



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: September 27, 2005
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: Recovery of City Paving Bricks/Blocks

Recommendation: Receive and File

Previous Directives: None

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Approved by:

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Presenters: Paul W. Ogren, P.E., Director, Field Services

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Background/Supporting Information:

Paving bricks/stones can be found under the asphalt surface on many of the City of Minneapolis older arterial streets. They were a common street material during the late 1800s and early 1900s, especially in areas where the streetcar track existed.

During the 1970s and 1980s large numbers of paving bricks/stones were removed during street and utility infrastructure improvements and stored at the Columbia Heights Water Facilities. Since that time, relatively small numbers of paving bricks/stones were deposited at the Columbia Heights Water Facilities. Today, the paving bricks/stones remain at this facility covering a large area of this site, both above and below ground.

At various times throughout the last 15 years, varying techniques have been used to dispose of the paving bricks/stones that have been encountered during Public Works construction and maintenance activities. These techniques have included hauling them to a common area for the public to take, hauling them to the Reuse Center for public purchase, leaving them uncovered in the Right-of-Way, etc. All of these techniques have had problems significant enough to discontinue. These problems can be grouped into three categories: security, safety, and cost. Specific problems encountered include: altercations among the public gathering up the paving bricks/stones, unsafe conditions with picking, loading and hauling of paving bricks/stones by the public, debris residue that is left behind, etc. During this same time, the paving bricks/stones stored at the Columbia Heights Water Facilities have remained virtually untouched.

Late last year and early this year, due to the public's want/desire to acquire the paving bricks/stones, it was determined that Public Works should establish a standard procedure for the distribution of the existing paving bricks/stones that are currently at the Columbia Heights Water Facility and for those that are encountered during present and future construction/maintenance activities. Many have been consulted regarding these issues, including, but not limited to, Public Works, CPED, Procurement Division, City Attorney's office, and many private citizens contacts.

General information concerning paving bricks/stones:

- The granite paving bricks/stones have an approximate fair market value of \$2.00 to \$3.50 each (depending on the type and size).
- The Purington (clay brick) pavers, brick pavers, and Sandstone pavers, based on the recommendation of the CPED staff, are to be saved for the potential utilization in future roadway, alleys, sidewalk, medians, and etc. projects. These particular pavers have a fair market value of approximately \$1.25 per brick.
- A small pilot project was initiated by the Paving Construction Section this spring/summer to determine the cost to organize, sort, and place on pallets the existing paving bricks/stones, currently residing at the Columbia Heights Water Facility. The cost to do this activity ranged from \$4.25 to \$10.00 per brick/stone. This cost does not reflect any transportation of these pallets outside the confines of the Water Facility (i.e., F.O.B. Columbia Heights Water Facility).
- The Columbia Heights Water Facility, since the event of September 11, 2001, is a secure facility and access to this facility is very restricted and highly monitored.
- The Public Works Department has a need for approximately 100 granite paving bricks/stones annually for miscellaneous use in the maintenance of its infrastructure.
- Due to the afore-mentioned cost, the City does not have an actual count of the total number of each type of paving block/stones that currently reside at the Columbia Heights Water Facility. Estimates are in excess of 20,000 paving block/stones of assorted varieties.

There are actually three situations to be addressed: The paving block/stones that are currently at the Columbia Heights Water Facility, future paving block/stones that will be uncovered and removed due to future infrastructure improvements by the City of Minneapolis workforce, and how paving blocks/stones are handled when work is done by a private contractor.

Action Plan

1. Columbia Heights Water Facility

- The Public Works Department will send out a letter to other Minneapolis Departments and City Agencies stating the availability of the paving blocks/stones at the Columbia Heights Water Facility and specifying the timeframe for responding to this solicitation. These Departments and Agencies will be provided

an opportunity to recover these paving blocks/stones, after meeting all administrative and security guidelines at their own expense, or will be charged the actual cost of recovery of the paving blocks/stones and delivery charges by Public Works employees.

- Concurrent with this solicitation, the Public Works Department will send out a letter to all designated Neighborhood Revitalization Program neighborhood groups stating the availability of the paving blocks/stones at the Columbia Heights Water Facility. The neighborhood groups will have the same designated amount of time as above to respond to this solicitation, submitting ONLY community-type projects that are for the public good. These paving blocks/stones are NOT available, at this time, for private use on private property (i.e., private driveways, bar-b-ques, retaining walls, etc.). These neighborhood groups will be provided the opportunity to request Public Works to recover and deliver the paving blocks/stones and will be charged the actual cost of this effort.
- Following the aforesaid solicitations, if there remain any paving blocks/stones available, a public sale notification for the remaining cobblestones will be made. The public will be provided the opportunity to request Public Works to recover and deliver the paving blocks/stones and will be charged the actual cost of this effort.

2. Future Paving Blocks/Stones encountered by the City of Minneapolis workforce

- The Public Works Department will load, haul and store paving blocks/stones at a Public Works facility, minimally secured. The paving blocks/stones will not be stored on any highly secured Water facility. The paving blocks/stones may be requested by: City Departments and Agencies, neighborhood groups, and individual citizens. They will be sold at fair market value established in concurrence with the City's Public Works Department and Procurement Division. If the supply of paving blocks/stones exceeds the wants/needs of the above three groups, a public bid will be conducted for complete removal and disposal of all paving blocks/stones.

3. Future Paving Blocks/Stones encountered by contractors within the City of Minneapolis

- The Public Works Department will generally not place any special language in the special provision of these specifications relating to paving blocks/stones. Therefore, as in most specifications, the demolition debris of removing and disposal of pavements, of whatever type, will be the responsibility of the contractor.

This process will be managed by the City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works/Field Services Division/Paving Construction Section. Since the secure Columbia Heights Water Facility is involved, the Water Department will be heavily consulted and have final approval of all actions that are conducted on their facilities. All proceeds/costs shall be managed within an applicable account within the Paving Construction Section.