

1. *I advocate for the design with the additional bumpouts. However, I would also urge the City to extend the curb and paint crosswalks on both sides, not just the west side, of intersections. People walking are unlikely to cross the street to reach the extended curb or the marked crosswalk. I am glad to see the first steps toward the railroad quiet zone in both options.*
2. *I strongly believe that these bump outs for pedestrians do more harm than they do good. Especially in times such as these, they are only a larger obstacle for the ever growing snow piles. Furthermore, they offer no room for 2 cars to drive through, as a road should be able to do. The ones that are already put in in town are dangerous. I have had countless near collisions from not having room to drive between the bumped out curb, and because people assume it is a four way stop and pull out in front. I am afraid Northfield will continue to put these in despite causing more issues. There has to be an alternative to increase pedestrian safety while keeping roads safe.*
3. *As a 38year long resident of Northfield I'm frustrated and disappointed in the outcome of the revision on Division Street from 6th to 8th disallowing a tight if not nearly impossible turning radius onto Division, in/out of Family Fare and CRB businesses. There is a definite rise at 8th going south- I would guess this is deemed unsatisfactory and will be altered. The same turning radius is true onto Washington from 7th. Parking feels reduced and somehow it's more difficult to cross Division on 7th going east with reduced visibility until you are out in the lane of traffic. You may forward my thoughts to the Third Street corridor project- just go with upgraded streets and standard parking.*
4. *In respect for your time at the Council meeting tonight, I am writing (vs. speaking at the meeting). I very much appreciate staff's responses outlined in the packet that address some of the public concerns expressed at the last Council meeting – specifically, reconsideration of the 3rd St plan to reflect some of the unique functions and components of the street with current and future mixed uses (vs. a purely residential street). While modifications for the 3rd St. reclamation that reflect the cited current City plans is likely to require more staff time and possibly more cost than currently planned, it represents an opportunity to plan for the future with staged enhancements to this unique and critical gateway to downtown and is likely to result in long-term savings. Such planning and enhancements will benefit those in the area, but also the larger community.*
5. *as far as i can make out, the major difference is the number of bump-outs--is that right? if so, i think i prefer option 2 but if the price is going to be much higher for the two additional sets of bump outs then that might be an issue.*
6. *I have a few items of feedback regarding the revised Third Street Corridor plan:*
 - 2) *The new plan shows two new canopy trees to be installed in front of the theater - we DO NOT want this. Our goal is to ensure visibility of the theater from the street. No trees or, at most, ornamental trees would be vastly preferred*

3) If a plaza is built in front of the Guild Theater, it would be wonderful if it has a ramp to street level. As a drop off zone, it would make a big difference if it was accessible to all.

4) Our neighbors mentioned that parking during plays sometimes blocks their driveways - as this is a downtown district, could curbs be painted yellow as they are downtown for no parking zones including, a) on driveways, b) in the plaza's drop off zone. I imagine this will help around the quiet zones as well.

5) The plaza benches in front of the Guild Theater are changed from the last drawing. Are they built in or purchased/placed (i.e., stone or purchased benches)? What material are they?

6) Can we remove the "public sculpture" placement options on the median in front of the Guild Theater? We already have a public sculpture on the property (and placement will be more prominent in the near future), and we hope to keep sightlines open from the street to the theater.

7. First, let me note my appreciation for your willingness to reconsider the plans for this particular street among the many that are included in the street reclamation project. Thank you for the extra effort it has taken. I firmly believe, however, that the time and the extra expense for the added features will benefit this area of town and provide an appropriate gateway to the downtown area - a gateway that is safer by slowing the fast traffic on 3rd St.; friendly to pedestrians (those in neighborhood and those going to the public theater, church and school) and provides an attractive street leading to the nearby downtown.

The strengths that I see that accomplish the above:

Significant traffic calming features: bump-outs, different colors of pavement, and landscaping (particularly the larger trees).

Pedestrian friendly and safe: safety features (traffic calming features above); seating along the sidewalk, and ADA accessible curb-side drop off at Arts Guild

Pleasant and inviting: All of the above plus special downtown lighting, sculpture pad, and landscaping.

I think all features are such a significant improvement for this street that was just "crying" for what you are planning.

Features for which I do not think I should make a judgement:

1) Plan 2 that includes 4 bumpouts vs. 2 in Plan 1. If that were my street, I would love to have bumpouts at all 4 corners. We have one on 5th & Washington a couple of blocks away and it is wonderful. I see children crossing safely there where they used to dart across. They seem to feel safer.

2) The amenities at the Arts Guild. I don't know what the Arts Guild has requested. As a patron of that theater, I think it will make it much more inviting and pleasant. The

benches will serve well those who need to be seated while visiting the theater or rest whether going to the theater or while a pedestrian. It seems an asset to me, but I have not consulted the Arts Guild.

