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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Updated. September 29, 2023

**** MEDIA ADVISORY ****
TIME CHANGE DUE TO THUNDERSTORMS:
MEDIA EVENT AT 1 P.M.

WHO: Save Our Street (SOS) citizen advisory group calls out the City of Saint Paul, the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota DNR: **Be Honest About the Impact of the Bike Trail on Trees.** Planting saplings won't make up for sacrificing 950 mature to construct an unneeded and unwanted bike trail. The Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon, happening this weekend, will never be the same once the trees are gone. 300,000 spectators who enjoy the stunning fall foliage provided by our tree canopy will never have the same iconic experience.

WHAT: Describing the Twin Cities Marathon's popularity will have to change.

The race, called "The Most Beautiful Urban Marathon in America" celebrates a course that winds through downtown districts, then along parkways that hug lakes and waterways all throughout dense urban forests in the neighborhoods of both cities.
(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twin_Cities_Marathon)

Twin Cities in Motion, the marathon organizer, announced a partnership with the Minnesota DNR, which will donate the funds to plant 27,000 trees in Minnesota, one for every race participant. We all applaud planting new trees. But it doesn't excuse the needless sacrifice of our existing mature tree canopy, which provides irreplaceable aesthetic and economic value fighting climate change and filtering our stormwater.

(MORE)

SOS wants to help you share with your viewers and readers your own live report on the irreplaceable value of our tree canopy, and the undisputed consequences of the city's proposed destruction to trees. **Trail construction**, *not* road reconstruction, will destroy trees on Summit Avenue. And in fact, the city's own documents released yesterday to SOS confirm that the full avenue does not need reconstruction.

WHERE: Meet SOS volunteers at the Summit Avenue median between Summit and Fairview Avenues. We will have markers in the median to show where the trail will be constructed and trees that will be cut down to make room.

WHEN: ~~11 a.m.~~ Friday, September 29, 2023 AT 1 P.M. (NEW TIME TO AVOID RAIN/STORMS)

WHY: The City of Saint Paul plans to destroy what gives the Twin Cities Marathon its iconic status: the fall foliage of the tree canopy, especially along Summit. And what we hear from the City in response: It's OK to destroy these trees, since four to five generations from now were hoping that at least some trees might grow back. The fight to save the trees on Summit Avenue, and throughout our capital city, is everyone's fight. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-summit-avenue>

About SOS (Save Our Street)

Save Our Street is a citizen group that seeks to educate and advocate for preserving the historic streetscape of Summit Avenue as a treasured St. Paul destination and a safe, tree-lined, multi-modal corridor for generations to come. <https://www.savesummitavenue.org>