

Dear Mayor Frey,

I am writing today to address a crucial concern about the City of Minneapolis Public Works recommended design for Hennepin Ave South. I am reaching out on behalf of the businesses in Lowry Hill East.

The Public Works team deemed Hennepin as a 'pass through' and that is the intent with their design. Not to have people be able to easily access and visit the businesses which line it.

Lowry Hill East has three strong business avenues encapsulating it, Lyndale Ave, Lake Street, and Hennepin Ave South. We appreciate and love the businesses as they are the thing that makes the area so walkable and neat. That being said, in the current reconstruction proposal nearly all the parking access is removed from the street leaving businesses who have relied on the parking access for deliveries and general accessibility without that access. This removal of parking will make it so that delivery people, and all customers must park on residential streets as the parking areas shown on the Public Works current design is mainly private parking lots for either the usage of residents, a single business, or a few unique businesses. Delivery trucks and people with accessibility needs will have the most trouble and may no longer be able or willing to go to the trouble to support the businesses.

We believe there can be a redesign that considers the street and parking access needed by these businesses. A design that does not consider Hennepin a 'pass through' but densely packed business street that still brings multiple transit types in and is safe. Without parking it will force many of the businesses to leave and in turn residents will leave. This also will end up in many locals losing their jobs at the small businesses when they close.

The plan needs significant modification and for the businesses needs to also be addressed during the planning stages of the design otherwise it will not be truly a plan that is considering everyone.

All this being said we ask for you to help make it possible for us to keep our small businesses on Hennepin Ave.

We need your assistance to make this possible.

Sincerely
Jessica Burge



The Cafe Meow Team
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