



[August, 2011]

State Cuts LGA Payment to Minneapolis, Forcing Mid-year Cuts

Minneapolis will receive \$23 million less than promised in Local Government Aid (LGA) this year. That action triggers a series of additional cuts to the City's 2011 budget. This is on top of cuts that were already made as part of the normal 2011 budget process that included the loss of 80 full-time positions.

The 2011 budget approved by Mayor and Council last December was based on the assumption that the State would honor its certified commitment of \$87.5 million in LGA but a contingency plan was put in place in case they did not. These cuts are reluctantly being made because the State has left the City with no other choice. The City will be cutting much-needed street paving despite this year's record numbers of potholes. The City will slow its debt repayment despite the fact that doing so has helped restore Minneapolis' AAA bond rating and save taxpayers money. More positions must be cut from Police and Fire.

The cuts will be felt across Minneapolis, not just by our residents but by the hundreds of thousands of people from across our state who visit Minneapolis for work, school, play, medical care or recreation. The cuts specifically include:

- \$7.1 million that would've reduced pension debt.
- \$6.2 million in street paving — a more than 50% reduction to the City's 2011 paving program.
- \$2.8 million set aside to offset future property-tax increases.
- \$2.0 million across-the-board cuts to all City departments, recapturing reductions to health-care costs, savings that had been allocated to departments.
- \$1.7 million in budgeting for no wage and salary increases for City employees, for the first of two years.
- \$1.1 million that would've been used to avoid layoffs in the Fire Department.
- \$1.0 million that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Municipal Building Commission will now have to make.
- \$0.7 million for one-time, innovative initiatives.
- \$0.5 million that would've been used to avoid layoffs in the Police Department.
- \$0.35 million for innovations in Neighborhood and Community Relations and Business Information Services.

The Transportation & Public Works Committee last week learned more specifics about cuts to public work; the most significant will affect our Infrastructure because of a \$6.23 million reduction to the capital program. The cuts will mean

- Only half the miles of asphalt street repaving, less than half the amount of alleys reconditioned, only one-third the sealcoating (the maintenance that prolongs the life of pot-hold free asphalt).

Minneapolis on Most Walkable City Top Ten List

"Walk Score" has ranked Minneapolis the 9th most walkable city in the United States.

The score is based on a number of factors including distance from an address to a diverse set of amenities and road connectivity.

The top 10 most walkable cities are:

1. New York
2. San Francisco
3. Boston
4. Chicago
5. Philadelphia
6. Seattle
7. Washington D.C.
8. Miami
9. Minneapolis
10. Oakland

Dear Reader,

When sales tax was approved in this state, citizens were told it was to ensure that residents of Minnesota could receive basic services from their cities, no matter where in the state they live. Local Government Aid (LGA) is the program created to carry that out. The effect of LGA cuts has been increased property taxes around the state to pay for continuing city services. There is little argument that property taxes are the most regressive tax.

LGA is not a subsidy; Minneapolis sends hundreds of millions of dollars in sales tax to the state each year and we get a fraction back as LGA.

LGA is distributed according to a formula based on needs. Minneapolis is a net-contributor to the pool but we have needs. The property tax payers of Minneapolis need and deserve the assistance originally intended when sales tax was adopted. The legislative changes that cut an additional \$23 million in the middle of the year will also hurt the many people who work in or visit Minneapolis but do not own property here.

Minneapolis tax payers have borne a tax burden increase each year for the past ten, at the same time we watched 10% of the workforce cut (plus more moved to the county with library consolidation) and service slow-downs for things like light replacements and street maintenance, all to preserve the services most essential to public safety. That is the background for the cuts we are making now.

I am writing this is in the hope that readers can help those hundreds of thousands of people who spend time in Minneapolis to understand that the emergency responders they count on when coming to work each day, the roads leading to medical care they depend on and even lakes and trails they love to use, are now endangered by the continuing cuts. Talk to your friends so that they understand the situation and can encourage their legislators to stop this unfair practice. If we can't get help from our friends, how can we ever expect to get help from legislators who don't live here?



