



May 7, 2025

Duluth City Council
411 W 1st St
Duluth, MN 55802

Letter of Support - 1st Street Flow Street Proposal

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community I am happy to express our support, and willingness to participate in, a Duluth Flow Street working group to explore the potential benefits and challenges of redesigning 1st St in alignment with Flow Street principles.

Zeitgeist is a HART District business that relies on and contributes to a vibrant downtown economy. We also have a history of supporting projects that improve the transportation system to work for more users. We provide education, technical assistance, and infrastructure and policy case studies that support safe, direct, and comfortable multimodal transportation options in all seasons. Our aim is a regional transportation network that's fully responsive to the needs of all our community members and connects to all the resources they need to thrive. To that end, we work closely with residents and those most impacted by transportation barriers. We also partner with regional organizations and coalitions including the Metropolitan Interstate Council, St. Louis County Public Health, the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, DTA, Vibrant Streets Duluth, Be MinneSNOWta NICE, Duluth Aging Support, and the Arc Northland to identify key opportunities to improve transportation in the City of Duluth.

Important community planning documents like the [MIC's Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) and the [Hillside Vision Guide](#) call out a number of goals to make transportation networks more accessible for more people, including children, elders, bikers, and the disability community. This working group is an opportunity to study and implement street improvements that advance those goals.

Thank you for your consideration, and please consider Zeitgeist a sincere partner in this work.

Sincerely,

Andrea B. Crouse

Andrea B. Crouse
Community Development Manager, Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community
andrea@zeitgeistarts.com

To : Duluth City Council Members

From: Alice Tibbetts, co-founder of We Walk in Duluth (now Vibrant Streets Duluth)

RE: Flow Street proposal

I am writing to support this proposal as an excellent step toward making Duluth a safer city for all modes, whether we ride bikes or scooters, walk, or drive. I was involved in similar projects in Minneapolis and Saint Paul when both cities embraced bike boulevards. These are streets parallel to busier thoroughfares. They are designed to provide a safer route for us to travel when we don't have designated space on the thoroughfares.

For example, University Avenue has no bike lanes but Charles Ave, just a few blocks north, provides a parallel route to drive, walk and bike. It is so quiet, it doesn't need designated bike lanes because everyone goes slowly enough to share the space.

These boulevards create a network of routes that make it possible to navigate safely in both cities. They are also far more family friendly. When I go back to the Twin Cities, I always seek out these streets to travel because they are pleasant and provide direct routes to my destinations.

As the resolution states, Duluth has dismal bike and walk scores. It is time to be more ambitious in making the city one that is safe for all of us. This project is a good start. Please support it.



Arc Northland
222 E Superior Street
Suite 302
Duluth MN, 55807

April 11th, 2025

Duluth City Council
411 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of Arc Northland, I am writing to express our strong support for the Vibrant Streets Duluth Flow (Fun + Slow) proposal. As an organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the human rights of people with disabilities and their families, we see this proposal as an exciting step toward a more inclusive and accessible Duluth.

Arc Northland believes that streets are vital public spaces that should serve all people regardless of age, ability or mode of travel. The Duluth Flow initiative embraces person-centered approaches to our transportation network as a whole, providing a place where people of all abilities can thrive.

Flow Streets create safer, more inclusive communities for people with disabilities and older adults by slowing traffic, improving pedestrian infrastructure, and prioritizing universal design. Features like wider sidewalks, curb cuts, tactile wayfinding, and reduced noise create opportunities for people with mobility, sensory, or cognitive disabilities to navigate public spaces with full access. In addition, encouraging outdoor activity, social connection, and easier access to transit options, Flow Streets reduce isolation and expand opportunities for independent community living. Streets that work better for people with disabilities, work better for everyone.

Thank you for considering Arc Northland's recommendation and support to form a Working Group to study and implement a First Street Flow Street.

Sincerely,

Amanda Crosby, Executive Director

Promoting and protecting the human rights of individuals with disabilities and their families throughout their lifetime.



