

Dear City Council members.

I am a property owner at 1619 Edgcumbe Road, St. Paul, MN 55116. I have several questions I would like to get written answers to regarding the above referenced project.

1. What is the specific "benefit" that my property receives because the street is repaired/replaced to provide a reasonably safe surface that allows appropriate public safety vehicles like fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances to reach my residence in a timely fashion in time of need? Isn't this really a public safety and public health issue that the city has responsibility for? Shouldn't the city therefore, be paying for it's own streets? Isn't that what I pay the city for through my real estate taxes?
2. In 2020, as part of my real estate taxes, I paid the city over \$4,500. In addition I paid the city another \$165 for street maintenance service and storm sewer charges. What am I getting for this nearly \$5,000, ANNUALLY, the city is already collecting from me?
3. President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan included \$7.6 billion for Minnesota. Included in that total for Minnesota is over \$2 billion for the state's counties, metropolitan cities, and other local government agencies. What is the City of St. Paul's share of this windfall? Will any of that money benefit residential properties in the city of St.Paul?
4. My Storm Sewer System Charge (SSSC) is based on the acreage of my lot. My lot, for this charge is 100' wide and 175' deep, totaling 17,500 square feet, or .4017 acres, which compares favorably to the acreage listed in the SSSC of .401676 acres. Why then, is my estimated assessment calculation based on 103' when the SSSC had my property at 100'?
5. My Street Maintenance Service Program (SMSP) lists the frontage of my property at about 52' for both city wide street lighting and residential street sweeping. Why is my recent assessment based on 103' of frontage if the SMSP has me with frontage of about 52'? How can my property have 3 different indications of frontage, when all three have come from the same source, the City of St. Paul?
6. The recent notification of assessment on my property for the project referenced above has an estimated calculation for Grade and Pave- Single Family Residential and Lighting- Single Family Residential. I thought this project was also to include sidewalks on both sides of the street. Have they been eliminated from the project? If not, why are they not broken out as a separate line item? What is the specific cost for the sidewalks?
7. Why does adding sidewalks in front of a residential property make that property a "benefited property"? On Ridge Street for example, north of Ford Parkway, are the homes on the west side of the street worth more, are they "benefited properties" because they have a sidewalk in front of them compared to the homes on the east side of Ridge that do not have a sidewalk? I thought that the value of a residential property was based on it's condition, overall square footage, number of bedrooms, number of baths, makeup of the kitchen, and so on. Please enlighten me as to how the sidewalks add value to a residential property. Is there a formula you have to make that added value calculation, that causes that property to be "benefited"?