

**From:** [Greg Picard](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** File #19250 Annapolis St improvement project  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 10:28:05 AM

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File #19250  
Parcel ID # 08-28-22-34-0152

To whom it concerns,

I, Greg Picard, of 125 Annapolis St. East, St. Paul Minnesota, wish to bring account of the possible tax to be assessed against us due to the current road and drainage work being performed on Annapolis Street. I believe it is not in good faith that the city tax us such a large amount for this project for several reasons. Between the fiscal benefits the state has received from the federal government, the state surplus as well as the hardship posed upon the citizens over the past several years, it is an injustice to impose further hardship.

First, both the state of Minnesota and the federal government have OUR tax money to fund this project and many others. The past few years Minnesota has touted a tax surplus. Under the Biden administration there has been several infrastructure bills with billions of dollars attached to them. Even if those billions are for specific infrastructure, that should still free up local tax money for projects such as this. Furthermore, there are usually grants that can be applied to help fund projects.

Let me express my disappointment when more taxes will be directly imposed on me and my neighbors for work that is beneficial to all of St. Paul and not just those residing on Annapolis Street. The pipes and roadways are used by everyone and there is no direct property benefit from real estate for these improvements. This road is a major cross street for traffic (and is probably the reason it was chosen for a bike lane). Not to mention that the loss of old growth shade trees will directly increase our utility bills for cooling costs for decades. With the loss of parking to bike lanes and the current work on the street, parking is difficult and requires many to expand, pave or construct parking on their property. My neighbors have had to remove some fencing for alley access and my family is hit with the costly burden of driving and parking on mud as our driveway is dirt (Yet another cost for us to level and pave). We were never informed at the beginning of this project that we would individually have to have such a tax burden.

Last, I want to mention what this does to families. Each one of the families living along Annapolis Street has had to deal with years of Covid and potential loss of income (unemployment), high rising inflation, rising mortgage rates and already rising property taxes (when is this considered a double dip?). Some of us haven't even lived here that long, others for many years. For me personally it has only been five years, and now I am being targeted by a special extra tax. (I can only imagine what small businesses have had to endure by the same timeline). An additional \$5,857 tax on

top of already struggling families is just a poor decision, especially during so many obstacles of struggle. Please find another solution to the funding of the Annapolis Street 2024 Improvement project that doesn't heavily burden the targeted few individuals for the benefit of the entirety of the whole community. It is too heavy of a tax burden for us.

Sincerely,

- Greg Picard

125 Annapolis St East

**From:** [Aneida Madrigal](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Concern Regarding Assessment for Public Improvement Construction on Annapolis Street East  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 11, 2024 1:32:49 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to express my concern about the estimated assessment rate of \$5,857.50 for my household for the upcoming public improvement construction on Annapolis Street East, as mentioned in the recent Public Hearing Notice.

While I appreciate the need for infrastructure improvements, this assessment is a significant financial burden for my household. As a homeowner on Annapolis Street East, this unexpected expense, along with the interest charges, is overwhelming. The economic climate has already been tough on many of us, and adding this assessment makes it even harder to manage our finances.

The construction includes adding a bike lane, which means we no longer have a parking spot for one of our vehicles. This forces us to build a driveway behind our house, a cost we hadn't anticipated. (Parking across the street isn't an option due to several reasons: an elderly neighbor who has asked us to not park there for their own access, safety reasons with 2 young children, etc.).

Additionally, the removal of large trees as part of the project has taken away the shade that our house used to get. This means our home will be much warmer in the summer, leading to higher utility bills. Our insulation isn't great, and fixing it will cost us a couple thousand dollars, adding to our financial burden.

Given these circumstances, I urge the City Council to consider the following:

1. **Financial Hardship:** As I stated above, we will already incur additional costs due to this project. The assessment is a significant part of our annual income. For families with limited budgets, this assessment is unmanageable and will lead to financial distress.
2. **Interest Charges:** The interest charges make the financial strain even worse. Clear information on the interest rate is needed, but it's clear the total cost will rise significantly over time.
3. **Assessment Alternatives:** I respectfully ask the City Council to explore alternative funding mechanisms or provide financial assistance for affected residents.

I support community improvements and understand their long-term benefits. However, it's crucial that these projects do not place an untenable financial burden on residents. I hope the City Council will consider our concerns and look for ways to alleviate the financial impact on property owners like myself.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Although I'm not able to attend the City Council meeting due to childcare, I hope to tune in to the live testimony.

Best regards,

Alneida Madrigal