

10.0 Another Massive Data Dump 4/21/23

[April 26, 2023](#)

After a Ramsey County judge ordered the City to release data, SOS volunteers have been sifting through the massive trove of emails and documents. Linked below are the most interesting of the emails from the 4/21/23 release.

The bottom line is that the city has from day one considered nothing other than an off-road trail, though there was no reason for them to do so.

A comment from the City's HunWen Westman following the June 6 Master Plan release clearly sums this up. A community member had asked if there were any options to an off-road trail. Westman's answer, as she reported to Mary Norton the day after:

I thought about this a bit afterward – how to shut this line of questioning down without stepping into their trap – and here's where I was headed:

No decisions are made. This project is tasked with putting forth a recommendation for what a regional trail on Summit Ave would look like if there was one. The process will continue to narrow down the range of options, at each step looking at remaining options more closely, until a recommendation is determined. The process could be linear or iterative depending on the results of closer examination at each step.

The quoted email has been mentioned previously in this blog, but it continues to underscore that the City had no intention of giving even cursory consideration to public feedback that did not support their desired trail style along Summit Avenue. Public Works had decided at the inception of the planning process that an off-road trail was going to be the only option. Whether it was to be one way or two way was the only option, which was decided internally.

The powers in charge (it's unclear who is calling the shots) were not going to allow staff to consider the ridiculousness of a suburban trail in an historic urban neighborhood. Staff followed directions and massaged the concept, data, and field conditions to give us the Frankenstein trail design we see before us.

Among the emails:

- There is evidence that dispels the "full reconstruction" myth, and it appears that Mayor Carter is only being told the happy story.
- It is evident that the Met Council is not a strong supporter of how PW is handling the Master Plan.
- There are interesting discussions with HPC and the Minnesota Historical Society about their jurisdiction, which appears to be predicated on funding source – federal or state, or both.

Safety Concerns/ Facility Selection

- Safety is an early drumbeat, but only a cursory one
 - Safety considerations appear to have been pushed out of the picture in later iterations as intersections, driveways, and congestion will together make the trail more dangerous.
- Still no data has been provided for the traffic count.
 - MNDOT shows 7,000 vehicles per day on the segments of Summit that are divided, but that count is a total of the east and west drive lanes.
 - This means that the 6,500 vehicle count recommended for a separated bike lane is bogus.
 - Only one segment (1.0 mile from Western to Lexington) falls short of the two-criteria simplified criteria
- MNDOT's *MN Bike Facility Design Manual*, (BFDM) has not been followed
 - Stipulates that "balanced and appropriate" solutions must be sought, particularly when there is a constrained right-of-way
 - Stipulates that "balanced and appropriate" solutions must be looked at in context and consider "compromised" solutions, such as alternate routes and/or decreasing the "comfort level" of cyclists (BFDM 3-7)

- SOLUTION: PARALLEL FACILITY "For example, if the form of the bike network is a grid, **a compromise on one segment may be acceptable given that a parallel route** may be available." (BFDM, 3-12)
 - ANALYSIS: The City has not allowed parallel route "by-pass" for the only segment of Summit that has traffic levels in excess of recommended for on-street bike lanes
- SOLUTION: "NEXT BEST FACILITY "Selecting the next best bicycle facility may mean that gaps in the network are not sufficiently filled. The selected facility may have a comfort level that doesn't meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities. (BFDM, 3-12)
 - ANALYSIS: The City has not allowed the next best facility (on-street bike lanes) to be considered for the only segment of Summit that has traffic levels in excess of recommended for on-street bike lane
- MNDOT's *Performance Based Design Manual*, (PBPD) is required by the BFDM, but it has not been followed. PBPD requires that cost, context, and results all be considered in road and facility design.

1. The road-building industry must do business in a more financially sustainable, results-oriented, and context sensitive way."

2. A more flexible and data-driven design approach is necessary to realize this objective.

(PBPD iii)

As rudimentary as that may sound, many projects suffer from the lack of that consideration or an inaccurate or incomplete assessment of needs, problems and potential opportunities, often as part of a rush to a solution. As often as a misplaced focus on dimensional standards can lead to solving problems that don't exist, overlooking problems or needs can result in projects that fail to address or even worsen them. (PBPD, 8)

We have to develop a narrative that tells the story to the broader public and decision makers.

