

March 20, 2024

Russ Stark
Chief Resilience Officer
City of Saint Paul
15 Kellogg Blvd. W
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis – 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application Support

Dear Mr. Stark:

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) is a community-centered nonprofit in the heart of South Minneapolis. Our overarching missional aim is rooted in helping to further community health by coordinating opportunities to cultivate connections among community members. The association also partners with a broad sway of stakeholders to advocate for resources, policies, and systems that mitigate inequities and disparities. Regarding the latter, one area of community need that continues to engage the association advocacy efforts centers around building community awareness, concern, and action on a range of environmental justice needs.

A substantive opportunity within our community revolves around the ongoing need to advocate for concrete strategies to improve overall air quality through the reduction of pollutants across the geographies we serve. As a result, the association continues to develop and maintain a variety of relationships with people working within departments across the city of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and key collaborative institutions like HOUR Car, which is missionally aimed at shifting harmful environmental trends through its carsharing program.

PPNA continues to actively engage with the City of Minneapolis on the implementation of strategies identified in connection to its Southside Green Zone Workplan, which includes providing input on direction and priorities of this work. Additionally, the association has partnered with HOURCAR on the Evie Carshare project since 2020, which was made possible by intragovernmental support across Minneapolis and Saint Paul, along with engagement from Minnesota elected leaders at the State and Federal level. Over the past two years, PPNA has been a partner with HOURCAR on an EPA-funded Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving project. This partnership enabled PPNA to hire a full-time Environmental Justice Community Coordinator to focus and further our environmental justice engagement throughout South Minneapolis and parts of the Twin Cities. Considering the dominant factors that impact environmental health, inclusive of the transportation sector, this initiative has provided a range of benefits for all groups involved.

As a community-based organization focused on furthering overall community wellbeing, PPNA believes that the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful pollutants through a range of high-fidelity strategies that continue to show promise of making a material and lasting impact on the overall air quality across the Twin Cities. PPNA is committed to supporting the coalition's efforts to expand electric carshare and public charging in South Minneapolis through ongoing engagement with members of our community to ensure they have a meaningful voice in the process of identifying the boundaries of the carshare service area and the placement of the charging stations. This will include engaging with residents who identify in part as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), low-income, those who speak a language other than English.

Kind Regards,



Tabitha
Montgomery,
Executive Director