



Working to protect the Mississippi River
and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.

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June 9, 2017

Midtown Greenway Coalition
2834 10th Ave S. #2
Minneapolis, MN 55407

RE: Midtown Greenway Coalition's feasibility study of the Short Line Bridge

To whom it may concern:

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a local non-profit community-based organization that works to protect and enhance the natural and cultural assets of the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities. We have 1,800 active members, and more than 3,000 volunteers who care deeply about the river's unique resources. FMR has been an active and ongoing participant in planning for the future of the Minneapolis riverfront.

We are writing today to express our support for the Midtown Greenway Coalition's (MGC) feasibility study of the Short Line Bridge to provide an extension of the Midtown Greenway across the Mississippi River into St. Paul.

FMR is a strong proponent of increasing access to the Mississippi River and recreational activities on and near the river, all while preserving the ecological functions and scenic character of the river. We support extending the Midtown Greenway across the Mississippi River by using the existing bridge or reusing the existing bridge piers to build a replica bridge in the same location. We will encourage any construction project to minimize disturbance of native vegetation, fish and wildlife in the river, the floodplain and the surrounding bluffs.

We encourage the MGC to work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board as they are also working on a rail to trail bridge project on the BNSF Rail Bridge (near 26th Avenue N) and collaboration on these similar projects may benefit one another.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to being involved with this project as it progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Whitney L. Clark'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Whitney L. Clark
Executive Director