

## **Burger, Kathryn (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** William McCarthy <WMcCarthy@go2e3.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** Assessments (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** 1209 (carolyn.mc@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** April 15, 2020 City Council Public Hearing - 2020 St Paul Streets Project

All:

I am a property owner that would be directly impacted by the 2020 St. Paul Streets Project. My name is William McCarthy and I live at 1209 Bayard Ave., St Paul, MN 55116.

At this time, when public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted nearly every facet of life as we used to know it, each and every decision we make must be based on our current circumstances and fully consider the uncertainties that now encompass life as we know it today. Please do not underestimate the totality of the impacts of COVID-19 which has affected nearly every facet of our lives, including the livelihoods of nearly every citizen in the city of St Paul, county of Ramsey, state of Minnesota, nation of the United States of America, and the entirety of the planet; may I suggest the City Council re-evaluate the following:

1. The need for project. Is this Project really necessary for the citizens of St Paul at this time.
2. And if the project is deemed necessary for the citizens of St Paul; then consider the fiscal impacts to property owners who would be impacted by the financial obligations imposed upon them at this time of global crisis for a Project that may be characterized by some as discretionary when taken in the full context of an active global pandemic. As you meet today and discuss the project and assessments please include in the debate the environment in which we are experiencing; that of an active pandemic for which there is no clear medical path to recovery yet identified and equally uncertain end to the public health measures such as self-isolation and closing of business which has resulted in millions of lost jobs, suspended or closed businesses which has resulted in the failing economy of an unprecedented magnitude.
3. I petition the Council to engage in a full and thorough debate of the following financial considerations:
  - a. Consider a waiver of the proposed assessments to property owners;
  - b. Consider a delaying the project until a full economic recovery can be documented;
  - c. Consider an interest free deferment of assessments for 3 to 5 years (or more) to allow for full economic recovery.

Take a look around, there is no more “normal”; we are now living day-to-day with all of the uncertainty of an active pandemic which has no known cure; government imposed mandates to shutter businesses resulting in unprecedented unemployment; government imposed shelter-in-place mandates further diminishing commerce all contributing unprecedented economic losses. While these are the observations of today, what about tomorrow; there is no clear path forward and no defined end in sight. To impose additional financial burdens upon your citizens in this environment is unfathomable.

Please think this all the way through. Perhaps the resources that would be used to rebuild streets could be redirected to making masks, gloves, face shields, gowns, or other personal protection equipment to help protect our first responders in their daily battle to save lives during this active pandemic.

**William F. McCarthy, CWB**  
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