

Report to SNG, 2-22-06

Items:

- I. 27th Ave Reconstruction Project
- II. Lake St. Reconstruction Project
- III. 2010 Seward Street Renovation
- IV. WiFi Forum March 6th
- V. CRA Internal Working Group

I. 27th Ave S will be reconstructed this year from 9th St S to 29th St E. A public meeting regarding this project was held on 2-21-06, with city staff, neighbors and Council Members Gordon and Schiff in attendance. There will be bump-outs on residential blocks where they do not conflict with bus stops. Construction will last approximately from April to October.

II. Lake Street is also being reconstructed this year, with a significant assessment being applied to property owners for a “Special Services District.”

III. Many streets in Seward are slated to be renovated in 2010, not reconstructed. This project presents an opportunity to install traffic calming measures (bump-outs, throating, speed bumps) along many of our streets. Neighbors will likely have to petition to have the traffic calming installed, and be willing to be assessed for much of the cost of installation. The project also presents some challenges, due to the fact that the streets are made of concrete. After the assessment and construction, the streets are not likely to look “new.” I am also interested in exploring the idea of transforming one or more of our streets into a “linear park,” much like Milwaukee Avenue, if at all possible.

IV. The City is in the midst of a process to build a privately-owned wireless broadband internet network (Wi-Fi). I have called for city staff to seriously study public ownership models for the first time. I will be holding a forum on Wi-Fi at the Brian Coyle Center on March 6th, at 6:00 pm.

- V. I moved and won unanimous consent for a resolution to create an internal working group to study the Civilian Review Authority (CRA) at last Wednesday's Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee. The City just released a study on the CRA, highlighting the serious problems with the relationship between the board and the Police Department. I hope to be appointed to the work group, and believe that it presents a great opportunity to build the best system of police accountability that Minneapolis has ever had.