

I live at 41 Luella St and have received an estimated assessment of \$3,610.20 to have the above project to be done in my street. I thought I would be able to attend the meeting this evening but now cannot for family reasons. I am therefore writing to express my question as to why you think a street that is in better than average condition needs this work done and why you think it is acceptable to assess the residents for such huge amount, more than 40% above the property tax charged in 2011. Offering a payment plan to some ignores the fact that the money comes out of our pockets even if in installments.

1) The curbs and street are fine; the street has very light traffic being used mainly by residents; the school bus traffic has diminished substantially in the current school year since there seems to have been an effort to consolidate their routes meaning fewer buses carrying only a handful of children. The street does not need a "Vitality Project" Please provide justification for even doing this project; that it is our turn is not an acceptable answer. If there is some really essential work to be done, why cannot just that problem be fixed rather than doing an entire street over?

2) Please give information about all assessments made for similar projects in St Paul for the past five years. What were the costs per foot for paving and lighting? It is essential for you to demonstrate that the assessments for this project are absolutely in line with those for these other projects. You must demonstrate that costs from snow removal during and following the heavy snow of 2010/11 winter, which substantially exceeded budgets, have not added in anyway to the costs you intend to assess. If the project were delayed a few years, would the assessment be less because the normal property tax would cover it (assuming basic project costs would remain the same)?

3) Please provide details to demonstrate that your assessment estimates are accurate and if this project goes ahead, we, who you intend to charge for this, will not end up being forced to pay even more.

I want to emphasize that in this time of unemployment, rising costs for food, clothes and general living expenses it is not responsible for the council to inflict these charges. The project isn't necessary; the road and curbs are fine. There are many things we would all like to do but can't do because we can't afford them which is the case here. I request the council look at this project with this thought in mind for those who have to pay for it. I request you vote to defer the project for at least 60 months and then assess the need for the project.

Miriam Baldwin