

From: [Joseph Puglisi](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Cc: [Joseph Puglisi](#); [Sarah Puglisi](#)
Subject: Objection to Fairview Avenue Assessment
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 10:33:08 PM

Hello City Council Members,

My name is Joseph Puglisi. Myself, my wife Sarah, and our two children (13 and 9) live at 1815 Eleanor Avenue. We are writing today to formally state our objection to Assessment # 245508, File #: MO2308 on Parcel ID: 09-28-23-43-0170.

We are grateful that Fairview Avenue as a major street for St. Paul was resurfaced. It was due for an upgrade based on the number of years since the last resurfacing and because of poor care the city of Saint Paul took in clearing snow and ice and repairing of pot holes. Fairview is a very heavily trafficked avenue, as many businesses and residents use it as a main artery to Highway 5. This cost should be distributed more heavily on the city as a whole, and the RESIDENTS that live on Fairview be responsible for none or a much smaller percentage. This new roadwork and street setup still will not alleviate the concerns future home buyers see when looking to purchase a home: the noise, the sirens, the volume of traffic, speeding traffic and general detracting nature of this overused road. The construction traffic in and around our Highland Park neighborhood over recent years has been particularly excessive, and the number of 3- and 4- axel trucks flying down Fairview are undoubtedly a big part of the road breakdown. In contrast, neighboring Snelling Ave / Highway 51 is constructed differently - and with state maintenance - to handle these vehicles; however many use Fairview Ave as a "shortcut" and this has undoubtedly contributed to the breakdown of Fairview.

It is still very hard for us to accept that our household will be billed for \$2,960.10 on this assessment, when this is a major arterial connection for the city. It's the second-highest per foot assessment from the 2023 arterial projects, and its legality is not clear to residents or the lawyers we have spoken to. While the 2023 ruling on the SMSA Assessment program allows for assessments made when special benefit is shown, MN Statute 429.061 says special assessments must be made without regard to cash valuation of the property, which is precisely how the showing of special benefit was made.

This project has caused more negatives than positives around our home. We now have to encounter drivers constantly making illegal turns outside our house. Our yard on the corner of Fairview and Eleanor which was torn up during this project was never properly filled or seeded. We needed to pay out of pocket to make the area look respectable. The grade of the road and not enough storm sewers added during the project has caused severe flooding and ice during the winter, especially in front of the bump outs and in front of our garage. The settling of the ground has caused the side walk to flood which requires people to walk on our yard to avoid soaking their shoes (causing lawn damage). In the winter no matter how many times we shovel or salt, we cannot keep water from pooling on the sidewalk and ice forming. The bump outs at the corner get hit daily by drivers that are not familiar with them which continue to cause damage to our yard. The median for pedestrians is not used because it is very narrow and dangerous to stand in. We will not let our children stop in the middle median due to how close cars pass and if someone is not paying attention could easily go up the median and hit a pedestrian. We constantly see people standing in the median as cars do not stop for them. More cars stopped for pedestrians when there were no medians and bump outs. The construction of the bump outs has caused my retaining wall to prematurely decay and ruined a lot of our landscaping. We also now have to drive two extra city blocks every time we need to move our car from our garage to the front of our house just to load items or pickup our kids with there sports gear or school bags. This is going to depreciate our cars quicker by adding miles and will also require us to fill up at the pump more frequently. All of these things are costing us more money and we still have not seen any extra value to our property or the way of life that a potential buyer would pay more for. The signs in the median have been hit several times. Fire trucks can no longer turn down our street directly so these bump outs and medians may cause harm to the local residents. We have not understood how our house has been viewed as benefiting from this mill and overlay project. The only thing that can be said to be a benefit is the exact same benefit the rest of the neighborhood and drivers driving down Fairview experience, having a smoother road to drive down.

On a final point, I thought we as Saint Paul residents approved a 1% sales tax last year that's projected to generate \$738 million for street repairs. Why does everyone else get to use these taxes to pay for their road repairs, but those of us living right on Fairview Avenue do not?

Thank you for your time and please accept this email as our official objection to the assessment that we received.

The Puglisi Family

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Message sent from my iPhone, I apologize for any typos