

Community 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



Contact John:

350 S. 5th Street
Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
55415

Phone: (612) 673-2211

Fax: (612) 673-3940

[John.Quincy@
ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:John.Quincy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Inside this issue:

Quincy's Corner	1
2011 Mayoral Budget	2
Draft Bicycle Plan	2
Downtown Two- Way Conversions	3
Ward 11 Power Outages	3
Grants to Bridge the Digital Divide	4
City Boards and Commissions Openings	4
Calendar	5

Volume 1, Issue 10

September 2010

Quincy's Corner

As budget season begins, it's the perfect time to highlight **A City That Works**, one of our six city goals.

Due to our philosophies that a **shared democracy empowers residents as valued partners and transparency, accountability and fairness are our hallmarks**, the City's budget processes are completely open to the public. Over the next two months, every city department will report to the Ways and Means Committee, presenting how they will meet the Mayor's proposed budget plan and requesting any additional funding. In December, the committee will roll all of what they've heard together with the Mayor's proposal and present it to the full council. Before the final budget is adopted, City residents are invited to testify.

Infrastructure – streets, bridges, sidewalks, sewers, bike lanes & paths – well-managed and maintained is a major push within the 2011 proposed budget. Assuming the state follows through on its commitments, Minneapolis will be able to make improvements on 63% of its city streets in the next five years. At our 2010 funding level, we would have only been able to improve 24% of our streets, a drastic difference.

The City shows its commitment to a **21st century government: collaborative, efficient and reform-minded** through the many partnerships it is pursuing, including organics recycling with Hennepin County, MPD officers once again in Minneapolis Public Schools, and a proposed new park dedication fee that has been approved by the Minneapolis Park Board and will be heard by the city council in early September. We are also focused on an **optimal use of technology and wireless capacity** through our partnership with USI Wireless, including free hot spots throughout Minneapolis and an initiative to use wireless service throughout the city enterprise.

The Mayor's budget also strives to ensure the goal of **tax burden managed and sustainable** is a reality. His proposal to increase property taxes by 6.5% is the lowest proposed increase in the last decade. The City's portion of property taxes funds the city enterprise, the Park Board, the Municipal Building Commission, and the Public Housing Authority. Pension obligations are responsible for all of this year's property tax increase.

As a city, we cannot make any of these goals reality without **city employees** who are **high-performing, engaged and empowered**. It is their initiative and energy that allows us to meet these goals and serve the people of Minneapolis.

To learn more about the 2011 proposed budget and the budget process, visit the [Recommended Budget site](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Quincy'.

City Focus

Mayor R.T. Rybak gave his annual budget address to City Council Members on Aug. 16. The City Council will now consider the Mayor's proposal in a series of budget hearings.

In the address, Rybak proposed a 2011 City budget that funds the basics of police, potholes and paychecks, and meets the challenges posed by rising pension obligations, especially two closed pension funds. The mayor also identified investing in transit-oriented development, downtown planning, a new downtown park, and a new regional economic development entity as opportunities to grow the City's tax base.

Mayor Rybak also recognized that the two closed pension funds will continue to be a

financial challenge for the City. Of the \$17.7 million more that the City must pay in 2011 to meet pension obligations, nearly 90 percent must go to two closed pension funds: the Minneapolis Police Relief Association and the Minneapolis Fire Relief Association. Were it not for the \$17.7 million jump in pension obligations, the City would be able to lower property taxes by 0.1 percent next year. However, obligations to pensions — and in particular, the closed pensions — instead require a 6.5 percent pension levy for 2011.

You can view the Mayor's recommended budget speech in its entirety on Minneapolis City Channel 14 through mid-September on Mondays at 2 pm, Wednesdays at 5 pm,

Fridays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 9 pm. The speech will also be re-broadcast on Minneapolis Meeting Channel 79 on Wednesday, August 18 at 2 pm, Friday, August 20 at 1 pm, and on Sunday, August 22 at 1 pm. Minneapolis Meeting Channel 79 will continue to re-broadcast the speech on Saturdays at noon through mid-September.

For more information visit the 2011 Recommended Budget site: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2011recc.

Mayoral 2011 Budget Address

Comment on Minneapolis' Draft Bicycle Plan

includes an update to the 2001 Bicycle Master Plan Map.

Five public meetings will be held to gather public input and answer questions. The meeting times and places are as follows:

- **Monday, August 30**
Edison High School Auditorium, 700 22nd Avenue NE, 6:30–8:30 pm
- **Wednesday, September 1**
Roosevelt High School Auditorium, 4029 28th Avenue S, 6:30–8:30 pm
- **Wednesday, September 8**
Washburn High School Auditorium, 201 W 49th Street, 6:30–8:30 pm



The City of Minneapolis is seeking comments on its draft Bicycle Master Plan, which establishes goals, objectives, and benchmarks to improve safety and mobility for bicyclists and also increase the number of trips taken by bicycle. The draft plan details policies and practices around bicycling in Minneapolis, and

City Links

[Minneapolis Home Page](#)

[Hennepin County Libraries](#)

[Minneapolis Public Schools](#)