Bicycle Master Plan: Transportation & Jobs for the Future

After two years of work by city staff and dozens of volunteers who served on the Bicycle Advisory Committee (Chaired by 12th ward resident Nick Mason) or attended community forums, the Bicycle Master Plan was unanimously approved by the City Council on July 22. At a time of major budget cuts, some may question Minneapolis' spending on bicycle infrastructure. It's good to remember that all of the investments were able to leverage large amounts of funding from other sources and that cuts are falling on bikes as well as alleys and streets. But most important is to consider that past investments by the City have enabled us to become recognized nationally as one of the best cities in the nation for biking. This matters even to those who never get on a bike because bicycling has environmental impacts (reduced pollution), health benefits, and economic impact.

Minnesota Business Magazine recently estimated that the revenue generated by the Twin Cities' bicycle retail, wholesale and manufacturing businesses alone to be \$315 million. According to their recent feature story, area supports two of the nation's largest bicycle retailers and the largest bike parts wholesaler. (continued next page)

46th & 46th Public Hearing

On August 15, the Planning Commission will hear plans for a proposed development at 46th Avenue and 46th Street. The plans call for 48 units of rental housing.

Unless appealed, the Planning Commission has the final word about the site plan and any variances.

Residents who wish to comment on the project may attend the hearing at City Hall at 4:30 pm or send comments to the City Planner, Kimberly Holien for the record.

E-mail comments to: Kimberly.holien@minneapolismn.gov Questions? Call Kimberly at 612-673-2402.

Veterans Administration Considering Homeless Veterans Housing on Medical Center Property

The Veterans Administration (VA) is considering providing permanent housing for homeless veterans on the medical center property. Few details of the proposal are available now. The land where the medical center is located is federal and therefore the state and city have no jurisdiction there.

Council member Colvin Roy highlighted this theme when speaking in favor of the adoption: “Healthy cities grow and change and that is Minneapolis’ goal – to stay a healthy city. We are attracting jobs, as well as new residents who see biking as an important part of their lives, when we invest in biking and this plan will guide the investments, when they are possible.”

Meeting About Lake Nokomis Community School: August 16

The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) and the Lake Nokomis Community School (LNCS) Parent Teacher Association are hosting a meeting discuss the facilities needs of LNCS students in preparation for an upcoming School Board action. The LNCS campuses, which include Wenonah and Keewaydin, are popular and as a result are crowded and cannot guarantee enrollment for new neighborhood students. There are also concerns that the needs of middle school children are not adequately met by the Keewaydin campus which was designed as an elementary school. Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) recently completed a feasibility study to examine the facilities needs of public schools including LNCS. The results of that study will be presented at the meeting. According to the April Rothgeb, LNCS PTA Chair, “the options for the site range from doing nothing, to building a completely new single campus facility. Other options include permanently relocating students and staff to Folwell, building only a gym at Keewaydin, and doing major remodels at both school buildings.” Roth says that the School Board wants input before a planned August 30 vote. The Tuesday, August 16 meeting will be held at the Keewaydin campus at 5209 30th Avenue South. Enjoy a free taco dinner beginning at 6:30 pm following by the meeting at 7:15. Childcare will be provided.

Where there’s Smoke there’s ... a Test of the Sanitary Sewers

Tests will be conducted in the late summer and fall to examine sanitary sewers in parts of the City. This area includes a portion of the Standish neighborhood. The tests use smoke to locate sections of the sanitary sewers that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that allow rain water in the sanitary sewer system. During the test, workers send white smoke into the sewer system. The smoke will come out through holes in manhole covers, plumbing vent pipes and other locations where rain water can get into the sewer system. Each test is approximately 30 minutes long. The smoke is not harmful. Residents who will be directly affected by the testing will be notified and given detailed information about what to expect.

Call 612-673-3543 if you operate a daycare, nursing home or other large facility in the test area or require special notification for any reason.

