



1/6/2021

Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher,

RE: Invitation to attend and speak at Bring Back 6th Public Forum

We are writing to personally invite you to an online community forum for our Bring Back Sixth initiative on **January 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** This joint initiative by Our Streets Minneapolis and Harrison Neighborhood Association is working to repair the harms caused by the construction of Olson Memorial Highway in North Minneapolis.

Sixth Avenue North, a once vibrant African American business corridor that was the heart of Minneapolis's jazz community was destroyed to make way for Olson Memorial Highway. Today, the freeway's harms continue—with high crash rates as a result of high speed traffic, poor air quality and a barrier to accessing jobs and opportunities, especially for those without cars.

Our campaign seeks to repair and mitigate these harms. In two phases, we ask for the removal of the highway and restoration of the original Sixth Avenue North. In the near term, we ask for several low cost, quick-build pedestrian improvements that will ameliorate traffic hazards and make the corridor more pleasant for those biking, walking and rolling.

At this forum, we will hear from community members who live, work and play along the corridor, including from those who have had ancestral ties to the neighborhood. We will reserve a slot for you to respond to our requests and welcome you to publicly commit to the changes we seek.

Please let us know if you are able to attend at your earliest convenience,

The link to sign up for the online forum can be found [here](#).

Thank you,

Nichole Buehler,
Executive Director, Harrison Neighborhood Association

and

Ashwat Narayanan
Executive Director, Our Streets Minneapolis