Below find links to supporting documents obtained through our DPA requests.

 [126438 Summit Ave Regional Trail_Tech Memo 4-HT...](#)

 [June 6 Community Forum.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Summit Ave_ RT Master Plan - Public Meeting...](#)

 [Untitled 1.pdf](#)

 [Summit_Alignment Alternatives_DRAFT-2.pdf](#)

 [Summit_Alignment Alternatives_DRAFT 1.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Pioneer Press_ How much traffic on Summit A...](#)

 [FW_ Summit Ave_ - Design Next Steps 1.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Summit Ave Regional Trail Master Plan - dra...](#)

 [FW_ Summit Ave Regional Trail Master Plan - dra...](#)

 [126438 Summit Ave Regional Trail_Tech Memo 3 DR...](#)

 [RE_ Call Follow up \(4\).pdf](#)

 [FW_ Call Follow up \(1\).pdf](#)

 [20220629_Phasing and Implementation Coordinatio...](#)

 RE_HPC Review.pdf

 Meeting with Andy Rodriquez v4.pdf

 Forestry Follow-up Items_Summit Ave. Regional ...

 220817 Meeting Questions-Save Our Street_City R...

 Notes_Transition Studies.JPG.pdf

 Summit Ave_DAC_Guidelines 1.pdf

 RE_Summit Ave_ - Design Next Steps (1) (1) 1.pdf

 RE_SARPA Questions regarding Bicycle Trail on ...

 FW_Summit Ave_ RT Master Plan - Public Meeting...

 RE_Summit Ave_ Construction 1.pdf

 RE_Smmit avenue redesign 1.pdf

 MC_ADVANCE MEMO_DRAFT 1.docx

 FW_Briefing Memo_Summit.pdf

 20220822_Summit Ave. Regional Trail MP - Proje...

 20220725_SummitAve_Mtg Slides_Internal City Mtg...

 20221201.pdf

 20221114.pdf

 20220923.pdf

 20220808.pdf

 20220627.pdf

 20220527.pdf

 FW_ Summit Ave_ Regional Trail Master Plan - Ju...

 FW_ Summit Ave_ Regional Trail Master Plan - Ju...

 Fig 7 Regional Trails - Parks edit.pdf

 FW_ Regional Trails Bike Plan map update (1) 1.pdf

 20220812.pdf

 20220714.pdf

 20210225.pdf

 Summit Avenue Trail HP staff.docx

 RE_ Summit Avenue Regional Trail Master Plan_ S...

 RE_ Community Open House_ Summit Avenue Regiona...

 02_ Summit Ave Regional Trail_ Tech Memo 4_ 202007...

 02_ Saint Paul Bicycle Plan.pdf

 02_ MnDOT bicycle-facility-design-manual.pdf

 [02_FHWA_Bikeway Selection Guide.pdf](#)

 [02_FHWA Bicycle Facility Planning and Design Gu...](#)

 [02_Capital City Bikeway Network Study and Desig...](#)

 [AET Report- Summit Ave Reconstruction.pdf](#)

 [RE_ HPC Review \(1\).pdf](#)

 [SummitAve_SHPO-HPC_2022_jan 1.pdf](#)

 [SummitAve_Concept Sections_Formatted_May 2022.pdf](#)

 [Summit Stakeholders_Project Contacts.xlsx](#)

 [B & M #1 Summit Ave. Regional Trail - February ...](#)

 [Summit and HPC.pdf](#)

 [Saint Paul HPC Review Types.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Upcoming meeting - \(244\).pdf](#)

 [RE_ Summit Meeting notes.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Summit Avenue.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Summit Avenue Work.pdf](#)

 [RE_ Preserving the historic streetscape of Summ...](#)

 [RE_ Preserving the historic streetscape of Summ...](#)



RE_ HPC Review (135).pdf



RE_ FW_ Question regarding Summit Regional Trail...



