transit to campus. Preventing this through enforced restricted parking would ensure that the remaining parking spaces on 15th Ave SE would be usable by Van Cleve Park visitors.

Finally, SECIA requests that if parking is removed from the east side of 15th Ave SE, that there be a special exemption for Southeast Christian Church (SECC) during their Sunday services. SECC has limited parking needs for the rest of the week, but they do require a substantial amount of additional parking on Sundays. Allowing SECC attendees to park on the east side of 15th Ave SE on Sundays, when traffic is considerably lighter



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and on-street bicycle riding would be possible, would preserve the ability of the church to serve the community.

SECIA recognizes the need for increased bicycle routes through the Como neighborhood, and fully supports the City's goal of increasing the use of cycling. We understand that 15th Ave SE is the most heavily used bike corridor in the metro and that increasing the safety of riders, pedestrians and drivers is important. However, we also want to ensure that Van Cleve Park and Southeast Christian Church are not negatively impacted by the City's goals to increase bicycle riding. We look forward to continuing to work with Public Works to find an equitable solution to enhancing the bike path system in Como while preserving our existing institutions.

Sincerely,

Wendy Menken
SECIA President

Cc: Council Members Reich and Gordon