Thank you so much for a job extremely well done!

- 8. I just wanted to submit my comments for the third street construction plan. If these plans are anything like the construction that was done on Division Street in front of Family Fair/Econo foods please reconsider and do a much simpler plan! The roads are so narrow it makes it hard for two cars to pass each other especially during the winter months. It also makes parking difficult because when it snows there's nowhere for the snow to go when they plow, which makes the streets even more narrow and difficult to drive down, and parking a bigger issue. I run two businesses on Division Street with limited parking already being a huge issue, the added issue of the narrow streets further along down Division Street will make deliveries, snow removal, and parking even more challenging. Thank you for considering my comments and please let me know if you have any questions for me.*
- 9. You are looking for some feed back on the 3rd street project. Here is my feedback. Why are we wasting tax payer dollars on so much which is not needed? The most cost effective thing to do would be to repair/replace the infrastructure that needs to be replaced, repair the C&G that needs to be redone repair/add/replace the sidewalks where needed and repave. I understand development and costs that go into these projects. Seems like we waste a ton of extra money hiring designers to design things not needed. The engineering costs these projects have are expensive enough without adding design costs and then implementing these designs that are not needed. This section of street has functioned properly for years as is and doesn't need all the fancy crap that is being proposed. Please stop wasting our money on elaborate projects that are unnecessary. The Division street project is one of the most wasteful projects done and the city is about to repeat it.*
- 10. Please consider scaling back on this project. I don't regularly travel this road since I live on the other side of town, but others have said it is definitely in need of repair. I would recommend doing what needs to be done, and spending extra money on trying to add to our tax base. Annexing property to build affordable housing. Attracting more business. There are very many non profits along this road. If they want it fancier let them pay for it. Who will it benefit?*
Please don't do the bump outs. I am a hairdresser in town and I hear a lot of opinions from people from all walks of life. There has been VERY FEW positive comments about the bump outs down town. It has slowed traffic down because people are afraid to drive down there, especially my older clientele. Which means they don't go down as often because they have to walk farther. Just please stop, my taxes are so high already

- 11.** *First of all, I want to say how much I appreciate the City's interest in gathering feedback on this portion of the street reclamation project. This slows the process down and I know how important it is to get the wheels in motion as you strive to be ready for the construction season.*

I feel these enhancements to 3rd Street will have a very positive impact on the visuals of the street and intersections. But, more importantly, I believe they will enhance safety. I've spent a good amount of time on 3rd Street over many years - first as a teacher at Longfellow School many years ago. As a member of St. John's Church and a regular attendee of Arts Guild Theatre productions, I have lots of experience navigating the 3rd Street crosswalks.

Here's my reaction to what I see on the drawings:

- 1) The bump-outs are pleasing to the eye and will enhance safety. I realize bump-outs at all four corners (Option 2) - Orchard, Plum, Poplar, and Linden - may be cost prohibitive. That said, I do strongly prefer placing them at all of these locations. Option 2 with fewer bump-outs would still mark an improvement, however. I appreciate how well the recently installed bump-outs are working for our community on Washington St.*
- 2) I recognize how these 3rd Street enhancements create a welcoming gateway to downtown, reinforcing the concept of the arts corridor. This acknowledges the work of the Arts and Culture Commission and aligns with the City's Strategic Plan.*
- 3) Curbside drop-off at the Arts Guild Theatre will be very well-received. The benches will not only be attractive. They will also be well-used by both theatre patrons and pedestrians in the neighborhood. Benches are welcome points of rest for walkers with less capacity for great distances.*
- 4) I like what I see in terms of lighting and landscaping. And, of course, I am very pleased to see a "Potential Future Development" on the plan to perhaps include a Sculpture Plaza.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

- 12.** *Sean, please do not create yet another intersection like the one in front of family fare. Horrible design. Have you tried to turn onto division street at that intersection???? To make the turn you enter the other lane!!! Just say no!!!*
- 13.** *my biggest concern is the Bump-Outs - while they will help beautify the area I've been told that plowing will be an issue - especially with a Winter like this one - what is the impact going to be?*

14. *Thanks for sharing this. I think the City has done a great job with these. I have three overall thoughts:*

- 1. The option with more bump-outs makes more sense to me for a three reasons: a) safer intersections by calming traffic and narrowing crossings; b) aesthetically more pleasing; c) a more natural parking lane.*
- 2. It would be nice to see decorative lighting added to the medians. (If this is a direction the city would like to go, I could see a public/private fundraising partnership working to cover the costs (much like the Bridge Square Holiday Lighting).*
- 3. The Northfield Arts Guild is a community treasure, it seems to me that the city should invest in its front area for safer drop-off as well as community gathering without requiring them to cover the funding.*

Again, this is an exciting project. It also fits neatly from a Northfield Roundtable connection by enhancing east-west connectivity, the enhancement of the Arts Corridor and the "greening" of this critical part of the city. Thanks for asking.