102 W. 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802
OFFICE (218) 722-7431
FAX (218) 722-0850
LIFEHOUSEDULUTH.ORG

April 18, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for the designation of 1st Street as a "slow street" or "First Street Flow Street." As a key corridor in our community, 1st Street is uniquely positioned to benefit from a slower, safer, and more pedestrian-friendly environment.

Unlike 4th Street and Superior Street, which already serve as primary commuter routes, 1st Street offers a different option—one focused on people over vehicles. Meanwhile, 2nd and 3rd Streets, which are one-way thoroughfares, often encourage higher vehicle speeds, making them less welcoming to pedestrians, cyclists, and local foot traffic.

Designating 1st Street as a "slow street" would help to:

- **Create a safer, calmer environment** for residents, pedestrians, and cyclists.
- **Support local businesses** by encouraging people to linger, explore, and dine in a more welcoming setting.
- **Improve walkability and community interaction**, fostering a stronger sense of place and connection.
- **Complement the transportation network** by balancing fast-moving commuter streets with people-centered spaces.

Transforming 1st Street into a slow street would be a significant step forward in increasing approachability and vibrancy to our downtown community. As a member of the 1st street community, we envision a slow street as an opportunity to expand our welcoming spaces for youth and for our community members to learn more about our resources and programming. I encourage city planners and decision-makers to prioritize and invest in this initiative.

Sincerely,

Amber Sadowski
Executive Director
amber.sadowski@life-house.org
218.722.7431 x111



Letter of Support – 1st Street Flow Street Proposal

April 10, 2025

Dear Councilor Awal,

I have been working on real estate, housing and economic development within local government in our region for 12 years, 9 of which was based in Duluth. As Founder of North Shore Development Co., I now assist both local governments and developers with getting communities prepared for projects, and helping those projects get to the finish line. Over the years, I have worked on a number of projects along the proposed flow street corridor on 1st Street downtown: from the Board of Trade on the west, to managing the maintenance and preservation of the CJM Memorial, to the Lakeview 333 project and Medical District parking ramp to the east, I have spent a lot of time looking at, thinking about, and reimagining our downtown.

While every project is different, there are elements that are universal, including parking and safety. Parking is predominantly a math question: how many users are anticipated and what parking is available and/or needs to be created to accommodate those users. Safety, however, is a bit more nuanced. Safety applies to all users; we strive to create a safe environment for the delivery drive as well as the mother with a stroller. However, safety goes a level deeper than simply signalization, sidewalks and signage. Feeling truly safe somewhere means you are comfortable spending time there out of choice, not just necessity.

There are, of course, numerous factors that contribute to the current lack of vibrancy in Downtown Duluth, many of which are driven by macroeconomic and cultural factors that cannot be changed or quickly solved. However, there are some things that are within our power to affect; namely, creating a place where people want to spend time. Right now, our downtown is transactionally safe: we know we can eventually find a place to park to conduct our business, we can walk down the street to get a coffee without incident, and we can rely on the sidewalks and roads being plowed and maintained. However, much of our downtown is not very invitationally safe; the kind of safety that invites and encourages us to seek it out as a destination and place to slowly enjoy our time and spend our money. The differences in these kinds of safety are subtle and can be hard to quantify, but you know it when you experience it.



Invitational safety requires connectivity, quality, and aesthetic. When our route is well built and maintained, when it connects us to some of our favorite spaces as we get from A to B, when our experience along the way feels intentional and visually cohesive; this is when we prefer to take the “scenic” route. The Flow Street proposal for 1st Street allows businesses to keep their parking but better accommodates all of us when we aren’t driving. While this proposal does not solve our problems downtown, it is a step toward reimaging what Downtown is and could be.

For these reasons and more, I support the Flow Street proposal to invest in a more inviting corridor that could help bring our downtown to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Hale".

Jason Hale
Founder
North Shore Development Co.

