

# Russ Stark

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Chief Resilience Office, Mayor Carter's Office  
City of Saint Paul

## Summary

I am an experienced sustainable transportation and climate action professional, having led the development of the Saint Paul Climate Action and Resilience Plan (2019), led the City's work with Bloomberg Philanthropies American Cities Climate Challenge, worked on planning and implementation of the Green Line LRT, and the creation of the City of Saint Paul's Bicycle Plan and Pedestrian Plan.

## Skills

**Policy and Project Development:** Having completed the City of Saint Paul's Climate Action and Resilience Plan, I am now working to implement the plan. I am Mayor Carter's point person on climate, energy, sustainability, transitways and transit investments, bicycling and walking, and have led the City's partnership with HOURCAR, Xcel, and Minneapolis to develop 70 EV charging hubs in the two cities to offer public charging and electric carshare.

**Empathic Leadership:** As a daily transit rider for most of my career, frequent cyclist, an avid walker, I have been able to relate my own experiences in sustainable transportation to the needs of others, deeply understanding the stakes in offering reliable, convenient, and safe access to sustainable transportation modes in Saint Paul and the region.

## Experience

**Chief Resilience Officer, City of Saint Paul** 02/18-present: Mayor Carter appointed me to this new position in February 2018, in which I have led the creation of the City's Climate Action and Resilience Plan, our successful partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies American Cities Climate Challenge, the creation of a \$5 million internal loan fund for energy efficiency in City buildings, and a host of other projects and programs to help the City reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

**City Councilmember** (2008-2018) and **Council President** (2014-2017): I represented Ward 4 on the Saint Paul City Council for 10 years, sponsoring the City's Sustainable Building Ordinance, helping usher in the Green Line LRT, driving the work to create the City's first Bicycle Plan and Pedestrian Plan, authoring the City's Complete Streets Policy, driving the creation of the Transportation Committee of the Saint Paul Planning Commission. I also presided as President of the Council for 3.5 years during a tumultuous time in Saint Paul. During my tenure I served 8

years as the City of Saint Paul's representative on the Transportation Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Council.

***Executive Director, Midway Transportation Management Organization*** (2004-2007): I led the Midway TMO to be one of the first TMO's in the US to advance neighborhood-based travel demand management programs including Midway in Motion, while also working with area employers to pursue opportunities for increased transit, carpool, and bicycle commuting and telecommuting. I helped engineer the merger between Midway TMO and Saint Paul TMO into Saint Paul Smart Trips, which is now part of Move Minnesota.

***Program Director, University UNITED*** (1999-2004): I worked on early planning for the Green Line, as well as advocacy for transit-oriented development along University Avenue in Saint Paul, making the public case for greater development density, lower parking requirements, and more walkable communities in advance of LRT construction. I also ran a façade improvement program for building and business owners along University Avenue, managing 15+ grant/loan packages via the City of Saint Paul STAR program.

***Environmental Justice Coordinator, Clean Air Council*** (Philadelphia, 1995-1997). Coordinated Environmental Justice projects at this nonprofit environmental advocacy organization, continuing EJ organizing work that I began in college in Chester, Pennsylvania.

## **Education:**

**MA in Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware** (1999), with a concentration in Community Development and Nonprofit Management.

**BA in Political Science (with Honors), Swarthmore College** (1995).

Valedictorian, Chaparral High School, Las Vegas, NV (1991).