

Community Ward 11 Connections

News from Council Member John Quincy



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Quincy's Corner

Welcome to autumn, my favorite season of the year. I particularly enjoy the crisp air, blue skies, changing colors and the opportunity to enjoy our neighborhoods—especially watching the recent Twin Cities Marathon along the parkway with my neighbors.

In addition to the article updating residents about the City's Comments on the Environmental Assessment about proposed terminal expansions at the airport, this issue of *Community Connections* provides articles on the long anticipated completion of Lyndale Avenue and the opening of the Lyndale bridge over the Parkway, a timely reminder on yard waste collection and leaf pick-up schedules, and important information about the upcoming election.

As construction season is winding down, "hard-hats off" to our public works department staff and crews who are putting the finishing touches on a number of road maintenance and infrastructure improvements to our city streets and county roads throughout the eleventh ward.

In addition to the wrapping up of the Lyndale Avenue projects, residents will see marked improvements to Park and Portland Avenues this month. Improvements to these roads, signal timing and signage, as well as the addition bike lanes, will improve traffic flow, enhance access and safety for bikes and pedestrians alike, calm traffic speeds and preserve on-street parking spaces for one of the busiest corridors in the state. All this was well planned, constructed and coordinated with the utilities to minimize cost and interruption of services to our residents. Thank you for your patience and understanding this summer—it will be worth wait.

Unless you live in a cave, I am sure you are aware of the upcoming election on November 6. We all have the opportunity to vote for President, Senate and U.S. Representative—but also state officials including state senate and representative, as well as Minneapolis School Board At-large, and District 6 School Board Director if you live on the Westside of 35W. Important judicial races and two possible amendments to the State Constitution will also be on the ballot. As district and precinct boundaries have been re-drawn as a result of re-districting—please be sure to do your homework, and register to take part in democracy. Same day registration to vote is still possible this year—but we should expect a great turnout, so try to make it as easy as possible to participate, and register to vote by October 16.

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

City Focus

Airport Expansion Environmental Assessment Comments

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), is considering an expansion in the number of gates at the airport as well as other construction projects.

Under one of the scenarios, Delta and its partners would be the sole tenants within the Lindbergh Terminal and all other airlines would be based at the Humphrey Terminal.



The MAC has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the various plans and released the results for public comment. The EA is available online at their Web site [here](http://www.mspairport.com/about-msp/msp-2020-ea.aspx). (<http://www.mspairport.com/about-msp/msp-2020-ea.aspx>)

The City has submitted comments to portions of the EA. In the City's view, there are serious problems with how the MAC is developing the noise exposure maps, which are the basis for understanding how airplane noise affects the community, as well as determining which homes receive future noise mitigation. The maps are drawn based on averaging noise over a 24 hour period. Noise isn't experienced in 24 hour averages, but instead as individual events.

Additionally, any new noise mitigation for homes would be based on projections of where the MAC thinks the noise will be in 2020. These computer generated maps are based on

data, provided by the airlines, of what flights to where and using what types of airplanes they will be flying in 2020.

In the past, similar projections of number of flights and types of aircraft have been inaccurate. The map being drawn is only as accurate as the data being used to create it.

Any potential mitigation would be triggered by reaching a certain number of flights. So, when the airport hits 484,000 some odd flights per year, the MAC would do mitigation on homes that are currently being projected to be inside the 60 DNL noise contour, which is the current threshold for mitigation. But at the time the airport reaches that level of flights, those homes may or may not actually be inside the 60DNL. Additionally, there may be homes that would actually be inside the 60DNL, but those homes would not receive noise mitigation.

The City's comments made it clear that the MAC should decrease the noise from homes that have not been mitigated, but in the event that the noise area expands, we need to make sure that the MAC is paying for mitigation in the places where the noise is actually taking place.

As all of this is happening, the MAC is looking at several other procedural changes to the airport, including entirely new departure procedures. This potential change to flight patterns is not being included in

this environmental assessment.

It is possible that the impacts to noise and other environmental pollution factors for this one project does not rise to a level of having a major impact, but if we were to look at all of these potential changes, it is likely there will be major environmental impacts.