Cameron Kruger
2013 E. 1st St., Duluth, MN 55812
(218) 461-9799 | cckruger@gmail.com

May 28, 2025

Dear Members of the Duluth City Councilors,

I am writing today to express my support for the 1st Street corridor “Flow Street” (Fun + Slow) proposal. The concept of a Flow Street is a visionary approach that combines the energy of a vibrant public space with the safety and accessibility of a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly environment.

As a resident living on 1st Street with a young child, vehicle speeds are a constant concern. I see how our current infrastructure fails to support people walking, biking, or using mobility aids. The corridor lacks a sense of cohesion and safety, especially for families, elders, and others who might otherwise embrace active transportation.

While I reside in the East Hillside, the majority of my work day occurs in Lincoln Park. I foresee a long-range vision where this project bridges these neighborhoods through Downtown and connects to vital corridors like the Lakewalk and the Cross City Trail. If the city’s goal is a vibrant and active Downtown, creating accessible and safe means to travel through it instead of around it is a major step in that direction.

This initiative has the power to restore vibrancy and community to our street. By slowing traffic and enhancing the pedestrian experience, 1st Street can become a destination—not just a pass-through. A Flow Street can encourage pop-up art, sidewalk cafes, small businesses, and gathering spaces that strengthen local culture and support economic growth. It represents a low-cost, high-impact step toward a more inclusive and forward-thinking Duluth.

I urge you to support the Flow Street proposal and help shape a future for 1st Street that reflects our city’s values: community, safety, equity, and creativity.

Sincerely,



Cameron Kruger



Continental Ski & Bike
1305 E 1st St
Duluth, MN 55805
05/22/2025

Duluth City Council
411 W 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mayor, City Councilors, and City Staff,

Re: Support for the Formation of a Working Group for the Flow Street Proposal

As the Management Team at Continental Ski & Bike, we are writing to express our strong support for the formation of a Working Group to advance the Flow (Fun + Slow) Street Proposal and to explore the implementation of a Flow Street along First Street in Downtown Duluth.

At Continental Ski & Bike, our mission is to connect people to the outdoors and to support healthy, sustainable, and active lifestyles year-round. We work daily with individuals and families who rely on **bicycles for commuting**, recreation, and everyday travel—people who are eager to make biking and walking part of their routine but are often discouraged by infrastructure that feels unsafe or unwelcoming.

The Flow Street proposal is a powerful opportunity to reshape First Street into a corridor that is safe, flexible, and vibrant—a street that welcomes everyone, regardless of their mode of transportation or level of mobility. First Street is ideally suited for this transformation: its relatively low vehicle traffic, connection between East and West, and proximity to downtown businesses, residential areas, and civic institutions make it a natural fit for a people-first redesign.

We also know from experience and national case studies that streets built for people are good for business. Flow Streets attract foot traffic, foster community connection, and make our neighborhoods more desirable places to live, work, and visit. Cities that have implemented similar slow street programs—like San Francisco and Portland—have seen not just improved safety outcomes, but economic benefits and enhanced quality of life.

A dedicated Working Group will help ensure that this proposal is explored with intention, transparency, and collaboration. This group can bring together voices from across the community to assess feasibility, design smart solutions, and build support for a safer, more

connected Duluth. We strongly believe this is the kind of creative, forward-thinking initiative our city needs—and we are eager to be part of the conversation.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on making Duluth a more livable, inclusive, and inspiring city. We urge you to support the formation of a Flow Street Working Group, and we are happy to offer our perspective and support as local business owners and community advocates.

Sincerely,

The Management Team
Continental Ski & Bike
1305 E 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55805
218-728-4466

Jon Haaversen
jon@continentalski.com

Mark Alsum
mark@continentalski.com

Brent Johnson
League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructor
Bicycle Advocate, Member of Vibrant Streets Duluth
Duluth, MN
4/17/2025

Duluth City Council
411 W 1st Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Dear Mayor, City Councilors, and City Staff,

Re: Support for a Working Group to Advance the Flow Street Proposal

My name is Brent Johnson, and I am writing today as a League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructor, a longtime bicycle advocate, a proud member of Vibrant Streets Duluth, and a committed resident of this community. I am writing to offer my full and enthusiastic support for the creation of a dedicated Working Group to move forward the Flow (Fun + Slow) Street Proposal for First Street in downtown Duluth.

