

East Calhoun Community Organization



April 5, 2013

David Rubedor, Director
Neighborhood and Community Relations
City of Minneapolis
Public Service Center, Room 110
250 S. Fourth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: 2012-13 Neighborhood Priority Plan

Dear Mr. Rubedor:

At its meeting on April 4, 2013, the East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO) board approved a request to allocate \$8,990.14 reserved for our 2012-13 Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) in the following manner:

Distribute \$8,990.14 of 2012-13 Community Participation Program funds in tandem with the following NRP Phase II plan strategy:

4.1.2.1, *Environmental Improvement Projects*

Strategy: "Identify environmental organizations willing to pursue environmental improvement projects with East Calhoun residents."

These funds will be used to address the following priority:

The Minneapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) will work with the East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO) on completion of a bikeway, pedestrian space and transit improvements along W 36th Street from East Lake Calhoun Parkway to Bryant Ave S. The project will include installation of a pedestrian space on the southern side of the road, a protected bikeway, and improved spaces for transit riders to safely access bus stops.

Background

East Calhoun has been a leader among Minneapolis neighborhoods to focus on environmental issues. East Calhoun was a pilot neighborhood for curbside organics collection and one-sort recycling. East Calhoun has been awarded two grants from Hennepin County to work on waste reduction efforts.

The CARAG has been working on a priority to create better bicycle and pedestrian access from their neighborhood to Lake Calhoun. CARAG invited East Calhoun to become a partner in engaging the City to create a bikeway on 36th Street.

Neighborhood Support

In June 2012, the ECCO Board convened a committee to begin working on our Neighborhood Priority Plan. Residents were invited to share ideas for priorities through ads in our community newspaper, notices in our e-newsletter and comment cards at our annual Labor Day Celebration. The committee studied the suggested ideas for feasibility. The list was narrowed to three ideas. In September 2012, a postcard mailing went to all East Calhoun residents outlining the three potential projects and offering the opportunity to contribute another idea for a project. Residents were invited to vote for one project by returning the postcard, completing an online survey or voting in person at East Calhoun Annual Meeting in October.

The Annual Meeting featured information about the Neighborhood Priority Plan process, outlining the three potential projects, and opening a discussion for new ideas; followed by a vote of attendees.

The 36th St Bike Lane project received the most votes from the combined voting methods of returned postcards, online surveys and in-person voting at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your review and approval of this important neighborhood priority.

Sincerely,



Sarah Sponheim, President
East Calhoun Community Organization Board

Cc: Monica Smith
Jack Whitehurst, NCR
David Peterson, Minneapolis Public Works