

To: Minneapolis City Council
Minneapolis Public Works

From: Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: August 3, 2017

Subject: Resolution in support of the Water Works Park Project.

Water Works Park Project

The PAC overall supports the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Waterworks Park Project. The PAC appreciates the reactivation of this significant space at the terminus of the Stone Arch Bridge, a major pedestrian thoroughfare and connection. In particular, the PAC supports:

1. The year-round activation of space and provision of public restrooms;
2. The ADA- and Complete-Streets- compliant walking connection between 5th and 3rd Aves S;
3. The decision to bury electric lines in order to free up additional sidewalk space along 1st St S;
4. The exploration of the feasibility of narrowing the traffic lanes and tightening the curve of the road where 5th Ave S becomes 1st St S;
5. Traffic calming measures on West River Parkway, not solely at designated pedestrian crossings;
6. The stairs planned to provide a pedestrian connection between the 3rd Ave S Bridge and West River Parkway;

The PAC urges the design team to prioritize walkability by retaining all existing pedestrian routes and crossings, including the ADA-accessible Whitney ramp at 1st St S and 5th Ave S, even as more routes and connections are added. Instead of removing options for walking, we request that the MPRB explore design solutions, with the help of the City where needed, to reduce potential walk/bike and walk/drive conflicts.

The MPRB parks, including the Stone Arch Bridge, serve as year-round destinations, as well as year-round transportation connections, for those who walk and bike. We appreciate the design team's attention to walking and biking paths within this park, and urge the team to maintain this level of attention to the parks' functions within the broader walk/bike transportation networks. We strongly support the year-round maintenance, including snow clearance, of all walking and biking paths in this park.

Additionally, the PAC requests that the design team work with the City to explore the possibility of establishing 1st St S as a shared street.