For too long, Duluth has been a city where the default design favors vehicle traffic at the expense of people—especially those who walk, bike, roll, or rely on public space for connection and movement. The Flow Street concept is not only timely, but long overdue. It is an opportunity to put into practice the very values that Duluth has committed to through its Imagine Duluth 2035 Plan, climate action declarations, and safety goals.

As a certified cycling instructor, I work directly with people of all ages and abilities who want to bike safely—but don't feel they can. Duluth's current infrastructure leaves too many behind. Our bike score of 9/100 and a walk score of just 36/100 reflect a painful truth: our streets are not serving the majority of our population, and our crash rates are far too high.

Transforming First Street into a Flow Street—a people-friendly corridor that slows traffic, invites all modes of travel, and supports safe, healthy, and connected communities—is a powerful way to change that. First Street is ideal: low in thru traffic, rich in community assets, and strategically located to link Downtown and Lincoln Park while offering a viable alternative to both the congested Lakewalk and hazardous Superior Street.

Cities across the country—from San Francisco to Portland—have shown that slow/flow street models reduce crashes, boost local business, and strengthen neighborhoods. A Working Group dedicated to exploring this proposal would ensure the process is collaborative, informed, and

responsive to the needs of all users—including those too often left out of traditional planning conversations.

As both an advocate and a community member, I'm ready to support this effort however I can—whether by lending technical expertise, helping to lead community engagement efforts, or riding alongside the neighbors who will benefit from a safer First Street.

Please take this opportunity to help Duluth live up to its full potential as a city that values safety, sustainability, equity, and community. I urge you to support the formation of a Flow Street Working Group, and to give this transformative idea the attention and momentum it deserves.

With respect and appreciation,

Brent Johnson
League of American Cyclists Instructor
Bicycle Advocate | Member, Vibrant Streets Duluth
Duluth, MN
Brentjohnson@icloud.com
651-964-8805

5/23/25

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Caroline Olson, and I'm a resident of the Chester Park neighborhood, as well as an Oncology Nurse Navigator at the Essentia Health 1st Street Clinic. I'm writing to express my strong support for the First Street Flow Street working group resolution.

I work as an Oncology Nurse Navigator in Essentia Health's First Street Clinic. As such, I regularly utilize First Street as part of my bike- and walk- commutes. It's not uncommon for me to have unsafe close encounters with cars as part of this commute. Why shouldn't I have the right to feel safe in a public space? A flow street would undoubtedly help to address this issue.

But, enough about me! "The patient. Above all else." is one of our guiding principles at Essentia Health. My experience as an RN Navigator shows that transportation is a major barrier to care. I was recently at a National Breast Cancer Conference that highlighted a new study, which found that **transportation insecurity ("the inability to get from place to place in a safe, predictable, and timely manner") decreased breast cancer screening adherence by 41%**. My patients often voice the difficulty of getting to our clinic, especially those without cars. This results in my patients missing their follow up visits, such as screening mammograms, which can subsequently lead to missed cancer diagnoses and reoccurrences. I firmly believe that the implementation of a flow street would help our patients get to our clinic in a safe manner.

I urge you to vote for this working group to improve our community's health through better transportation access.

Sincerely,
Caroline Olson
219 West Kent Rd, Duluth, MN, 55812

June 2, 2025

Dear City Council Members,

We, the Duluth Public Library staff who commute to work by bicycle or by foot, want to express our strong support for the First Street Flow Street working group resolution. Being active commuters, we believe this project would be extremely beneficial for all downtown workers who actively commute to work. Having routes to get to work that are not car-centric, but safe and community focused, is essential to a vital downtown.