In Minnesota, there is excess capacity for passenger air service and as strange as it may seem, there are communities clamoring for more air service. St. Cloud, Duluth and Rochester all would like more commercial flights each day, and all of them should be part of a statewide strategy but right now, the MAC oversees MSP and the reliever airports (Flying Cloud, Lake Elmo, Holman Field, etc.) and MnDOT is responsible for all the other airports.

The City's position is that Minnesota needs one organization who will look at all airports and determine what is best for the entire state.

Further, in our estimation, the Environmental Assessment does not adequately address potential air pollution, specifically, fine particulate pollution. The State is already close to being over the pollution threshold for fine particulates, and if this project exacerbates that situation, and pushes the area and the State out of compliance, it would be extremely expensive to try to fix after the fact.

The City's comments to the MAC on the EA seek a response to several things:

- A new and more accurate way of tracking and mapping noise pollution.
- An independent noise study showing the areas near the airport impacted by noise pollution.
- Mitigation for homes actually inside the 60 DNL and annual review of airport operations to determine which homes qualify.
- A much more comprehensive environmental study, known as an Environmental Impact Statement, that would take into consideration not only this one expansion plan, but all of the changes planned for the next year or so, including the new departure procedure.
- MAC advocacy for a statewide aviation strategy to determine what is best for all of Minnesota.
- Modeling of air pollution that would be caused by not only the planes, but the additional cars and other sources of pollution that would be using the airport due to the expansion.

The official comment period for the Environmental Assessment closes on October 11.

What's Next?

The MAC will respond to questions raised about the EA by the end of the year. If they can be adequately addressed, the EA would then be sent to the FAA for approval. But, even if the FAA approves the EA, the MAC would still need to see a need for the expansion and vote to move forward with the plans.

The Lyndale Avenue Bridge will reopen to the public on Monday, October 15. This marks the completion of the final phase in the multi-year reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue.

Residents and local business owners are invited to attend a short ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. outside the main entrance of Hennepin County Library – Washburn, 5244 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis.

In 1997, residents from the 10 neighborhoods along this corridor developed a vision for a 21st century Lyndale Avenue that connected the neighborhoods, was safe for pedestrians and vehicles, and restored the grandeur of the avenue.

Completion of this project is the realization of their vision. Lyndale Avenue is now not just a transportation corridor, but a destination.

The reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue began in 2008, and was a partnership among Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, the Nicollet-East Harriet Business Association, area businesses and neighborhood associations and residents.

Improvements include:

- Reducing the roadway from a total of four lanes to one in each direction, plus turn lanes.
- Adding center medians with trees and ornamental grasses.

Lyndale Avenue & Bridge Opening

- Widening the sidewalks from 14 feet to 17 feet and striping the crosswalks.
- Placing pedestrian-level lighting along the corridor.

Minimal work by the contractor will continue through early November, but the road and bridge will remain open at all times. This last portion of the project replaced the bridge over Minnehaha Creek and reconstructed the roadway from the creek to West 56th Street. Lyndale was reconstructed from 38th Street to 50th Street in 2008, and from 38th Street to 31st Street in 2009.

Please continue supporting your local businesses now that the road and bridge are open!

“Experience 54th & Lyndale,” a celebration hosted by area businesses, will be held from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, October 20.

The “Borton Bridge Barometer” will help to launch the beginning of the celebration with a contest to guess the number of vehicles that cross the bridge between October 15 and October 22.

Join the businesses on Saturday October 20 from 11am-4pm for “Experience 54th & Lyndale” for contests, food, a treasure hunt, kids activities, a historic walking tour and more.

For more information, visit the [County Web site here](http://www.lyndaleconstruction.com) or www.lyndaleconstruction.com

Remember to Use Compostable Bags or Containers for Yard Waste

As fall arrives and leaves start to fall, Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling customers should remember that all bagged yard waste put out for collection must now be in compostable bags – either Kraft (paper) bags or compostable plastic bags – or reusable containers.

This change is required by state law, and in Minneapolis it began with this year’s yard waste collection season.

Yard waste in non-compostable plastic bags will be left and tagged for residents to re-package.

Using Kraft (paper) and compostable plastic bags rather than conventional lawn and garden plastic bags will reduce the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities. Screening out less plastic from the finished

compost means lower processing costs and better quality finished compost.

