



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Public Works

**Date:** July 9, 2013

**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Referral to:** Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means/Budget Committee

**Subject:** 2013 Storm Response – Sidewalk and Curb and Gutter Repair

### Recommendation:

- A. Direct Public Works to develop a damage estimate for public sidewalks, curb and gutter, and alley pavement damaged as a result of severe storms on June 21, 2013.
- B. Direct Public Works and the Finance and Property Services department to return to the Transportation and Public Works Committee with a proposal to fund those repairs without assessing abutting property owners.

### Previous Directives:

None

### Department Information:

Prepared by: Brette Hjelle, Director Administration Division x2365

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Mike Kennedy, Director, Transportation Maintenance and Repair

### Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval   NA   Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Civil Rights Approval Approval   NA   Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval   NA   Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial Impact

- Sidewalk repair will likely require an amendment to the current sidewalk contract as well as appropriation changes.

## **Supporting Information**

Severe thunderstorms hit Minneapolis on June 21, 2013. Significant straight-line winds caused damage to a large portion of the city including widespread damage to boulevard trees. While the damage assessment is not yet complete, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board estimates the tree damage to be similar to the 2011 tornado where 2,400 boulevard trees were destroyed.

Sidewalks and curb and gutter are often damaged when boulevard trees fall. The standard sidewalk replacement process involves inspection, condemnation, and replacement with the costs of the work being assessed to the property owner. This can include curb and gutter sections as well. Given the extraordinary circumstances caused by the storm, it is the department's recommendation that the sidewalk and other replacement work associated with damage caused by the storm not be assessed to abutting property owners.

This recommendation is consistent with actions after the 2009 and 2011 tornados. Repairs after the 2009 tornado were funded by General Fund contingency. Repairs after the 2011 tornado were funded by FEMA reimbursements.

Public Works will conduct a damage assessment on sidewalk and related infrastructure damage from the June 21, 2013 storm to estimate the costs for repairs. We will work with the Finance Department to determine the best course of action to fund the repairs and return to the City Council for approval.