The library is an anchor at one end of this proposed project. In addition to aiding in our commutes, a First Street Flow Street would create new safe routes for the residents of downtown and the Central Hillside to come to the library. We are a community hub and a vital third space. By providing routes to the library that are equitable and allow for all modes of transportation—foot, bike, wheelchair, car, etc.—we are strengthening our community.

Flow Streets create safer spaces for everyone by encouraging appropriate speeds and clear expectations for all street users. This approach aligns perfectly with Duluth's comprehensive plan and would help create a more vibrant, connected downtown.

I urge you to vote in favor of establishing the Flow Street Working Group to study and implement this important project.

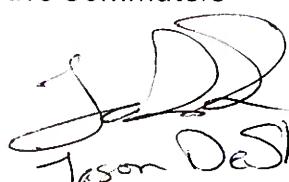
Sincerely,

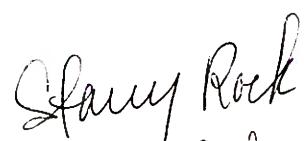
Duluth Public Library Active Commuters

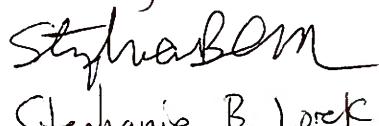

Brian Johnson


Stacy Latres

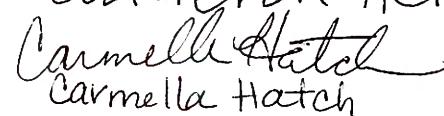

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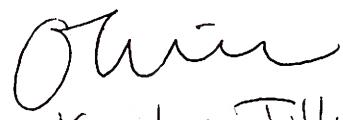

Jason DeShan


Stacey Rock
Stacey Rock


Stephanie B. Lock


Brianna Belanger


Cameron Hennity

Carmella Hatch


Kaitlyn Tillman

Dear City Councilors,

As a bike commuter, I am writing in support of turning 1st street into a Flow Street. Currently, I bypass downtown entirely by using the Lakewalk. However, if 1st Street was turned into a Flow Street, I would take this route to and from work most days.

Not only would this alleviate commuter traffic on an important recreational trail—it would bring more people in and out of Duluth's downtown. It would cause bike commuters (like me) to pass through downtown twice each day, instead of never.

Finally, I work at Dovetail Cafe and Duluth Folk School in Lincoln Park. Something that would help our business and community work is greater connectivity between Lincoln Park and East Duluth. A bike corridor—like a Flow Street on 1st Street—would be an important step to this goal.

Sincerely,
Hadrian DeMaioribus

April 16, 2025

To whom it may concern,

As a resident who lives on the 1700 block of 1st Street, I support turning 1st Street into a Flow Street. A Flow Street would improve community and quality of life for all of us along the street. It would make 1st Street a nice street to spend time on.

I also think it would connect us to downtown. We live just two miles from downtown, but my partner and I are always surprised how little we go there. It doesn't feel good to drive there. And since it's just a 10 minute bike ride, we prefer to bike. However, it doesn't feel safe to bike there.

If 1st Street was a Flow Street, where cars and bikes having equal speeds of travel, I would go downtown much more often. Safety biking is my main barrier to getting downtown more often.

Finally, I want to mention that I am not a bicyclist. I mainly use car to get around. But I don't have any concerns that a Flow Street would impact my car travel or parking. If anything, I think a Flow Street would make it easier for me to get home and find on-street parking, while at the same time enabling the trips by bike I'd like to make, like to downtown.

Sincerely,
Kayde Moore

To whom it may concern,

I am a lifelong Duluthian, resident of Central Hillside, and have worked for a non profit service provider on first st in downtown Duluth for almost 6 years now. I am writing in proud support of the Flow Street Proposal brought forth by Councilor Awal..

