

From: Letofsky, Cara
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Lamb, Brian; Harwood, James
Cc: Duininck, Adam
Subject: Some questions, comments, about that bridge

Brian and Jim,

I have some questions about the Downtown East Station bridge proposal in preparation for Wednesday's vote. I'll bet you've even had to answer some of these before I arrived on the Council, so thanks in advance for taking the time to get me some additional information.

First, when was this project added to Metro Transit's CIP, and can you send me the CIP that will show me the other projects that are on it?

Second, I've heard that Metro Transit has recently received funding for additional bus shelters and maybe additional system improvements. Can you get me the details of that funding, and what it will fund?

Third, it would be really helpful to have a diagram of the pedestrian flow from the stadium to the platforms. I know I asked at the Transportation Committee -- and even got an answer! -- but it's still not clear to me. Is the proposal to block off Chicago Ave to pedestrians, thus forcing people to go over the bridge? Don't some people get on the train on the stadium side of the trains? Anyway, I'm a map person, so do you have a map that will show this?

I will also encourage you to explain this project not so much as a problem to be solved because there will be lots of people coming to Vikings games. That perpetuates this idea that the Vikings are making us pay for something that they should be paying for and that it will only be used 8 days of the year. Instead you should pitch this as a needed station area enhancement because of the regional amenity that is being built adjacent to one of our busiest stations on the whole system.

To that end, I'd like to make sure that if this project goes ahead, that it goes ahead as a station area enhancement, just as much for the people who will use that stop the other 358 days of the year than for the hordes that will come for Vikings games. This can't just be a functional bridge inelegantly plopped onto a plaza meant only to get people onto trains and out of downtown as fast as possible. Instead it needs to be a signature bridge that facilitates and enhances the pedestrian experience, that incorporates public art components, as the rest of the stations on our system do.

So, last question: how is the community being brought into the conversation about the design of the bridge and it's impact on the station area?

Thanks in advance,

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