15. *I wonder about the benches . I do not think many would use them and therefore be an expensive addition to the area. Most traffic are dog walkers.*

I like that they took the trees out of the medians and put in flowers. Who will maintain them? Altogether it looks lovely, but you will get some Orchard street community members who will use their holely street from Greenvale to this area as an example of overdoing one street at the expense of the other end of Orchard. I drive on Orchard and I can attest to their dismay that their end was not being repaired.

16. *My husband and I are impacted by this proposed street project. In the original meeting the focus was on repaving and repairing the street and curbs. Although I don't want to incur the assessment for this project I understand the need to repair roads.*

We are totally opposed to the proposal that was sprung on us in the newspaper and in the input meeting. This street is not an arts corridor and the extra plazas, decorative corners, decorative lights and possible statues are a waste of tax dollars. The proposal will also reduce parking for the Northfield Arts Guild. What I heard at the input meeting was that the proposal for a plaza in front of the theater was neither requested nor supported by the NAG. The proposal is similar to the work that was done on division street. Division street is now a disaster and the cost did not improve the street. All of the curbs etc now make it impossible to turn into Family Fare easily and leaving the store is a disaster. The setup is almost a guarantee for hitting the curb.

We would support making the necessary changes to make a quiet zone for the trains. We were told 14 years ago when we moved to Northfield that a quiet zone was a priority for Northfield but so far nothing. From the discussion at the input meeting, it sounds like a possible quiet zone is still somewhere in the 10 to 20 year range. Instead of spending money on "artful" plazas, corners and lights the money should be spent on making the necessary changes to all of the streets to make a quiet zone possible.

We encourage the city council to vote **no** on the second proposal and to focus on repairing the street.

17. *Here is my feedback on the 3rd St Reclamation project. The opinions expressed below are those of me and me only, and are not representative of the Arts and Culture Commission as a whole.*

- *I appreciate bump outs for their ability to slow traffic, but have heard concern that they're detrimental for bike traffic. If we're wanting a compromise, I'd suggest option 1.*
- *Please keep the public art plaza in the concept at the corner of Linden and 3rd. This will help tie together the sculptures as Hwy 3 and 3rd and what the Depot will be doing with their sculpture garden. It helps to extend the Arts Corridor--thank you!*
- *I love the idea of trying to make a quiet zone for the railroad and am in full support of all of those aspects of the options that enable this idea to move forward!*
- *Re: Plaza at the Arts guild: this is where I see the city getting the most pushback from folks (in addition to the bump outs). There is certainly a reasonable argument that the city should not be paying for improvements on private property. If this were to move forward, I would suggest parceling out the costs of the plaza to do some type of cost-sharing with the Guild and get some type of commitment from the Guild before moving forward. While I would love to say that the Cultural Plan (still not yet fully adopted by City Council; I have attached it for your reference) would help explicitly support something of this nature, I don't think it fits squarely or strongly within any of the plan's strategic priorities, how we had envisioned moving forward with them, and perhaps more importantly, where we are at in progressing each of them. For instance, if we had created an "arts and cultural district" that were to include this location, then maybe...Or if we were somehow able to also tie this into the Gateway Nodes plan from the Gateway Corridor Improvement Plan (but that's really more concerned with the intersections of 2nd, 3rd, and 5th with Hwy 3, not a few blocks beyond that).*
- *I would strongly encourage the Public Works department to work closely with the Arts and Culture Commission (perhaps even the HPC as well) on maintaining a consistent design/aesthetic with respect to the concrete, benches, and lighting that is installed to tie together what currently exists in downtown OR moving us toward another look in the future. This IS included in the "Placemaking" priority, "establishing city wide design standards."*
- *While I fully support the inclusion of perennial plantings in this project, I am concerned with how the city intends to operationalize the maintenance of these. Right now, it seems to largely rely upon volunteers to do so. Will the city commit staff time to helping make sure these are maintained (watered, weeded, re-planted when needed)?*

18. *Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the design Options for Third Street.*

Option 2 responds to many of the requests that were shared in the public and private input that was given; thank you.

Input

1. Crosswalks should be shortened / bumped-out on all four corners of an intersection. It is safer for everyone and more attractive as an arts corridor.

2. It appears that the sidewalks on the eastern-most block will be reconstructed. They should be widened as part of making people feel as comfortable as possible as they walk through a less attractive part of the corridor.

Questions

I'd like to understand the option presented.