In those 6 years First street has not grown, or evolved in just about any way. Most notably growth has only come from the amount of community members who are unhoused, and utilize first st downtown as a source of resources (shelter, basic needs, food, water, bathrooms), and just as a place to be. There are many empty storefronts/properties particularly from 2nd ave W to Essentia. Empty spaces attract people who have nowhere to go, empty stores don't have staff that will shew people away. I support this project, it just can't be development that pushes unhoused folk away.

First Street needs development, it needs investments into housing, businesses, recreation, public art, service providers, and into the people living outside and in shelter on 1st St. This needs to be an effort that brings service providers along with its implementation, and the 1st street flow street project needs to move with the community who utilize 1st street the most.

The 1st street flow project is a great opportunity to invest, develop, and bring more life and vibrancy to an area of town that has been underutilized, is in a state of stagnancy, and with growing themes of Duluthians avoiding the downtown area for a plethora of reasons.

Please support this initiative as it will bring life, joy and investment into a very needed area of Duluth.

Thank you,

Life Long Duluthian
1st Street Employee

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for At-Large City Councilor Azrin Awal and their proposal to make First Street into a Flow Street. As a dog owner who lives on West First Street, a Flow Street would make my daily walks with my dog a lot safer and more vibrant.

Even though I live on First Street, I rarely walk my dog on this route. There's no grass for him to do his business and I'm constantly on guard about him getting into trash or stepping on glass. It's also sad to see all the empty buildings and businesses we pass. So, we often hike up the hill a few blocks to Third Street where there's more grass and less glass.

Right now, there are also not a lot of businesses I can walk to quickly beyond a few bars, Sammy's, and the YMCA. If I need to run to the store, the closest place is Whole Foods Co-Op, which is not always affordable so I drive 2 miles to Super One instead. A Flow Street would mean there would be more businesses my neighbors and I could walk or bike to, thus improving our air quality—especially as our summers get hotter and wildfire season starts earlier.

In addition, First Street is not very accessible to members of the community who have disabilities. There are potholes, uneven pavement and bricks, plus random obstacles like garbage in the way. I worry about my elderly neighbor, who is losing her vision, tripping and falling on her walk to the YMCA. In the summer, I have a family member who is in a wheelchair visiting and it'll be difficult for him to get to my apartment just from the parking ramp (since there is no handicap or overnight parking near my building). If First were a Flow Street, I would be able to connect more with my neighbors and the surrounding community.

As a Flow Street, I would like to see a few dog waste bag dispensers like the one that has been added at city hall. While I might not walk my dog on First right now, I know others do based on the amount of poop on the sidewalk. Providing others the resources to pick up after their dogs would be ideal. With the bag dispensers, there would also be more trash cans for folks to toss the waste and other trash so it is less likely to end up on the street. It would be a lot less stressful to walk my dog on First if I didn't have to worry about all the things he could get into.

I would also like to see more vibrant scenery, from public art works to plants and trees that liven up the street. First Street can feel depressing with all the cement and abandoned buildings. Buildings block the view of the lake for most of the stretch between W 6th Ave. and E 21st Ave., so green spaces and art would be a great addition to making the street feel less desolate.

Turning First Street into a Flow Street has the potential to make a real difference in improving the lives of people like me who live and work downtown. This project would not only mean more opportunities for myself and my dog, but also for my neighbors and the city at large. I am proud to support Councilor Awal and their efforts to make the community a better place.

Thank you,
1st Street Resident

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the First Street Flow Street working group resolution. As a Duluth resident and bike commuter, this project would enable me to safely ride between home in Lincoln Park to downtown for work and shopping.

Flow Streets create safer spaces for everyone by encouraging appropriate speeds and clear expectations for all street users. This approach aligns perfectly with Duluth's comprehensive plan and would help create a more vibrant, connected downtown.

I urge you to vote in favor of establishing the Flow Street Working Group to study and implement this important project. Sincerely,

Eric Willms
713 Lincoln Pkwy
Duluth, MN 55806

April 16, 2025

To whom it may concern,

As a resident who lives on the 1700 block of 1st Street, I support turning 1st Street into a Flow Street. A Flow Street would improve community and quality of life for all of us along the street. It would make 1st Street a nice street to spend time on.