Events & Special Meetings

National Night Out

August 2 For more information, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno
The last day to register your event is August 1:



**Abandoned
Vehicles**

Crime Prevention

Utility Billing

Housing

Metro Transit**Report Graffiti****Animal Control****USI Wireless****LCC****NENA****SENA****Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival**

August 3, 5-8 pm Lake Hiawatha Park, 2701 E. 44th St. Event begins with the dedication of the new wading pool and tennis complex. Pony rides for kids 10 and under, face painting, hair painting, games, 5-in-1 sports moonwalk and a water slide. Family fitness challenge and talent contest (preregister for both by calling 370-4930) and much more! Visit www.lhrc.freeservers.com/festival.htm for more information.

Longfellow 38th Annual Corn Feed

August 4, 5:30-8:00 pm Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S. Music, moonwalk and face painting for kids, community business/resource fair, health fair and of course, roasted corn! Contact Joanna, 722-4529 or joanna@longfellow.org for information.

Friends of Nokomis Library Book Sale

August 6, 10 am - 4 pm Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S. Hundreds of adult and children's fiction and nonfiction books, withdrawn from Hennepin County Library system or donated by the public, for sale. Most books priced \$1 or less.

Community Gardening Day

Saturday, August 6 Go visit a garden near you! This is an opportunity for you to get to know these vital community spaces, and to celebrate alongside your neighbors. [Check out the official Community Garden Day Map](#) to see which gardens will have their gates open for you to wander in. You can also view information on previous years' [Parade of Community Gardens](#) (the former name of this event) to find out more about what gardeners have done in the past. Learn more at: <http://www.gardeningmatters.org/>

Longfellow Garden Club – Garden Potluck

August 10, 6:30-8:30 pm Close to Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. **RSVP required!** In email to longfellowgardenclubmail@gmail.com, include your name and what you are bringing. Or call 729-7859 & leave a message. Club will provide plates, cups, utensils, iced tea & water. If you need a lawn chair, please let the club know. <https://sites.google.com/site/longfellowgardenclubminnesota/> or www.facebook.com/LongfellowGardenClub for more information.

Lake Nokomis Community School (LNCS) Facility Improvements Meeting -

August 16, 6:30 taco bar, 7:15 meeting. Keewaydin campus, 5209 30th Avenue South. (See article above) Learn about options to meet the needs of students and prospective students of Lake Nokomis Community School (Wenonah and Keewaydin campuses).

Block Leader Training

August 18, 6:30-8:00 pm 3rd Police Precinct, 3000 Minnehaha Ave. Learn to organize a block club, how and when to use 911, how to solve problems effectively; meet your Crime Prevention Specialist. RSVP to 673-482 or 673-2856.

River Gorge Clean Up

August 27, 9:30-11:00 am, 34th St & West River Parkway. Volunteers needed to clean up the River Gorge. Meet at the top of the stairs to the sand flats. All ages welcome. Bags and gloves provided. Sponsored by LCC's River Gorge Committee. Hillary.oppmann@gmail.com for more information.

LOLa (League of Longfellow Artists) Art Crawl & Storefronts Project

August 27th & 28th, 10 am – 5 pm Get a glimpse into the creative workspaces of artisans working on jewelry, glasswork, painting, photography, textiles, pottery, gardens, sculpture and more. For a map of participating artists, visit www.lolaartcrawl.com .

Nokomis Healthy Seniors Hot Dog Sale Fundraiser

August 27th & 28th, 10 am – 4 pm Bergan's SuperValu, 4715 Cedar Ave S. Hot dogs, brats, chips & soda. All money raised supports NHS services.

Celebrate the Life, the Dream, the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

August 28th, 2-5 pm Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave S.

Minneapolis joins the nation in celebrating the dedication of the MLK Memorial in Washington, DC. as we re-dedicate the Freedom Form #2 sculpture erected in 1970 to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the Park was renamed for him and kick off efforts to preserve Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy at the park. Enjoy a moving afternoon of speakers, musical entertainment, refreshments and meet the sculptor of Freedom Form #2. Presented by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Council
Contacts: Mary Merrill Anderson 612-229-9709, Susan Gray 612-387-7877, Jennifer Ringold 612-230-6464

Boards & Commissions Openings

Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) There is an opening for a 12th Ward appointee. If you are interested, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/ for application information. Deadline for receipt – August 19th.

I am honored to serve the residents of the 12th Ward. If you have any questions or comments please call me at 612-673-2212 or e-mail me at Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

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