

July 3, 2006

Minneapolis City Clerk's Office
C/O T&PW Committee Coordinator
350 South Fifth Street, Room 304
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1382

Subject: Written Objection to the Lynnhurst Street Renovation Project

My wife and I are homeowners in South Minneapolis at 4648 West Lake Harriet Parkway. We were recently notified that we were being assessed \$594.18 for a Street Renovation Project.

This letter is to state my objections to this project, as I am unable to attend the Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting on July 11th. I have several points:

1. Why Aren't Local Taxes Covering Road Maintenance Work?

I am not aware of local, regional, or national one-time tax assessments when a road is in need of repair. Why aren't the annual local and state taxes being used to fund this project? Why haven't our tax dollars been used to maintain these roads during their lifetime so that this project is not required?

2. Prioritization and Intelligent Allocation of Budgets

The project engineer has informed me that this is not basic road maintenance but special renovation work that is not covered by budgets funded by local taxes. If this is the case, how is the City of Minneapolis choosing to use the City's Income? With all of the local and state challenges that we hear about in the media and from our elected officials (education, crime, health care, social services) how has this committee decided to use \$2.4 million on a street renovation project for Lynnhurst? I assume that further tax dollars are being used in other neighborhoods around Minneapolis. What is the total cost to the taxpayers of Minneapolis? Is this the correct way to allocate spending?

3. What Benefit is the Neighborhood Receiving From a Road Project that Requires an Additional Tax Burden

I would like to understand what benefit is being gained from this "special road project" that requires incremental work beyond traditional maintenance and repair. Will it reduce my taxes in the future because the road will last longer? If so, when can I expect the reduction? What was wrong with our previous gutter system or curbs? A city assessor told me that it would increase my home value. Is that what I am supposed to believe as the key benefit for this additional tax burden on an overburdened city?

4. Notification of Future Work Requiring Additional Tax Burdens

This project is NOT on the website for the 13th Ward and the communication for this project was minimal at best. If the average assessment for a household is \$1000, I would think that many taxpayers would like to know what else is on the city's 5 year capital plan. This will help us understand the ADDITIONAL tax burden that the city is deciding to levy against us BEFORE a few months before the project is to commence.

I strongly object to this project as it has been communicated to me and I hope that you will consider and document my objection.

Thank You.



Jeff J. Hillins

DEPARTMENT
CITY CLERK

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