I also think it would connect us to downtown. We live just two miles from downtown, but my partner and I are always surprised how little we go there. It doesn't feel good to drive there. And since it's just a 10 minute bike ride, we prefer to bike. However, it doesn't feel safe to bike there.

If 1st Street was a Flow Street, where cars and bikes having equal speeds of travel, I would go downtown much more often. Safety biking is my main barrier to getting downtown more often.

Finally, I want to mention that I am not a bicyclist. I mainly use car to get around. But I don't have any concerns that a Flow Street would impact my car travel or parking. If anything, I think a Flow Street would make it easier for me to get home and find on-street parking, while at the same time enabling the trips by bike I'd like to make, like to downtown.

Sincerely,
Kayde Moore

6/2/2025

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the Flow Street proposal for 1st Street. I have been living on First Street since January of this year. I think it would be of benefit to people of the city of Duluth. It would promote public health by creating a safety corridor for pedestrian travel running through the city. This would allow for more active lifestyle for residents by reducing the risk of being hit by vehicles or, failing that, significantly reducing the harm from such incidents. This would promote shopping in downtown length of First Street and help to fill vacant storefronts. Window shopping is far more effective on foot or from a human powered vehicle bicycles, scooters etc than it is from a motor vehicle.

Sincerely,

David Battocchio

Jaym Fitzgerald

Duluth, MN 55805

I am writing to express my support for the Flow Street Proposal. I live near Portland Square, work at Life House and attend LSC as an accounting student, and I primarily use a car to commute. As a driver, I take responsibility for safety very seriously. I love driving and I also realize I am controlling an incredibly heavy machine that can easily cause harm to others, while being relatively safe from other modes of transportation causing harm to me. Except buses, I'd lose that fight any day.

I want Duluthians to be able to travel throughout the city regardless of how they are able/desire to access transportation. I have had several friends who don't like to drive, and probably shouldn't ever drive, who should be able to get to the grocery store, downtown, to the mall, across town to visit a friend, or into Canal to work and enjoy the lake. These things are not always possible. If we want Duluth to grow and thrive, one thing we will need is to build for everyone and create accessible and diverse transportation options.

1st street east is a great place to start this project. In my 12 years living here, I don't believe I have ever used 1st street as a through street to get places in my car. I use 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or Superior for that reason. 1st street already encourages slower driving, and I would love for it to be a designated "cars are guests here" street.

I do have one concern, and it is very specific. Sammy's pizza downtown gets a delivery truck every day, which could cause daily back-ups as there will likely be cars using the road and will need to take turns. However, I do think there could be a simple solution. There are a few parking spots in front that could be converted into a loading zone. As a former delivery driver, that would be much safer and more convenient for the workers who deliver to Sammy's and other businesses on the block, while maintaining a flow of transportation through downtown.

More bus lines, increases in the frequency of busses, infrastructure designed for pedestrians and bikes, and for all of these to also be accessible people who use mobility aids – this is what I dream of for Duluth. I love driving, but I don't like the fact that I don't have a good choice to travel differently. Duluthians deserve better, and you have the opportunity to start a trend that will increase the quality of life for us.

Thank you for reading this letter and considering the proposal.

Jaym Fitzgerald

5/27/25

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Katie Sharar, and I am a Duluth resident. I am writing to express my strong support for the First Street "Flow Street" working group resolution. There are numerous ways this benefits me, personally and professionally.

One, I work at Chum, though office at First Lutheran Church. Several of my colleagues and I frequently travel between the two locations, and try to bike or walk whenever possible. First Street would be an ideal way for us to get from one location to the other. One of my colleagues has had numerous "close calls" while on bike on Superior Street, and having a more protected route would enable our movement.

Additionally, as a resident who lives on 4th St and frequently travels downtown for movies, meetings, coffee shops, live music, etc. I try to avoid driving whenever possible--for both sustainability reasons as well as personal preferences--and this would provide additional safety, accessibility, etc., for me and so many others.

