



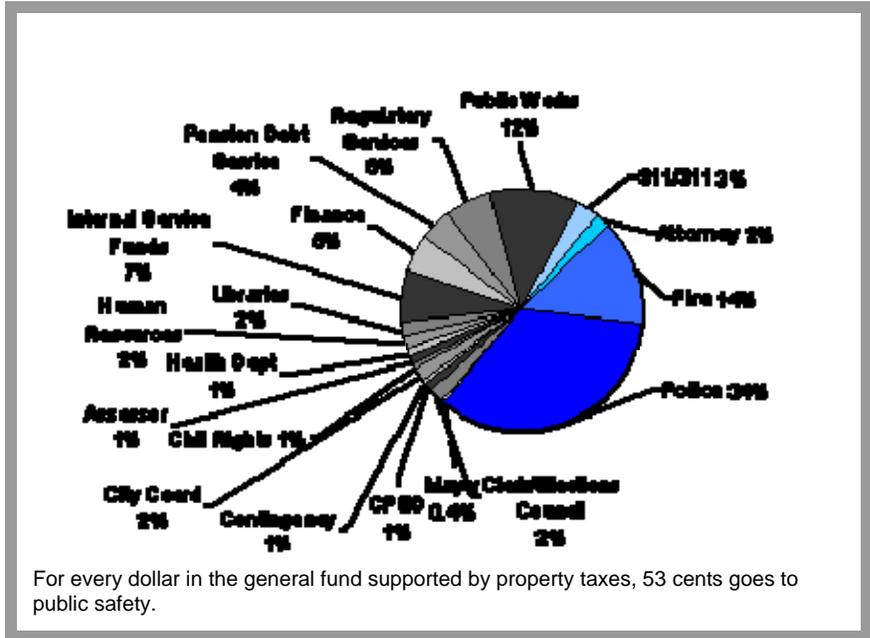
9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

August 22, 2008

Mayors budget: more money for roads, NRP Phase III

On August 14, Mayor RT Rybak unveiled his 2009 budget, proposing a 6.9 percent property tax increase. The Council will review the budget for the next four months, with final adoption scheduled for December 11th.



The proposed budget includes a

sweeping \$27.5 million transportation infrastructure package that would repair more than one-third of all the heavily-traveled streets. The accelerated funding package would also replace or repair more than 4,700 traffic light and street light poles and improve city bike paths such as the Midtown Greenway.

To see the roads slated for repair in the next five years, [click here](#).

Also in the budget was the Mayor’s proposal for the third phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, with an investment of \$80 million over ten years.

The proposed 6.9 percent tax increase is a slight drop from the 8% increases approved in the last seven years. The city received \$6.6 million more in local government aide from the State of Minnesota for 2009. For more information about the 2009 City of Minneapolis budget, visit the [2009 budget webpage](#).

New legislation encourages more pedicabs



Today the City Council [passed legislation](#) authored by Council Member Gary Schiff easing restrictions on pedicabs. A pedicab is a nonmotorized three-wheel bicycle used to carry passengers for hire and commonly carry up to two passengers.

A call from Corcoran neighborhood resident Koa Rosa prompted the legislation. “Koa [operated pedicabs in San Diego](#) when he was in college, but found the Minneapolis rules so restrictive it made profit impossible. Pedicabs are a locally-owned green industry that we should

encourage,” Council Member Schiff said.

The new legislation gets rid of a city-wide ban on night and rush-hour use of pedicabs and opens up some downtown streets that were previously off limits, like Nicollet Mall. The new rules substitute a night time ban with a headlight and taillight requirement.

[Click here](#) for a peek at pedicab regulations across the U.S.

Breakfast with Gary: Tackling livability crimes

On Friday, August 29th Breakfast with Gary will feature a discussion about livability crimes and new strategies to confront prostitution in south Minneapolis. "We have made progress reducing violent crime in the past two years, but livability crimes continue to be the greatest complaint from neighborhoods," said Council Member Schiff. Livability crimes can include prostitution, drug dealing and aggressive panhandling.



The new City Attorney Susan Segal, Police Chief Tim Dolan and Third Precinct Inspector Lucy Gerold will be the guest speakers.

Breakfast with Gary takes place from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. the final Friday of every month at Mercado Central, 1515 East Lake St. \$5 buys breakfast.

Cuernavaca named new sister city



Gary Schiff delivered pen pal letters from South High school to students in Cuernavaca, Morelos in 2005.

Cuernavaca Mexico was named Minneapolis' newest sister city today, with the unanimous approval by the Minneapolis City Council. The mayor of Cuernavaca will attend a signing ceremony and celebration open to the public on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in City Hall.

[Cuernavaca, Morelos](#) is located in the central highlands of Mexico, about 50 miles south of Mexico City. Council Member Gary Schiff traveled to Cuernavaca in 2004 to help build ties between the cities, including visiting at a local school to delivering letters

from South High School students to their Mexican peers in Morelos.

An estimated 30,000 Mexican immigrants from the Morelos area have moved to the Twin Cities in the past 15 years. Schiff says this is the first sister city relationship consciously chosen because of immigration patterns.

"Building ties with a part of the world where a large number of immigrants come from helps us better understand our own future," said Schiff, who sponsored the Council resolution to enter into the sister city agreement. "The relationship between Morelos and Minnesota is going to last for many generations, and as borders become more fluid and as the world becomes more flat, it's going to be to our benefit to be able to understand what's happening with trade and economic issues that are going to affect us." [Click here](#) to learn more about the sister city relationship with Cuernavaca.

New policy eases options for more speed bumps

Council Member Gary Schiff is sponsoring a new policy to make it easier for neighborhoods to pay for speed bumps, a vital tool for traffic calming. The new policy allows property owners to spread out costs over time as voluntary assessments. "In the past, speed bumps had to be paid for up front, which has proven to be a barrier for most neighborhoods," Schiff says.

Due to rising oil prices, asphalt speed bumps are costly. A pair costs \$4,500 total, which includes construction engineering, installation and project administration.



Speed bumps can be an effective traffic calming technique.

The new policy proposes residents submit two petitions in order to participate. The first petition must show that 75% of property owners do not object to the placement of a pair of speed bumps on the block. The second petition is signed only by property owners who volunteer to split the cost of the speed bump through a voluntary assessment, spread out over ten years. The more property owners that agree to participate, the lower the cost per household. Schiff says the average city block has 26 properties and full participation could result in voluntary assessments as low as \$25 per household.

