



October 18, 2021

Wes Kooistra
General Manager
Metro Transit
570 Sixth Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear Mr. Kooistra:

The City of Spring Lake Park was recently informed about proposed changes to bus service in Spring Lake Park as a result of Metro Transit's on-going litigation with Washington Prime Group. Primarily, the reroute of the Local Route 10 "N" branch and the Limited Stop Route 824 from Monroe Street to 81st Avenue. On behalf of the Spring Lake Park City Council, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed reroute and to encourage Metro Transit to utilize Osborne Road to University Avenue to 85th Avenue instead.

The City Council, over the past eight years, has been working diligently to reduce heavy vehicle traffic along our residential streets. On May 18, 2020, the City Council adopted a resolution removing a portion of 81st Avenue, between the University Avenue and Terrace Road, from the State Aid system. That resolution was accepted by MnDOT State Aid (Commissioner's Order No. 98661) on June 4, 2020. The City Council also placed a 10,000-pound gross weight restriction on a segment of 81st Avenue NE between the University Avenue Service Drive to Terrace Road NE, effective on May 18, 2020.

In addition, the City Council has serious concerns about safety and additional traffic at the intersection of 81st Avenue and University Avenue NE. There is significant congestion during peak times at this intersection. While the City is working with MnDOT on identifying potential improvements to this intersection as part of the University Avenue PEL process, the City Council does not believe the intersection has the capacity to handle additional bus traffic in addition to the current vehicular traffic.

The City Council believes that Osborne Road (Anoka County CSAH 8) is a much better alternative to 81st Avenue. It is a more commercial corridor with a wider right-of-way that can accommodate bus traffic. The recent improvements Anoka County made to the intersection of Osborne Road and University Avenue provide the capacity to handle additional traffic.

The City Council supports maintaining and improving the current bus stop on University Avenue, north of 81st Avenue, which can be serviced as proposed with the route we are proposing.

If you have any questions about the City Council's position, please don't hesitate to contact City Hall at 763-784-6491.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Nelson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Nelson
Mayor

cc: Members of the Spring Lake Park City Council
Daniel Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer
Phil Gravel, City Engineer
Melissa Barnes, North Area Manager, MnDOT Metro District
Victoria Dan, Transit Planner, Metro Transit