[City of Minneapolis Jobs](#)

[Garbage Service](#)

[Maps of Minneapolis](#)

[Separating Your Recycling](#)

[Snow Emergency](#)

Online Services

[Apply for Block Party Permit](#)

[Home Improvement Permits](#)

[Pay Your Utility Bill](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Report Graffiti](#)

Address-Based Lookups

[Council Ward Finder](#)

[Garbage](#)

[Recycling Schedule](#)

[Police Precinct Finder](#)

[Property Information](#)

[Spring & Fall Street Sweeping Schedule](#)

[Snow Emergency Parking Rules](#)

[Voting Precinct Finder](#)

- **Monday, September 13**
Minneapolis Central Library Pohlard Hall Auditorium, 300 Nicollet Mall, 6:30–8:30 pm
- **Wednesday, September 15**
University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center, 2001 Plymouth Avenue N, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

The comment period for the Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan will last for 45 days and be open until October 1, 2010. For more information and to comment on the draft plan online, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles.

Downtown Two-Way Conversions Good for Access and Safety

The City of Minneapolis has completed a formal evaluation of the performance of Hennepin and 1st Avenues since the conversion of the streets to two-way operation last fall. Data on the first six months following the conversion shows that the new street configurations have led to fewer crashes, more bicyclists in area, and better access, while continuing to move traffic efficiently.

The data shows that the goals of the Hennepin and 1st two-way conversion have been achieved. Those goals included: increased bicycling in corridor, improved vehicle and bicycle safety, maintaining capacity to move vehicles in the corridor, and improving access and circulation.

More specifically, the data shows:

- There has been an increase in bicycle ridership in the area, following the addition

of bike lanes to 1st Avenue, the addition of a shared lane on Hennepin Avenue, and the opening of Nicollet Mall to bicycles as part of the overall transportation plan for Downtown. These three streets carried about 1,640 bicyclists per day before the changes were made, and now carry approximately 2,347 per day.

- Since the conversion, there have been no reported bicycle crashes, and a decrease in total crashes. The three-year annual average for reported bicycle crashes on Hennepin and 1st prior to the conversion was 12.25 crashes. This has dropped to zero in the first six months following the conversion. Although a longer study is needed, the data so far shows greatly improved bicycle safety in the corridor. Overall vehicle crashes are also down slightly.

- Traffic efficiency has been maintained. "Traffic efficiency" refers to how well the streets are operating in terms of moving vehicles through the corridor. The data shows the roadways are maintaining operational efficiency when compared to before the conversion.
- Access and circulation have improved in the area of the conversion. Traffic volumes on Hennepin Avenue, 1st Avenue and the cross streets is up by 2.1 percent, to an estimated 433,144 vehicles per day. The data also shows that 99 percent of vehicles using Hennepin Avenue in Downtown are turning onto cross streets Downtown, indicating the street is being used primarily for access Downtown and not for through trips.
- About 94 percent of drivers park correctly in the offset

1st Avenue parking lanes. As part of the conversion, parking along 1st Avenue was moved away from the curb, to a parking lane to the left of the bike lane. Most drivers are following parking rules about where or when parking is allowed. There is a trend towards fewer tows and we expect drivers will continue to become more familiar with the parking rules.

- On-street parking usage has been maintained in the Warehouse District. Parking meter revenues in the Warehouse District are consistent with previous years.

To see the full report, visit the Hennepin and 1st project website at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hennepinfirst.

A Message from Xcel Energy About Power Outages

Pockets of Ward 11 have experienced higher than usual power outages this summer. Xcel asked to convey the following message:

"Occasionally the electric power distributed to homes or businesses in your community can fluctuate or be interrupted by a variety of causes, even on a sunny day.

Power restoration process

We repair power lines as safely and rapidly as possible, working around the clock until power is restored to all customers. We give top priority to situations that threaten public safety, such as downed wires. Then we prioritize repairs

based on what will restore power to the largest number of customers most quickly.

Report all outages

You can help us get a jump on power restoration by calling 1-800-895-1999 and following the prompts - our automated phone reporting system lets you report outages in less than 60 seconds. Once we've identified the cause of the problem, you will be provided with an estimated restoration time.

In larger communities, when a power outage affects an entire feeder (feeders distribute power from substations to large numbers of customers), an alarm goes off at our control

center. The control center then dispatches the next available crew to assess the problem.

Thank you for your patience during outages. We value you as an important customer and appreciate your efforts to report power outages to us immediately.

Customers can now turn to the Internet to access our company's newly developed [online outage map](#) for updated restoration information when the power goes out.

Users can view the map, which provides information during a power failure about outages across our service area, or they can narrow their search to a

specific neighborhood with the "zoom-in" feature that will bring them to within 2.5 miles.

Not only can they see the number of customers who are experiencing outages, but they can see the streets affected and if crews have been called out and are in the process of addressing the problem.

The online map, which is updated every 10 minutes, also provides an estimate of when power will be restored. The site also includes safety tips and instructions about how to report a power outage."

