There’s no sugarcoating it: 2020 has been an extremely challenging year so far. From the COVID-19 pandemic and closure of schools and businesses, to the murder of George Floyd and subsequent unrest, our community has been roiled like never before. (Read our statement on George Floyd on page 2). Yet through it all, the Midtown Greenway has remained a crucial and well-used trail, providing healthy and safe transportation for thousands of people every day.

The Greenway has been especially busy during the COVID-19 crisis, as more and more people turn to bicycling (and walking) to get to work and get outside. People are also biking on the Greenway to pick up carryout from local restaurants and breweries.

The Greenway is also a vital corridor for essential healthcare workers. Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Children’s Hospital are located near the Greenway, and it’s common to see healthcare workers biking to work on the trail. Allina Health’s HQ is also on the Greenway, and while many employees are working remotely, there are several clinics near the Greenway that have remained open.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition has been working to support the many Lake Street businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic and the rioting. In addition to encouraging our supporters to order carryout from Lake Street businesses and breweries, we’ve been asking everyone to consider donating to the We Love Lake Street campaign, to help Lake Street businesses rebuild. To make a donation, visit www.welovelakestreet.com.

While times are tough, the Greenway is connecting our community and serving as a place for alternative transportation and outdoor recreation. As the organization that had the idea for the Greenway and now works to protect it, we’re proud that it has become a well-loved and well-used bikeway. And we’re thankful for our donors, who support our work to keep the Midtown Greenway the best urban bike trail in the nation.
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As an organization committed to racial equity, we share our community’s grief and anger over the murder of George Floyd. The Midtown Greenway Coalition supports fundamental changes that will make our public spaces equitable and safe for all, and we will work toward that goal in partnership with our community.

We also feel for the many local business owners and employees who lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic and the rioting. Our office is located near the Midtown Global Market and we are part of the Lake Street community. As our community recovers, we will continue to look for ways to help rebuild the Lake Street corridor and support small businesses.

Like many of you, we’ve been working remotely a lot, but we’ve been closely monitoring several Greenway projects, including the new bridge being built at Fremont Avenue. For that project, we informed Hennepin County that we did not feel they were working hard enough to minimize detours and keep the Greenway open. We expect them to work much harder next time, and we will continue to keep a close eye on future bridge construction projects.

We are also pleased to report that our work to Extend the Greenway over the river and through Saint Paul continues. In partnership with the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition and others, we strongly supported adding a bike-ped trail to Ayd Mill Road. Hundreds of our members wrote in to support the trail addition, which was narrowly approved by the Saint Paul City Council. The calls and e-mails from our members made a big impact – thank you! This is a great victory and will increase the likelihood of a connection to the Midtown Greenway in the future.

Our other programs for the Greenway also continue, including (socially-distanced) trail clean-ups and our Trail Watch community-led bike patrol. We’re also planning for a socially-distanced version of the Greenway Glow Arts Festival in September.

We can help keep the Greenway clean, green, and full of public art – and equitable and safe for everyone – thanks to our donors. We appreciate your support.

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION STATEMENT ON GEORGE FLOYD

We are heartbroken by the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police Department officers. As a South Minneapolis-based organization that advocates for equity and justice in our outdoor spaces, we stand with the Black Lives Matter movement and George Floyd’s family. All members of our community should feel safe and secure on Minneapolis streets and bikeways.

George Floyd’s murder was a tragedy. His life mattered. Demand justice. Push for fundamental changes to our systems that will make our public spaces safe for all.

MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION BOARD MEMBERS

Jane Connelly
Lauren Kramer
Board Vice President
Peter Mason
Michael Nelson
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AYD MILL VICTORY!

NEW TRAIL WOULD BE PART OF MIDTOWN GREENWAY EXTENSION

This past April we celebrated a huge win, when the St. Paul City Council narrowly approved a new bike-ped trail for Ayd Mill Road. This new trail would connect to a future Midtown Greenway extension over the river. In the meantime, it will be a great new commuter trail that will help connect cyclists and pedestrians to local businesses, schools, and amenities.

Thanks to everyone who supported this new trail. Your e-mails, calls, letters, and online comments made a huge difference. The City Council vote was very close (4-3), but we won!

Special thanks to our Extend the Greenway Partner organizations for supporting this effort, including:

- Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
- Neighborhoods First
- Sierra Club North Star Chapter
- Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota
- Move Minnesota
- Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota
- Twin Cities Adaptive Cycling Program
- Union Park District Council
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota

Now, let’s get the Midtown Greenway extended over the river!

WHO WE ARE

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a coalition of individuals and organizations who love the Midtown Greenway. We’re the organization that got the Greenway built by public agencies, and now we work to protect and enhance it. We grow stronger with each new member. Join us to help protect YOUR Greenway and make it even better!

Artist illustration of the new bike-ped trail coming to Ayd Mill Road in St. Paul. The new trail could connect to a future Midtown Greenway extension. Illustration courtesy of the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition.
GREENWAY GLOW RESCHEDULED

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we have decided to move the Greenway Glow Arts Festival to Saturday, September 26th. More details TBD, but as always, local artists will set up installations and have performances on the Greenway.

To keep everyone healthy, we will be implementing social-distancing procedures for visiting the various sculptures and performances.

Please follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/midtowngreenway for updates on the event.

RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________________________ 
Phone, E-mail _____________________________________
☐ $250 – Greenway Angel
☐ $100 – Greenway Patron
☐ $50 – Greenway Advocate
☐ $25 – Greenway Sponsor
☐ Business $____________
☐ Any amount comfortable for you $_____________
☐ Yes, I want to volunteer
My main interest is: ___________________________________

Please make your check payable to: “Midtown Greenway Coalition”
and mail to: Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Avenue South, Greenway Level, Suite 2
Minneapolis, MN  55407
or donate at www.midtowngreenway.org