

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Gerard Engelen <gerrit.engelen@gmx.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Assessments (CI-StPaul); Deborah Engelen-Eigles
Subject: Comments Street Project Griggs/Scheffer

Dear City of St Paul Public Works /City Council:

We're writing to express our concerns about the upcoming street project for Griggs/Scheffer this summer. We're forwarding our comments in writing because this meeting is scheduled during the last two days of Passover, precluding us from participating due to our religious obligations.

When this project was initiated, no one could have known the situation we would now be facing with COVID-19. However, under the current circumstances, with the economic and public health uncertainties that lie ahead, continuing with this project would bring undue hardship to the affected neighborhood and residents:

1. During a good year, the costs as proposed are astronomical and more than residents had been led to expect (more on this below). At this time, with many people having been laid off, struggling to make ends meet, this is the worst time to saddle residents with additional costs and debt of this magnitude.
2. As we shelter in place in our homes with nowhere else to go, trying to meet the needs of our families, provide for basic necessities while maintaining our physical and mental health, no one needs the added stress of utilities being turned on and off (where are we to go when there is a hiatus in water, gas, or electric service?), the mess of mud and dust outside our doorsteps, and the noise and fumes of heavy trucks grinding up and down the street from morning to night.
3. Cost: during the earlier meetings we attended we were told a similar project last year cost residents \$80.00 per foot. Your projections are for \$119.29 plus \$21.11 in lighting which totals \$140.00 per foot. Why are we being charged 75% more one year later for comparable work? Does this mean this project is bringing us *that* much more added value to our properties in the project area than to the properties of the residents in the previous project? Or that labor and materials costs have increased by a whopping 75% in a single year?

Thank you for considering these concerns. We strongly hope the Council will postpone this project one year so that residents do not have to deal with such a great disruption to their lives and homes at the same time we are all dealing with the unprecedented situation brought on by the novel coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Gerard and Debbie Engelen-Eigles
1277 Bayard Avenue