I am one among many people who would benefit from a Flow Street. I know it would expand access for people of a diversity of ages, income levels, and abilities. Creating a more connected downtown that is accessible for a broad array of people helps build a dynamic community, and one that I would be proud to live in and help build.

I urge you to vote in favor of establishing the Flow Street Working group to study and implement this important work.

Sincerely,

Katie Sharar
1516 E. 4th St.
Duluth, MN 55812

Jun. 4, 2025

Hi Lizzy and Azrin, I was so impressed with your presentation last week at the Bike Commuting event at Dovetail with Vibrant Streets Duluth that I wanted to express my support for the implementation of the First Street Flow Street proposal. As a resident of Duluth and avid cyclist, having a safe route for pedestrian traffic and creating a more vibrant downtown here would make significant improvements to our city. While I wish the speed limit for all city streets would be reduced, having a flow street with a lower speed limit is a step in the right direction. I hope people will vote yes on this proposal. I'm looking forward to attending the city council meeting to support this when the time comes to vote.

Thanks,
Kristin Zarr
201 Snively Rd, Duluth, MN 55803

To the City Council members:

I live in East Hillside and work downtown. I commute by car, bicycle, foot, and less often by public transportation. While I don't have major complaints with my commuting conditions, I am glad to see the "Flow Street" proposal for 1st street. A coworker told me about it. It is well-thought-through and is the fresh kind of thinking that boosts a city and community's health, happiness, and prosperity. Staying open to positive change is so important, especially as the pace of change in our world overall increases. I especially like the spirit of proposals that seem to show such respect for such a diversity of stakeholders, like Flow Street does. The Working Group would get all the more people thinking and discussing about things they take for granted, and/or possibilities they never considered. And if they continue with good process, it will result in a change to our everyday environment that will reduce harm and ripple out as a better life in so many beneficial ways.

Margaret Lorenz
1516 E 4th St, #3
Duluth MN 55812

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the First Street Flow Street working group resolution. As a resident, I believe this project would provide a strong, safe link to other parts of the city and benefit both businesses and commuters.

Flow Streets create safer spaces for everyone by encouraging appropriate speeds and clear expectations for all street users. This approach aligns perfectly with Duluth's Comprehensive Plan and would help create a more vibrant, connected downtown.

I urge you to vote in favor of establishing the Flow Street Working Group to study and implement this important project.

Sincerely, Michael Nordin
1029 Grandview Ave
Duluth, MN 55812

Dear City Council Members,

I'm writing to express my strong support **for the** First Street Flow Street working group resolution. As a person employed downtown who commutes by bicycle, I believe this project would make my daily life safer and more pleasant.

Flow Streets create safer spaces **for everyone** by encouraging appropriate speeds and clear expectations **for all** street users. This approach aligns perfectly with Duluth's comprehensive plan and would help create a more vibrant, connected downtown.

I urge you to vote **in** favor of establishing the Flow Street Working Group to study and implement this important project.

Sincerely,

Stacey Rock

5415 Jean Duluth Road

Duluth, MN 55803

Dear City of Duluth,

I am in full support of the Duluth 1st St, Flow Street plan. Having a designated street for bikers and people walking that connects 31 blocks from City Hall to 21st Ave E, would help make Duluth more accessible for those who can't or don't want to drive.

The proposal would help make a safer area and also motivate people to use their cars less, because of the designated area to get around Downtown Duluth. This would help eliminate greenhouse gases while also making Duluth a more friendly place for our non-drivers. As a community we should be trying to make it a more inclusive city to keep everyone connected. Superior Street is the street people use for driving around the most. 1st Street would be the optimal placement for a Flow Street. It's not a busy street, but it's also close and connected to all the different areas and businesses Downtown Duluth has to offer.

In conclusion, this would be a fantastic addition to our city and be a progressive move to accommodate and keep people safer.

Sincerely,

Jordan Mershon