



'Where the biggies leave off...'

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Seniors, kids make perilous ascent of dangerous Lake Street bridge



Monday afternoon, February 18 -- *four days* after the last snowfall -- Cedar-Isles-Dean resident and CIDNA board member Barbara Lunde and her two grandchildren, Sam (5) and Alice (3), decided to walk the two blocks from Barbara's apartment at Drew and West Lake Street over to Rustica, in Calhoun Village, for a nice cup of hot cocoa. But here's the obstacle course they had to conquer in order to make their trip up and over the West Lake Street bridge.

Our city leaders promote their vision of a Minneapolis where no one needs to drive and park any more because everyone will walk, bike, and take transit year-round. Scant attention seems to be given to the needs of seniors, parents with young children, folks with mobility challenges -- and to certain harsh realities like ... winter.

Cedar-Isles-Dean residents will immediately recognize a looming nightmare: clambering up the Lake Street bridge day in and day out, summer and winter, is what they'll have to do in order to access the \$2-billion SWLRT West Lake station down below. Is this really the best we can expect?

(Photo and story: Michael Wilson.)