

From: Mike McC

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 11:58 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7

Subject: Road Construction Costs - April 5th City Council Meeting

Members of the St Paul City Council,

My name is Mike McCall, and I live at 13xx Dale St. Last week my neighbors and I spoke at the public hearing on the road construction and assessment resolution. I asked the council what was being done about the drastic increases in the costs of road construction projects, and the assessments levied to homeowners. I had heard that the increases were in the range of 30-40% per year. After I spoke, there seemed to be some question about these numbers. The city engineer, Dan Haak, stated that while there had been some increases over the years, the increase this year was only 8%.

I reviewed the assessment rolls for residential street construction projects from 2010 to 2017. In 2010, the assessed cost to residents for grade, pave and lighting was \$48.22. In 2011, the cost was 52.82, an increase of 8.5%. In 2012, the cost was 58.08, an increase of 11%. In 2013, 59.24, an increase of 1.9%. However in 2014, the cost was 77.23, an

increase of 30.4%. In 2015, the cost again increased dramatically to 111.25, an increase of 44%. Comparisons for 2016 are difficult because the price per foot for the como-chatsworth project was set in 2015, but the work on Wheelock came in at \$131 per foot.

Lastly, in 2017 the per foot assessment for the Idaho Atlantic project is 120.15, and Wheelock is 141.48. This is an 8% increase.

In other words, the cost to build a road in St Paul in 2017 is apparently double the cost to build a road in 2013. The assessments residents received in 2017 are 150% higher than the assessments received in 2010.

This isn't just a problem for me and the other residents that are being assessed in 2017, it's a problem for the entire city. And not just this year, but for years to come. The city pays 80% of the cost of road reconstruction. That means that tax payers throughout the city are paying twice as much for a road in 2017 as they did in 2013.

I don't understand how this has happened. As members of the city council, unless you have a sound explanation for these increases, based on information you have personally reviewed, I urge you vote no, or at the very least, delay your vote for a week. Use the extra time to review the construction bids yourselves. Who submitted them? Where are the increases? Ask questions, find out exactly why the cost to build a road has risen so incredibly fast in such little time.

Sincerely,

Mike McCall