



Payne-Phalen

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

567 Payne Avenue, St. Paul MN 55130 www.paynephalen.org 651-774-5234 district5@paynephalen.org

March 13, 2024

VIA EMAIL

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

Re: Application to the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Dear Russ,

I'm writing to express the great support and enthusiasm of the Payne-Phalen Community Council for the coalition of the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in their application to the US Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program.

As you know, the Payne-Phalen Community Council's mission is to improve our neighborhoods by engaging, educating, and empowering all residents in our diverse community. As one of seventeen district councils in St. Paul, PPCC exists to engage the community in advancing physical, social and economic development within our neighborhoods and commercial areas. Our organization is committed to advancing equity, reducing disparities, and improving access to district, citywide, and regional planning activities. We are an independent MN 501(C)3 non-profit, charitable organization with a voluntary, unpaid board of directors composed of seventeen community members elected by neighborhood residents. At the present time, our Board is majority woman and majority BIPOC.

Amongst St. Paul's 17 planning districts, Payne-Phalen has the largest population (31,000) and the most racial diversity (70% people of color). That diversity and cultural vibrancy is ever-present in the ethnic groceries, restaurants, and specialty services along our streets. It's found in the variety of education and training institutions and programs in our schools and parks, and in the variety of community non-profits and faith-based organizations throughout the district. All of this is a testament to the strength and resilience of our population despite some very serious realities: Payne-Phalen has the highest level of concentrated poverty in St. Paul with longstanding and present-day disparities in health, wealth, housing, education, land use, access to parks and open spaces, and clean water. Data from MN Compass describes disparities along racial, cultural, and income:

- 63% percent of our residents are Black, Indigenous, People of Color.
- 43% of our residents/families live below the federal poverty guideline
- 23% of our residents/families speak English 'less than well'

Our residents need affordable, reliable transportation options to access education, employment,

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and healthy food. The economics of car ownership does not work for many of our residents; we have some of the highest percentages of zero-car households in the region.

As a reflection of our organization's Equity Investment Rational, we are very proud to be a collaborative hands-on partner with the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as well as HOURCAR, to bring the benefits of Evie Carshare to families and households that need options and solutions. Together we are working in community at the grassroots level to advance equity, reduce disparities, and improve access by advancing the aims and embrace of Evie Carshare. We are truly excited by the new mobility hubs in our district and elsewhere around both Cities. For Payne-Phalen, the EV hubs are not a luxury, nor are they an intrigue. They are an everyday solution for our transit-dependent communities, a key supplement to the regional transit system, and a low-cost, easy access solution to filling out community-based transportation options. Access to Evie Carshare has been deeply valuable to our residents. As vehicle and fuel prices continue to increase, this access is only becoming more important.

The planned expansion of Evie Carshare in the East Side, the densification of services, and the much sought co-location of chargers at transit stations would bring those benefits to more Payne-Phalen residents. We are especially excited about the proposal's innovative approach to creating better connections to the Gold Line, the Purple Line, and the H Line Bus Rapid Transit Lines, all of which are planned or under construction.

The Payne-Phalen Community Council hereby commits to supporting the coalition's efforts to expand electric carshare and public charging on the East Side of Saint Paul 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 especially include engaging with residents who are BIPOC, low-income, limited-English speaking, and other non-dominant groups to facilitate robust participation in the expansion process.

Please include this letter in the packet of materials for this application/request. We are grateful to you for taking the position of the Payne-Phalen Community Council into full consideration as you make your decision. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,



Jack Byers, Executive Director

cc. Erin Kayser, City of St. Paul Public Works
Paul Schroeder, HOURCAR, President & CEO
Shannon Crabtree, HOURCAR, Director of Planning and Community Development
Rebecca Nelson, PPCC Board President