

Mish, Catherine

From: jtalen@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2009 9:46 PM
To: PVarga@ridetherapid.org
Cc: Heartwell, George; rosalyannbliss@hotmail.com; davidlagrand@hotmail.com; heritage@heritagehillweb.org
Subject: Re: Silver Line Route

Peter,

A group of folks met, today, to discuss the Lafayette Avenue route situation. I agreed to try to convey, to you, Heritage Hill's interest in getting a commitment from the ITP board, this week, to avoiding residential streets in Heritage Hill on the Silver Line route.

I'll give you a call Monday afternoon, shortly after 1 pm, and will fill you in on the details. I'm still hopeful that something can be worked out to satisfy the various interests.

Thanks!

JimT

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

From: Peter Varga <PVarga@ridetherapid.org>
To: jtalen@aol.com
Sent: Sat, 18 Apr 2009 10:32 am
Subject: RE: Silver Line Route

You can call me between 1 and 2 Monday or between 8 and 11 Tuesday. Peter or give me a number to call.

Peter J Varga

CEO

The Rapid

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

From: "jtalen@aol.com" <jtalen@aol.com>
To: "PVarga@ridetherapid.org" <PVarga@ridetherapid.org>
Sent: 4/17/09 3:30 PM
Subject: Silver Line Route

Peter,

I substantially

7/2/2009

23.

prepared this message yesterday, prior to reports, late in the afternoon, that things had been "fixed". I was disappointed to hear again, today, that the issue of the Silver Line route running on a Heritage Hill residential street will not be officially acted on until after May 5

Like many others in my neighborhood, I am fully in support of the concept of bringing rapid transit to greater Grand Rapids and have gone on record in support of the Silver Line millage. I want to see the millage pass. However, I understood, after a meeting that I attended at the ITP office on April 1, that the route would be changed so that it wouldn't go down Lafayette Avenue. That change was conveyed in a letter to the Heritage Hill Association and the Association responded with a letter of support.

I am now hearing that the agreed upon route change is not as solid as we came away believing - that it may still be possible to return to a route that includes Lafayette Avenue after May 5. Lafayette is a residential street that gets very narrow in the wintertime and I don't believe that it is an appropriate leg for a rapid transit system.

I've been involved in elections for a long time (though not quite as long as David). I know that the current positive support for the May 5 millage can turn on a dime, even on the weekend before the vote. This Lafayette Avenue issue has the potential to ruin the efforts of so many who have worked so hard for a positive outcome.

It is so important to resolve this as soon as possible - near or after the election is too late, in my opinion. It would be great to get concerned parties together, early next week at the latest.

I want to continue to support the Silver Line millage but feel that I will need to reconsider that support if we can't work out a route that avoids Lafayette Avenue.

7/2/2009

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Peter, I appreciate your work and your vision for the role of transit in our community. I hope we can find a way to get everyone back on board with this project as soon as possible.

Regards,

Jim Talen

Kent County Commissioner - 16th District

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