

Subject:

FW: Oppose Cass St Vacation

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin G <germino.kevin@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:28 PM

To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>

Cc: Brostoff, Jonathan <Jonathan.Brostoff@milwaukee.gov>; Mayor <mayor@milwaukee.gov>

Subject: Oppose Cass St Vacation

I couldn't make the committee meeting, but I oppose allowing NM to take possession of the Cass St ROW without a commitment to provide permanent 24/7 through access for pedestrians and cyclists. The grid is one of Milwaukee's strengths, we see the issues in West Town partially caused by large privatized super blocks. They make it more difficult to navigate the neighborhood, the time and distance penalty is particularly severe for non-drivers, and push more traffic onto the remaining streets which makes them even less pleasant for everyone.

NM has not been a good neighbor for vulnerable road users in recent years. The commons project replaced functional bus shelters with ones that prioritize aesthetics over providing shelter from the weather. The same project removed open access on Cass St south of Mason, which cut off a safe and comfortable access point between the eastern edge of downtown and the neighborhood to the north. There is routinely an executive black car parked in the bike lane on Mason waiting for their rider. Now they are asking to take another block for their private benefit, which will only exacerbate these issues.

We just got burned by Master Lock, we're already feeling the pain of giving too much control to NM, and we know that a small pedestrian focused grid is key to Milwaukee's growth and continued success. I hope can learn from our mistakes and find a different path.

Kevin Germino

Subject:

FW: DPW committee meeting

From: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Jake Newborn <jake.newborn@wisconsinbikefed.org>
Cc: DeLessio-Parson, Ax <Axdp@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: DPW committee meeting

Thanks for the clarification.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 28, 2023, at 10:46 AM, Jake Newborn <jake.newborn@wisconsinbikefed.org> wrote:

I was listening today and would like to point out some clarity issues. No one from the Wisconsin Bike Fed sits on the city's Bike and Ped Advisory Council. These are two separate groups and entities. Bike Fed made no official stance or comments on The Cass St. vacation issue.

Jake Newborn (he/him)
Assistant Director
WISCONSIN BIKE FED
187 E Becher St. Suite B
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Cell: 414-253-3331

Have I helped you at all today?
If so, please consider joining the Wisconsin Bike Fed!

Subject:

FW: Cass Street Vacation Opposition

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitchell Henke <mitchell@mitchellhenke.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 12:40 PM

To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>

Subject: Cass Street Vacation Opposition

Hello Alderman Bauman,

I want to be clear that my lack of attendance this morning does not constitute approval of the vacation as proposed. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee also placed their official opposition in the file and has not issued a new stance since then. I used my personal vacation time on Monday to appear before the City Plan Commission, and I was not able to make another long public meeting this morning. The air is also still very much in my tires 😊

I do appreciate your clear explanation of what was at stake and what was being proposed.

Thanks,

- Mitch

Melendez, Yadira

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 8:53 AM
To: Melendez, Yadira
Subject: FW: Northwestern Mutual & Cass St closure

For the file

From: Jeff Niesen <Jeff.Niesen@Boldt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 8:19 AM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Amy Niesen <amyniesen3@gmail.com>; Crump, Lafayette <Lafayette.Crump@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Northwestern Mutual & Cass St closure

Good morning Alder Bauman, my name is Jeff Niesen and my wife, and I live at 545 E Wells St Unit 700. While I appreciate what Northwestern Mutual's dedication and investment in our neighborhood, I am concerned about the additional closure of a neighborhood street. The notion of the enclosed plaza being "open to the public" is not the impression you get of the original Cass St closure a couple years ago. The limited hours of accessibility and the formality of the current building do not make the space inviting, rather it feels intimidating.

It seems that this additional closure is all but inevitable, but I would request that you push for a more inviting space with ideally 24/7 accessibility. My families use of those spaces would typically be after normal business hours as that is when we are more likely to be out in the neighborhood.

Any help in keeping this space a real part of the neighborhood would be appreciated.

Jeffery T. Niesen (Jeff) (he/him/his)
Executive Vice President Strategic Projects

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Melendez, Yadira

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 8:52 AM
To: Melendez, Yadira
Subject: FW: Cass street vacation, Public works committee file #230046

For the file

From: Charlie Megenity <charlie.megenity@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 8:30 AM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Melendez, Yadira <Yadira.Melendez@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Cass street vacation, Public works committee file #230046

Hi Ald Bauman,

My name is Charlie Megenity, I live in your district (East Town) with my wife and children.

I'm writing regarding the Cass Street vacation item in front of the public works committee. I appreciate the work NM is doing, but I urge you to only support the vacation if 24/7 bike and pedestrian access is provided.

NM development has already disrupted the grid on Cass between Mason and Wisconsin, which makes getting around downtown more difficult for people who aren't in cars. This change would exacerbate the problem.

And even during the hours when there's pedestrian access on paper (during business hours), to me, that space is still functionally blocked off. The walkway that's available today between Mason and Wisconsin provides no visual indication to pedestrians that they can get through. It just looks like an entrance to a corporate office building.

Again, I support the overall plan given the other improvements that NM will be making in the area. But this particular piece is not well reasoned and creates infrastructure that is hostile to non-NM employees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charlie Megenity
1108 N Milwaukee St