\$100,000 in Grants to Bridge the Digital Divide

The Minneapolis Foundations' Digital Inclusion Fund, which was created as part of the Community Benefits Agreement between the City of Minneapolis and USI Wireless, is seeking requests for proposals from eligible organizations in Minneapolis that are working to promote technology access and literacy throughout the city. Approximately \$100,000 is available and the grants will be good for one year. The maximum grant size for this cycle is \$10,000.

Nonprofits and public institutions that provide access to technology to underserved populations in the city are eligible to apply. Past grantees of the Digital Inclusion Fund are not eligible to apply for a grant this cycle. Applicants must provide programming in the City of Minneapolis for the benefit of Minneapolis residents to be considered.

Requests for funding from the Digital Inclusion Fund should demonstrate how the proposed activities will accomplish long-term change in the

city in at least one of the following areas:

- Affordable internet access
- Technology literacy
- Local, relevant and accessible content
- Adequate, affordable hardware and software tools

Preference will be given to funding requests that address one or more of the goal areas in a clear and measurable way with special interest in proposals addressing the needs of

elders and people with disabilities.

For information on the RFP process and instructions on how to apply for a grant visit the Digital Inclusion Fund website at digitalinclusion-fund.tmfportal.org.

Proposals must be received by 4:30 pm Friday, September 10. Grant recipients will be notified in December 2010.

About the Digital Inclusion Fund

The Digital Inclusion Fund supports efforts to bridge the digital divide in Minneapolis by providing qualified organizations with financial resources to promote technology access and literacy for low-income people, people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees, displaced workers, seniors, and other new users of technology. It was established at The Minneapolis Foundation in 2007 as part of Community Benefits Agreement between the City of Minneapolis and USI Wireless. USI Wireless is the vendor responsible for establishing a wireless network in the City of Minneapolis.



Ward Neighborhood Associations

[Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Group](#)

3rd Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm, Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

[Hale, Page, Diamond Lake Community Association](#)

4th Monday, 7-8:30 pm, Emmanuel United Methodist Church

[Kingfield Neighborhood Association](#)

2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm, Martin Luther King Park

[Nokomis East Neighborhood Association](#)

4th Thursday, 7-8:30 pm, NENA Office

[Tangletown Neighborhood Association](#)

3rd Monday, 7-8:30 pm, Fuller Park

[Windom Community Council](#)

2nd Thursday, 7-8:30 pm, Windom Community Center

Apply for Boards and Commissions Openings

Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape policy decisions, and provide community-based input into administration of services. Applications are now being accepted for openings on board and commission positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

There are 112 open positions on 14 City boards/commissions. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 4, 2010, however, the positions are open until filled.

For a full list of appointment opportunities and position

descriptions, visit the [boards and commissions website](#).

To learn more about a particular open position, please join us in an online chat or at our open house.

The online chat is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 from noon–1 pm to answer questions about board and commission openings. To access the online chat visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/chat.

The open house will be held: Thursday, September 23 5:30–6:30 pm City Hall Rotunda 350 South 5th Street

The City of Minneapolis has more than 50 volunteer-based

boards, commissions, and advisory committees that advise the City on issues and help with policy development and administration of services. Boards and commissions fall into a handful of categories: appeal, development, general advisory, and special service districts.

Previously, appointments were made on an as-needed basis throughout the year. Now, appointments to board and commissions will be made twice a year.

The new, streamlined appointment process will make it easier to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensure a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increase the diversity of the applicant pool.

Calendar

September 1	6:30–8:30 pm: Bicycle Master Plan Public Meeting at Roosevelt High School Auditorium (4029 28th Avenue S)
September 2	6:30 pm: Kingfield Proposed Dog Park Public Meeting at Martin Luther King Park Auditorium (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
September 6	Labor Day Holiday
September 8	6–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S) 6:30–8:30 pm: Bicycle Master Plan Public Meeting at Washburn High School Auditorium (201 49th Street W)
September 9	7–8:30 pm: Windom Community Council Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Avenue S)
September 11	9 am–2 pm: Monarch Festival at Nokomis Naturescape Gardens Map 9:30-11:30 am: Second Saturday with Rep. Jean Wagenius at Mayflower Church (106 Diamond Lake Road E)
September 13	6:30–8:30 pm: Bicycle Master Plan Public Meeting at Minneapolis Central Library Pohlad Hall Auditorium (300 Nicollet Mall)
September 15	8–9 am: Community Coffee Hour with Council Member Quincy at Caribou Coffee (4606 Nicollet Avenue S) 6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
September 25	10:30 am–4 pm: Taste of 48th Annual Fall Festival at businesses along the intersection of 48th Street E and Chicago Avenue S
September 20	7–8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
September 21	6:30–8:30 pm: 3rd Precinct Block Leader Training RSVP at (612) 673-2856 at the 3rd Precinct House (3000 Minnehaha Avenue S)
September 23	5:30–6:30 pm: Boards and Commissions Open House at City Hall Rotunda (350 5th Street S) 6:30–9 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)
September 24	5:30–6:30 pm: Ward 11 Happy Hour at King's (4555 Grand Avenue S)
September 27	7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)