

From: [sarahreed774](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public hearing re Public Improvement Construction tax
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 3:39:43 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I was very disappointed to receive the letters regarding the proposed tax estimate for improving the streets. We pay higher taxes here than in Minneapolis where such repairs are included in the taxes already paid. I have been a St Paul resident for over 30 years and am appalled at the condition of the city. The streets have been terrible for years. As a nurse, I feel sorry for the EMTs and their patients! There appears to be little money spent on basic maintenance and yet \$30,000,000 was spent on an unnecessary community center (for which residents must pay a membership fee).

For example, the street lights on Maryland have been out of service for a year. When I emailed the city last fall (because it was very dark in the AM and oncoming traffic had their brights on), I was told it was "too cold" out to fix them. When I mentioned that they were out all summer, I was told that people were stealing the copper wire so it "wasn't worth fixing". It's important to note here that there are many pedestrians that cross that bridge as well.

Another example; last winter, we got a lot of snow over a couple of days but our road was never plowed. My husband had to snowblow the street so I could get to work. Imagine my surprise when I crossed Larpenteur into Maplewood and found that the streets were plowed curb to curb. On my way home from work that afternoon, Maplewood streets were completely clear. However, crossing Larpenteur back into St Paul, the streets were still not plowed and multiple cars were stuck in the snow. West St Paul was also plowed properly. Because parking on the streets is not restricted, there times you can hardly get one car down the street (even when there is no snow to consider) which has got to be nearly impossible for emergency vehicles to navigate. I even bought an all-wheel drive car this last spring to increase my odds of getting safely to and from work.

St Paul has to be one of the dirtiest, depressing cities in a terribly mismanaged state. If the housing market weren't so out of hand, we would have moved to Wisconsin years ago.

All this to say I think it is ridiculous and unreasonable to ask us to pay more. The state needs to learn how to manage the money they have at least as well as a child could.

Can we ask why this proposal was not put on the ballot? If given the choice, I will live with the pot holes (which incidentally did not exist on our street until the mandated lead water line replacement crews were here last summer).

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Reed
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Sent from my Galaxy Tab® A