Meeting Questions-Save Our Street_City Response...



Meeting Notes for Summit.pdf



FW_ Question For Public Information Session.pdf



FW_ HPC Coordination and Communications - Summi...



FW_ HPC - Summit Ave_ Preliminary Study.pdf



FW_ HPC - Summit Ave_ Preliminary Study (38).pdf



20210107_Summit Ave Trail_Met Council Meeting N...



20210106_Summit Ave Trail_SHPO-Meeting Notes.docx



20210103_Summit Ave Trail_PED-Meeting Notes.docx



2022-07-08_Planning Commission_Summit RTMP.pdf



summit_master_plan_SPBC_comments.pdf



Summit Meeting Prep.pdf



Summit Follow-up.pdf



Summit Bike Path Discussion with Andy Singer -...



Summit Avenue Briefing Materials.pdf

 Summit Ave Master Plan handout_.pdf

 RE_ Thanks for meeting_ Two brief followup ques...

 RE_ Summit Follow-up.pdf

 Re_ Summit Avenue Reconstruction.pdf

 RE_ Summit Avenue Reconstruction (1).pdf

 RE_ Summit Ave_ RT Master Plan - Public Meeting...

 Re_ Summit Ave_ Regional Trail Master Plan Foll...

 Re_ Summit Ave_ Reg_ Trail -- questions_ concer...

 Re_ Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Commission Me...

 RE_ Proposed Summit regional trail design.pdf

 RE_ P_S_ problem with data on engage st paul_.pdf

 RE_ One last comment_thought about the Summit A...

 RE_ important question about Summit Avenue bike...

 RE_ important question about Summit Avenue bike...

 Re_ HOLD - Open House_ Summit Avenue Regional T...

 Re_ FW_ RESCHEDULED_ March 9 Parks and Recreati...

 RE_ Feedback on Summit Bikeway proposals.pdf

 RE_ Feedback on Summit Ave_ Regional Trail Mast...

 Re_ Call Follow up (2).pdf

 RE_ brief meeting request regarding Summit Aven...

 RE_ Bike Coalition comments on Draft Summit Mas...

 P_S_ Re_ Summit Ave_ Regional Trail Master Plan...

 One last comment_thought about the Summit Avenu...

 Fwd_ Summit Avenue Regional Training.pdf

 Fwd_ P_S_ on Summit.pdf

 FW_ your survey about summit.pdf

 FW_ Summit Avenue_ 90% plan.pdf

 FW_ Summit Avenue Regional Trail - 90% Draft Do...

 FW_ Proposed Summit regional trail design.pdf

 FW_ Message from _PW-ADMIN4502_.pdf

 FW_ follow up regarding a Summit meeting.pdf

 Feedback on Summit Bikeway proposals.pdf

 Feedback on Summit Ave_ Regional Trail Master P...

 Cost Estimate Follow Up.pdf



20220812130553491 1.pdf



20220725_SummitAve_Mtg Slides_Internal City Mtg...



Notes_One-Way Street_PW.JPG.pdf



TM3 Attachment D_Summit Draft Evaluation Matrix...



TM3 Attachment C_Trail Configuration Alternativ...



Summit Avenue Plan PED 1986 09 09 Adopted as Pa...



Summit Ave Regional Trail_Tech Memo 3_Historic ...



Regional Trail Facility_ThriveMSP.JPG.pdf



Re_Summit Ave_RT Master Plan - Follow-up w_P...



RE_Summit Ave_Regional Trail Master Plan (1).pdf



RE_Summit Ave Bike Path (1) (2).pdf



RE_SPBC report on Summit Ave.pdf



Notes.pdf



FW_Summit Ave_Regional Trail Master Plan (1).pdf



126438 Summit Ave Regional Trail_Tech Memo 3 DR...



126160 Summit Ave Regional Trail_Tech Memo 1.docx



2020 Amendment RPPP clean 110.pdf



05_2022_Summit Ave Regional Trail MP Parking St...



04_Tech Memo#3_Attachments_Hist-Memo_Trail tran...



04_Summit Ave Regional Trail_Tech Memo 3 DRAFT ...