- Why are the bump-outs are where they are? And, why not on all four corners?

- I don't quite understand the Guild Theater drop-off design. And what does "Accessible drop-off to the west" mean? I understand the desire to be able to pull out of traffic, and thus no mid-block curb extension for a drop-off. It still would be useful to physically signal approaching drivers that this is an area where they should be particularly careful. How about a mid-block cross-walk bump-out from both sides, not right in front of the theater, but just offset, so that a parent could drop a child on either side and the child can use a cross-walk to get to the theater. And these would by nature be accessible.

Or, have a raised crosswalk there. It's not a highway, so there aren't any speed concerns.

I look forward to your response.

- 19.** *I am sending this email in regards to the third street plan. I am a resident that lives one block in from the division street project and the Washington bump out project. My feedback is simple. Scrap this project proposal and do simple infrastructure improvements. Narrowing the streets was a disaster, and frankly a waste of taxpayer dollars on the last project. Road surfaces were not improved, in-fact, they are worse. With all of the snow and mess that the other narrowing streets cause, please do not create another area of town with the same problems. I'm an avid biker, and these proposals with bump outs endanger bikers on the city streets.*

Thank you for listening, I hope you heed my advice.



St. John's
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David Bennett
City Engineer
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

cc: Sean Simonson
Jessica Peterson-White

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for the opportunity to give input on the design of Third Street as part of the upcoming street projects.

The Saint John's Council has reviewed the concept plan. We complement the City for working to improve safety on Third, and we are excited about ideas for Third Street as an arts corridor connecting the east and west sides. Since St. John's moved from the east side of downtown Northfield to its current location 100 years ago, it has been part of the arts fabric of the community, and would consider ourselves a key institution in the corridor.

Our response to the concept plan is based on our observations both of how people reach and use Saint John's, and how we see people using Third Street more generally. A few examples of how we see this use:

- To our east, the NAG Theater events produce a lot of parking and walking, by all ages, on the 500 block. At times the Guild rehearses at St. John's as well. Often theater events overlap with St. John's events, producing a lot of car and pedestrian traffic on Third.
- To the west, Longfellow School also draws all ages, particularly to the daycare (although their key entrance is on 2nd). We observe students at the Alternative Learning Center walking and driving at all hours on Third.
- Saint John's itself hosts quite a few events that people reach either by parking blocks away and walking, and/or by walking or biking all the way, in all directions.

Some of these are St. John's events, such as a weekly community meal, and many other are community events and groups, such as weekly Boy Scout meetings, and Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra concerts in St. John's Hall.



St. John's

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Many of these events are in the evening, many involve people of all ages and abilities: older adults, children, and people in wheelchairs and walkers. And as several people have said during our discussions on this issue at St. John's: people in Northfield don't always cross at the crosswalk.

At the same time, we see a lot of cars speeding up and down Third. The wide street and the downhill view in particular seem to encourage this.

We see the City responding to this broad set of users and needs in the concept plan. Thank you.

With all of that in mind, we submit the following suggestions:

1. Additional shorter, safer crosswalks

Shorter crosswalks (bump-outs) improve safety and allow other desired elements (art, rain gardens). We support shorter crosswalks at the locations illustrated in the concept plan, and at Poplar & 3rd and Plum & 3rd. The Poplar and 3rd crossing is of particular interest because of its proximity to the Theater and to our lower corner entrance, which is particularly used by scouting groups. If during the course of construction, pavement is removed on side streets, the City should take the opportunity to narrow the crossings on those streets as well.

2. Improved community access to the NAG Theater

We support addressing the need for safer community access to the NAG Theater. And we understand that conversations are ongoing about the best way to provide that access.

We have discussed both a bump-out, and a no-parking / pull-in zone coupled with a crossing island median. We think a crossing island would both work better for NAG traffic, and serve the broader goal of safety by slowing traffic on Third. We are interested in the City's view of pros and cons of these options.

3. Locations for public art

We support the city's work to implement an Arts Corridor and create locations for art. It would be useful if these included electrical outlets.

4. Improved lighting

We urge the city to look at improved lighting. We understand that there are discussions around lighting designs that would indicate a distinctive Arts Corridor.



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In principle we support that idea; our more immediate concern is the safety of the many people crossing the street up and down Third.

5. Median at train tracks

We support this both as a safety and aesthetic improvement, and as preparation for a quiet zone.

6. Rain gardens

We would like to host rain gardens on the 500 block. These would work best as part of bump-outs on both corners.

We would like to meet with city staff to discuss these suggestions. Please contact me, and I can coordinate a time with congregational staff and leaders.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this important project for the city and the people using Third.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Pamela Fickenscher
Senior Pastor

Ruth Neuger
Congregation President