Compostable plastic bags are distinct from conventional lawn and garden plastic bags because they are usually clear or a translucent shade of green, pink or white.

Most home improvement, grocery, and hardware stores now carry them. Anyone who prefers not to purchase compostable bags may place unbagged yard waste in a reusable container with sturdy handles.



Other options include dropping off yard waste at a compost facility and taking the bag back home, or composting yard waste at home and

using the nutrient-rich compost for gardens and lawns.

Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling customers can set compostable bags of yard waste, bundles of brush and reusable yard waste containers next to their garbage cart by 6 a.m. on their garbage collection day through their pickup day in the week of Nov. 12.

Branches and leaves must be tied with string or twine, bagged in a compostable bag or placed loose in a re-

usable container. Branches must be less than three inches each in diameter and less than three feet long. Bundles must weigh less than 40 pounds.

All compostable bags and reusable containers must be 33 gallons or less and weigh less than 40 pounds.

Yard waste stickers are available to identify your reusable yard waste container. To request yard waste stickers call Solid Waste and Recycling, 612-673-2917.

For questions about leaf and brush pickup, call 612-673-2917 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste.

November 6 - Election Day Update

VOTE on Election Day - November 6

Voter Pre-Registration Deadline – October 16th

State law requires Minnesotans to be registered at their current address before they are allowed to vote. Registrations remain current until voters move or change their names. Voters must also re-register if they have not voted in the last four years.

The voter pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, October 16.

You can pre-register to vote by completing a voter registration application which can be found online at www.mnvotes.org or at Minneapolis or Hennepin County government offices and public libraries.

If you are able to register prior to the deadline your name will appear in the roster at your polling place and you will not have to provide additional information at the polling place on Election Day.

If you are unable to preregister, Minnesota allows eligible voters to register on Election Day as long as they provide proper proof of residence. For more information about voting eligibility requirements, visit www.mnvotes.org.

Voter Registration Lookup

You can use the Secretary of State's online Voter Registration Lookup at www.mnvotes.org to quickly learn whether you are registered at your current address.



Polling Place Location

Remember, due to redistricting, your polling place may have changed since you last voted. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/index.htm> to find out whether your polling place has changed.

Voting Absentee

Will you be absent from your precinct, observing a religious holiday or unable travel to the polls due to illness on Election Day? If so, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/absentee/index.htm> for information about how to receive an absentee ballot or to learn how to vote in person before Election Day.

Please note: Military and Overseas voters have different absentee balloting procedures. The Minnesota Military and Overseas Voter Service provides information for these voters at: <https://minnesota.overseasvotefoundation.org>.

Absentee Ballot Lookup

The Absentee Ballot Lookup allows a voter to track where their ballot is in the process and when it has been successfully counted. In addition, links to additional voter resources such as county auditor contacts and a listing of candidates appearing on a voter's ballot are also provided.

The Absentee Ballot tool can be found at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>.

Preview Your Ballot

You are now able to preview a ballot specific to your precinct before Election Day. To see what will appear on your ballot visit <http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>.

Calendar of Events

October 10	7–8:30 pm: Kingfield Neighborhood Association Meeting at Martin Luther King Park (4055 Nicollet Avenue S)
October 15	5:30–7 pm: Windom Community Council Annual Meeting at Windom Community Center (5843 Wentworth Ave S) 7–8:30 pm: Tangletown Neighborhood Association Meeting at Fuller Park (4800 Grand Avenue S)
October 17	8:00-9:00 am: Community Coffee Hour at Sovereign Grounds (813 48th Street E) 6:30–8:00 pm: Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Meeting at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (1620 46th Street E)
October 22	7–8:30 pm: Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association Meeting at Emmanuel United Methodist Church (5144 13th Avenue S)
October 23	7:30-8:30: Quarterly Airport Noise Input Meeting At MAC offices, (6040 28th Ave S.)
October 25	7–8:30 pm: Nokomis East Neighborhood Association Meeting at the NENA office (3000 50th Street E)
October 26	5–6 pm: Ward Happy Hour at First Course (5607 Chicago Avenue S)