

From: Gove, Brian (MPCA) [<mailto:brian.gove@state.mn.us>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 11:37 AM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward7 <Ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Harr, Stephanie (CI-StPaul) <Stephanie.Harr@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Heintz, Polly (CI-StPaul) <polly.heintz@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Assessment for mill and overlay on 3rd Street E. in St. Paul

I am writing to express my strong objection to the assessment I received (\$1506) for the mill and overlay project on 3rd Street East in St. Paul.

First, street maintenance work benefits the entire community, not just the property owners along a particular street. If in fact 3rd Street East even needed a mill & overlay (which I question, as the street was in good condition), it's supposed need for mill & overlay work was *because* it is a major thoroughfare. Third Street East is a snow emergency route and is used by fire trucks, school buses, commercial vehicles etc. It is used by both residents within the neighborhood, as well as residents from outside that neighborhood transiting through.

Costs for the mill and overlay are much higher than the equivalent cost for seal coating ordinary residential streets. Therefore, as a property owner on Third Street East, I'm being assessed for a project that costs many times that of my neighbors for street maintenance. Charging property owners along Third Street East, and others like it, for additional maintenance costs places a disproportionate burden upon residents living on those streets. We are being asked to pay much more for a public road that does not provide any special benefit or increase the market value of our properties.

Also, in January of 2019 on Third Street East (and surrounding streets that received assessments from the City), the City began a large scale tree removal project, wherein the City used heavy equipment to drop mature (some massive) trees directly onto the brand new road surface and drag felled trees across the roadway. Trees were cut up on the roadway, and large logs were dropped from loaders onto the road surface. This poorly scheduled and executed project, not surprisingly, resulted in noticeable damage to the new road we were just assessed for (\$1506 for me). Dents, divots, gouges, some deep enough to hold water, in addition to large cracks in the surface of the road (some extending the entire width of the new roadway), were immediately visible upon completion of the tree removal. I ask, why would the City repair the roads before beating them up with this tree removal project? I'm appalled by the lack of the City's planning and coordination, the senseless damage done to our expensive new street, and the disregard it shows for the taxpayers who have to pay for all of this. Now I fear further assessments will be levied to repair the unnecessarily damaged road.

Please support the residents that you represent in fighting this unfair assessment.

Sincerely,

Brian Gove
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