



HIGHLAND

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Development Committee Minutes

April 7, 2026 6:30 pm

This additional Committee meeting was called to review the **Cleveland Curb Cut** proposal by St Catherine's University.

Present: Tim Morehead, Chair, John Kennedy, Patti Brady, Kathy Bell, Lorna Schmidt, Kathy Schubert

Guests: Michael Hara, Sr. Director of Facilities, St Katherine Univ., Justin Lester, Kimley Horn Design Consultant for St Cates.

Neighbors (12-14) present to ask questions and provide comments on the proposal for a new intersection at Watson and Cleveland.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a quorum present. The prior meeting's minutes were approved as corrected.

Cleveland Ave entrance project

Short presentations were made by guests on the rationale and plan to construct a new entrance/exit at Watson St. and Cleveland.

Key points:

- Location at Watson was chosen because other routes would invade wetlands, take away more trees and stormwater drains exist at Watson.
- The rationale provided focused on the amount of internal circulation of students seeking parking within the campus given the current entrances and internal roadways. Faster access for emergency vehicles to certain dormitories in the west end was also provided as a reason.
- No other neighborhood or community benefits were identified.

Question Period Neighbors (N) HDC rep. (HDC)

N1 and 2. Two neighbors asked questions about utilization of campus parking lots. Answer, a study was done by Kimley Horn 3 years ago and found the OShaughnessy Lot cap. 564,



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use at 1/3 cap, or 200. The west lot, Dew Drop, Cap. 334, usage at 50%. More resident students now.

N3. An engineer neighbor recommended if it were to go forward, it should be Right Turn only Egress and Exit for safety, due to auto traffic congestion, bike and pedestrian traffic and safety.

N4. Opposed to location at the intersection and if well-conceived, should be at the midblock. Watson already highly used, will be more attractive as a *short cut* to Cretin and disrupt the safety and use of the street by neighbors. Another question was raised about emergency vehicles fitting the turn.

HDC. Questioned the time advantage for emergency response with the proposal and compared to the current entrance. This should be studied and reported. Answer: A Traffic Study at peak traffic and student peak will be done in the next few weeks

N5. When the Traffic study is done, will the neighbors have an opportunity to review it and the proposal again? Answer: Was not given or was unclear.

N6. There are many small children in the neighborhood and an elementary school nearby. Parents are concerned about safety even when walking with their children to school.

N7. States he is firmly opposed because the dozen or more kids' safety who live on the Watson block is at issue. All living there will experience the increased flow in general and specifically the "thru way" west on Watson to Cretin.

N8. All other entrances to the University are mid-block. It seems unsafe (to create a new intersection) and unfair. The (west) parking lots added have pushed runoff water elsewhere, creating more wetland; this makes another option difficult.

HDC. What about sidewalk access? City and county wants pedestrians, bikes.

N9. A question about shifting the exit toward Bayard and commenting negatively about tampering previously with wetlands.

HDC. Historically the natural woods were an excellent community asset, now is diminished. What alternatives to solving the problem are in consideration? The OShaughnessy lot is in bad condition and is under used. A parking ramp there would



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concentrate parking nearer the East entrance and would reduce impermeable surface area. Answer: The lot is old and in poor condition and we have been considering a parking ramp. Cost is a consideration and using a phased approach.

N10. A wholistic study is needed (on the campus) on all impacts. If the entrance is done, it must be one way.

N 11. Fairview fire station is a direct shot to the East entrance.

N12 Concern about pedestrians, and access to campus on foot. What alternatives to driving and parking are being encouraged, car sharing, biking, and Our Car hub options offered?

N13. St Cates does what is efficient and cheapest for them, and what is most impactful to us as neighbors.

N14. A second request for another opportunity for the neighborhood to review the emerging plan.

HDC. Kathy Carruth explained that all written comments submitted have been forwarded to the City and County. Today's meeting summary will be completed and likewise forwarded.

Old Business: The resolution to support the variances at Highland Bridge Block 5 has been submitted to the City of St Paul. The scheduled BZA hearing date is on April 27, so the timing did not work to bring the resolution to the Board.

New Business: Vacant lot. Patti's concern about keeping momentum going to turn the MnDOT parking lot across from Buca into usable land. Maybe a dog park or something. MnDOT will be at the Annual Meeting, so we can talk to them there.

Adjourn: 7:50pm

Submitted by Kathy Schubert