

10 Most Endangered Historic Places

2010

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org

The planned expansion of University Drive in St. Cloud has raised alarm in the Southeast St. Cloud Neighborhood, which is filled with properties that are listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Known as the University Drive Corridor Project, the expansion of University Drive and the University Bridge between 5th Avenue South and Highway 10/Del-Tone Road was developed by the City of St. Cloud to address what it sees as a transportation problem and to provide a safe and efficient East/West route through this neighborhood. According to a recent cultural resource survey report, no fewer than seven historic properties or districts within the project area would be adversely affected.



The proposed University Drive Corridor Project may result in negative impacts through physical changes, construction activity, alterations in setting, use, access, and stewardship, and visual, atmospheric, or auditory changes. Given the wide range of potential adverse impacts, the Southeast St. Cloud Neighborhood Preservation Coalition—a local preservation advocacy group that sprung up in response to the planned road construction—believes the proposed project would result in overall negative effects to the entire community. At risk are some of the neighborhood's most identifiable and historic sites, including Selke Field, Riverside Park, George Friedrich Park, Kilian Boulevard, and the east side quarries area.

The City of St. Cloud has moved forward on the proposed project by approving the purchase of properties for the western portion, and several portions of the proposed project have been included in the City's Capital Improvements Program for 2010-2015. Regulatory analysis under the Federal Section 106 review process has already delayed construction, but it will take additional citizen action to re-envision the transportation needs for this part of St. Cloud and to design a road project that takes the preservation of the neighborhood's historic character into account.

Action Steps

1. Familiarize yourself with the historic resources impacted by the proposed route and the planning studies that have been completed to date. <http://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/Planning/PlanningDocLibrary.aspx>
2. Speak up about the historic resource impacts to the St. Cloud City Council, Heritage Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission, and Sherburne County Board of Commissioners.
3. Support the advocacy efforts of the Southeast Saint Cloud Neighborhood and Preservation Coalition with a financial contribution and by becoming a member.
4. Attend the Southeast Saint Cloud Neighborhood Preservation Coalition's meeting and history celebration on June 16, 6:30 p.m., at the Riverside Park pavilion.
5. Contact the Minnesota office of the Federal Highway Administration to voice your concern about the University Drive Corridor project and its impact on historic resources.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/mndiv/

SAINT CLOUD

Southeast Saint Cloud Neighborhood