
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

March 2004

Want to Know What is Happening in the 12th Ward? Sign Up for the "12th Ward Update"

Once a month my office sends out an electronic newsletter with stories you won't see in the *Star Tribune*. I focus on providing information important to residents of the 12th Ward, including current issues, discussions at the Council, opportunities for citizen involvement, and a community calendar. The newsletter is brief and residents are encouraged to respond with questions and opinions. The "12th Ward Update" has been appreciated by hundreds of residents. I invite you to sign-up for this free and convenient service.



To subscribe, send an e-mail to sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us with the word "Update" in the subject line.

Hiawatha Traffic

Light timing continues to be a source of frustration for many people. Last month I talked about the causes (archive at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward12/>) and this month I want to talk briefly about what is being done to solve the problems.

New software will keep the lights from skipping phases if they are preempted by LRT. Currently, when the traffic lights are told that an LRV is coming, the signals are "preempted," causing the traffic lights to clear intersections to make it safe for the LRV to go through the intersection. After the preemption phase, the lights automatically go back to green for north and south Hiawatha. This causes a problem when a driver is sitting on a side street and is just about to get their green when they get preempted. The new software will allow the signals to remember where they got preempted and they will return to that point. The preemption problem is being exacerbated by the LRVs running at slower speeds than they will when the line opens. That makes the wait longer than it will be in the future.

I have also asked staff to take a hard look at opening up left hand turns when possible. Before LRT, all left-hand turns were permissive, meaning drivers could take a left on a green light. Today, that won't be possible in some situations because controlling left turns over the LRT tracks is an important safety consideration. But, there are turns that can be switched back to the old style – especially from southbound Hiawatha and westbound cross streets.

Please contact my office with any specific problems you experience. The city has two traffic engineers spending most of their time on signal coordination with LRT. I am happy to pass the information onto the right staff members. You can also see answers to frequently asked traffic and signal timing questions at:
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/lrt/TESTING_FAQ.pdf

Airport Noise Contours

A long process hit an important milestone last month when the Metropolitan Airports Commission released the draft 2007 noise exposure map. Although an incredible amount of work preceded the release of the map, this is the point many residents will become aware of potential changes in the Sound Insulation Program (SIP).

The FAA requires airports to update noise exposure maps (the foundation for the SIP) periodically. In the MAC's case, an update has not been completed since 1996. Noise exposure maps use data (i.e. 2002 actual flights) and assumptions (i.e. flights in 2007) to establish noise contours. These contours determine the eligibility for the SIP.

It is not a surprise to see the new contours are considerably smaller than the 1996 map. The practical implication of this change is fewer homes will be eligible for sound insulation. **It is important to note that the MAC Commissioners are reconsidering what should be in the SIP program (i.e. windows, central air, etc.) and who should get it.** As your representative from the city, I will continue the fight for a fair program for city residents.

There will be multiple opportunities for residents to learn about and comment on the proposed map. On March 3rd at 9 a.m., the MAC Planning and Environment Committee will discuss the proposed map.

Look for an Airport newsletter from myself and the Mayor in March. It will include much more information about the history of this debate, city actions, what you can do, and more details about opportunities to comment on the proposed map.

For more information about the proposal and process, visit:
<http://www.macnoise.com/>

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

Teen Job and Opportunity Fair

South High School, 3131 19th Avenue South
Saturday, March 13th, Noon – 2:30 p.m.

South Minneapolis Housing and Home Improvement Fair

South High School, 3131 19th Avenue S
Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S
March 8th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park
March 18th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
March 25th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

“311” for Easy Access

In a city the size of Minneapolis, citizens can face a daunting challenge to find the right person to talk with about a question or problem. The city is working toward a solution through use of a “311” line. All non-emergency calls regarding city government will be able to use this number. A call center will then route the calls to the right department and call tracking will ensure proper follow-up is given to each caller. This not only simplifies government for citizens, it allows the city to have a centralized tracking system for the types of calls that come into the city. Currently, the large number of different call centers makes gathering this information nearly impossible. It will also lighten the call load on some departments, freeing them from unnecessary calls that will now be routed to the correct department by 311 operators. I will continue to welcome questions from constituents and provide assistance or information as quickly as possible, even after “311” is introduced next year.

Minneapolis Parks Gift/Memorial Program

I recently received a wonderful letter from someone who had two red maples donated to the Park Board and planted at Minnehaha Falls Park as a memorial to her parents and grandparents. The Gift/Memorial Program gives people the chance to give a lasting memorial that can be enjoyed by park visitors for decades. Follow these steps to make a donation:

1. Contact the Park Board at 612-370-4969.
2. Fill out form, including location and type of tree you want.
3. Work with Park Board Forester to make sure the type of tree will work in your chosen location.
4. Indicate if you want to be present for the planting.

There are many other donation and adoption opportunities available – just give the Park Board a call and they will be happy to find something that works for you.

River Lake Greenway

The All Neighborhood Committee for the “River Lake Greenway” – a bike route connecting the River and Lake Harriet via 40th and 42nd Streets – took an important step in early February when they presented a draft plan at a neighborhood meeting. The draft plan includes a dedicated bike lane in each direction on 40th Street, Nokomis Avenue, and 42nd Street. To accommodate the bike lanes, there would be some changes to the street layouts. It is important to remember that this is a *proposed* layout and actual construction is years away.

- 40th Street, from Park to Nokomis Avenue, is proposed to be one-way with parking on one side.
- Nokomis Avenue, from 40th to 42nd Street, is proposed to be one-way with parking on one side.
- 42nd Street is proposed to have two bike lanes and two lanes of traffic, but no parking, from Hiawatha to 46th Avenue.
- 42nd Street, from 46th Avenue to the River Road, is proposed to have two bike lanes, two lanes of traffic, and parking on the south side of the street.

If you want to see a graphic of the proposed layout, visit my website (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward12/>) and click on “Ward Issues.”

The development of this plan has been led by residents of the neighborhoods through which the trail will pass. The next step in the review process will be meetings in the SENA and LCC neighborhoods. Watch my “Update” and the Messenger for further news and future meeting notices.

Report Potholes Online

Minnesota in March means snow *and* potholes. A quick and easy way to report potholes to Public Works is to use the online form available at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/contact/email-form-pothole.asp>

Report potholes 24 hours a day by calling 612-673-5720.