

The Board of Directors of the Uptown Association and area businesses listed below reject the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Plan dated December 7, 2021 as recommended. We collectively request that the City of Minneapolis Public Works staff and other City of Minneapolis entities immediately begin to conduct a more thorough analysis, updated studies and ultimately begin to incorporate the views, suggestions, and proposals of the Hennepin Avenue business community into a new plan for Hennepin Avenue that is truly inclusive for all.

We are currently united by the following views:

- Pre-2020 assessments and assumptions used to inform the design are no longer valid or should be re-evaluated. Much has changed in Minneapolis including civil unrest, surges in crime and the Covid 19-pandemic; all which have caused further business distress and disruption of patterns in daily life – commuting, working, attending school, shopping and recreation.
- Design alternatives were not adequately examined. Eight months ago, we were presented with Options A and B. We made it clear we needed to see additional alternatives; nothing was offered. Specifically, a third option with suggested modifications which led to a compromised design was requested but never considered or presented.
- The elimination of parking along Hennepin from over 300 stalls down to 20 puts an undue hardship on businesses that are trying to recover from civil unrest, high criminal activity, and the pandemic. We have lost many businesses. We should be finding ways to make it easier to conduct business in the City of Minneapolis, not harder.
- The current proposed design re-casts Hennepin as a corridor to be “passed through”, rather than as home to a major commercial and residential district where people with different transportation profiles come to work, shop, dine, and more. Without significant modification, this project will adversely affect the entire Uptown community, threaten the viability of small and independent Uptown businesses and their employees and visitors, burden residential taxpayers, and provide yet another barrier to having an Uptown that can function as a vibrant commercial area.

The design failure of Hennepin Avenue South between Lake Street and 31st Street is a glimpse into what the future holds on the current path. That first phase has led to a botched urban space in the heart of our neighborhood. It is directly responsible for the exodus of longtime merchants and has created unfortunate vehicular flow and parking issues. Allowing for meaningful participation from the most directly affected stakeholders will ensure a better outcome for all.

SIGNED:

Uptown Association
5315 Minnehaha, LLC
7 Generation Games
809 LLC
AAA Labor
Aaron Meyers, Element Inc.
Amazing Thailand Bar & Restaurant
Amore Uptown, LLC
Anderson Urlacher P.A.
Andy's Diner
AUTOPIA
Barbette, Kim Bartmann
Blue Plate Restaurant Company
BOBBY BEAD, Inc.
Body and Mind Yoga Therapy
Brass Knuckle Tattoo Studio
Cara S Beames, MA, LP
Casablanca Barber
CJH Ltd.
Combine

Dana Fox PhD, Licensed Psychologist
Daymark Uptown Apartments
Diamond Stone Oriental Medicine, Inc.
energy creative, Natasha Greiling
Erin Ryan-Mosley
Familia skateshop
Fit 1st Running
Fletcher Properties, Inc.
FRATTALLONE'S HARDWARE AND GARDEN
Gavin Victor Hair Artisan
Granada Theater
Gray Fox
Graves Hospitality
Hannah Brehm
Harriet Living - Michael Doyle
Harvey Zuckman, FirstTech
HENN 25 SHOPS
Hennepin Lake Liquors
Hornig companies
Inbode
Irving Properties, Inc
Isles Auto Repair
Isles Bun and Coffee
Jeff Herman, Urban Anthology Inc.
JLS Consulting, Inc.
Joe Knapp
Kenwood Commercial
Kiku Bistro
Kitchen Window, Douglas Huemoeller
Koz R Us LLC
Kuva Salon
La La Homemade Ice Cream & Luncheonette
Lake & Irving
Lakes Area Realty of Mpls
Little Luxuries Nail Lounge
Live Close Minneapolis.com
Loop Parking Co.
Lowry Hill Liquors
Magers & Quinn
Maven CRE, LLC
Maymaygwayshi Enterprises Inc.
Mesa Pizza Uptown LLC
MetroPet Animal Hospital
Michael Brehm
Modesto Partners, LLC
Moxy Hotel
Namaste Café
New Horizon Academy
Nicholas Hall Realtor/ECCO property & business owner
Nico's Taco's
Nils Snyder - Kenwood Commercial
Nokomis Properties
Northpond Partners

Olympus Properties, LLC
One 21 Barbers
Osman Cleaners Inc.
Patricia A Werner Coldwell Banker Realty Realtor
Patricia L Fletcher, Inc.
Penzeys Spices
PKA Architecture
Red Cow
Reuter Walton Development, LLC
Revel Apartments
Rinata
ROAM FURNITURE and LIGHTING
Sally F. Hyslop, President/The RMF Group
Salons by JC
Sandy Thometz Coldwell Banker
Sarah Botcher, Black Walnut Bakery
Sooki & Mimi
Spectacle Shoppe
Spyhouse Coffee
Stella's Fish Cafe
Stilo Cuts Barber Shop-Uptown
Strong Mind Strong Body Foundation
STUDIYO23, 12 years on Hennepin
Sudz Salon
Tamates Mamacitas, LLC
Tara, LLC
The Ackerberg Group
The Cafe Meow
The Corner Balloon Shoppe
The Fremont and Hammer & Sickle
The Lowry
The new Uptown Cafe
The Pourhouse Uptown
The Tasting Room
The UPS Store - Uptown
The Uptown Diner
Troubadour Wine Bar
UB Assets LLC
Union Park Management / 917 Lake LLC
Uptown Square
Vital Print Press
Williams Uptown Pub & Peanut Bar
YogaFit Studios

CC:

Public Works & Infrastructure (PWI) Committee:

Andrew.Johnson@minneapolismn.gov

ward11@minneapolismn.gov

Elliott.Payne@minneapolismn.gov

Ward2@minneapolismn.gov

ward4@minneapolismn.gov

ward10@minneapolismn.gov

Lisa.Goodman@minneapolismn.gov

Brette.Hjelle@minneapolismn.gov

Mayor's Office:

Jacob.Frey@minneapolismn.gov

Director of Economic Development & Policy Inclusion: rebecca.fabunmi@minneapolismn.gov

Chief of Staff: Mychal.Vlatkovichi@minneapolismn.gov

Senior Policy Aide: Abdi.Salah@minneapolismn.gov

Margaret Anderson Kelliher

MnDOT_Commissioner@state.mn.us