

October 13, 2009

RE: 2010 Street Reconstruction Project – Resident Questionnaire

Dear Resident:

The City of Edina has initiated the process of roadway and utility improvements for the summer of 2010 for your neighborhood. The first step was to hold an open house on September 14, 2009, for you to become familiar with the process.

Things to know and consider:

- Residents pay a portion of the overall project cost in the form of a special assessment. Typical special assessments range from \$8,000 to \$15,000 per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) or, per property, and are payable over 10 years. You will not be billed for the special assessment until October 2011. Estimated special assessments for your neighborhood will not be determined until after information has been gathered from the questionnaires and a feasibility report is completed.
- Components of a project vary and are based on questionnaire responses. Special assessments typically include cost of new roadway, sidewalk and streetlights. Other utility upgrades such as water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer and concrete curb and gutter are funded through the utility fund and are not special assessed.
- Construction typically starts in spring/early summer and end in late fall of the same year.

The next step is to get feedback from you regarding a number of key components of the project. The information you share with us is essential in determining certain aspects of the project that may be constructed. This information will be discussed at the project information meeting (date yet to be determined).

The following information explains the questionnaire that is enclosed. A map showing the boundaries of the area to be reconstructed is also enclosed. After reading this letter completely, please complete the questionnaire and return by October 30, 2009, in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

I. Drainage Service Connection

Do you use a sump pump or have you considered installing one? Do you currently have a footing drain? The project could include a sump drain system along the roadway to collect groundwater, storm water runoff, and discharges from private sump pumps, roof drains or any other runoff from private property.

A typical sump pump discharges onto a homeowner's lawn. This can cause problems with your lawn, your neighbor's lawn, your basement if your lawn drains back to your home, with the street if the sump pump constantly runs down the gutter line promoting algae growth. Discharging the sump pump into the sanitary sewer system such as floor drains or laundry tubs is against the law, both City Ordinance and State Statute.

If the topography and final street designs favor a City sump drain system we will need to know if you currently have a sump pump or a footing drain. The line from the home to the City sump drain system would be your responsibility including any plumbing modifications needed to connect your sump pump. The City sump drain system is funded through the storm sewer utility fund.

We also would like to know about any local drainage problems. This might be an opportunity for the sump drain system to correct these issues.

II. Local Drainage Problems

Does storm water run-off stand in the street or sidewalk in front of your house? As part of the storm sewer and sump drain design process, we would like to know if this or similar situations are occurring in your area. If so, please describe it in the local drainage problems section of the questionnaire. We will review them for possible corrective action.

III. Private Underground Utilities

Some residents install private underground utilities in the City owned boulevards. These utilities are usually lawn irrigation or pet containment systems. Utility and roadway reconstruction can damage these utilities. If they are damaged, they will be repaired as part of the project. However, if the contractor knows the location of these private utilities, they can attempt to avoid damaging them.

If you have any private underground utilities, please tell us in the private underground utilities section of the questionnaire.

IV. Residential Street Lights

As part of all reconstruction projects, staff typically asks if residents favor upgrading their street light system. In some cases, the street light system is at the end of its useful life and requires upgrading. We do not know yet the condition of your specific street light system; an evaluation will be done later on. Funding for street lights are currently through special assessments. The typical cost is approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 per REU or, per property.

In the residential street light option section of the questionnaire are examples of the different styles of street lighting that could be installed in your neighborhood. Please rank your style preferences. Please note that ranking your style preferences does not mean you are in favor of streetlights.

V. Pedestrian Issues

As part of all reconstruction projects, staff typically asks if residents see a need to add sidewalks to the neighborhood. Funding for sidewalks is split between special assessments, City of Edina and the Edina School District (if the sidewalk falls within a school walking zone). The typical cost to add a couple blocks of sidewalks to a multi-block area is \$300-\$600 per REU or, per property.

If you know of a problem at a pedestrian crossing, missing sidewalk or other pedestrian issues please tell us about it in that section of the questionnaire.

VI. Concrete Curb and Gutter

Street reconstruction projects typically include installing concrete curb and gutter in neighborhoods that do not currently have curb. If your neighborhood currently has concrete curb and gutter then only repair of severely cracked or settled sections will be completed.

Staff will always recommend concrete curb and gutter for neighborhoods that do not currently have concrete curb and gutter. Staff believes this is a good public investment since concrete curb and gutter extends the life of the roadway by keeping water and vehicles from leaving the roadway. Water draining off the edge of the roadway weakens the edge causing edge cracking. Curb and gutter also keeps vehicles including snowplows from driving off the edge of the roadway causing rutting of the boulevard. Time and effort of snowplow operations are also reduced due to staff not needing to place, remove snow stakes, and then repair the boulevards that were disturbed by the snowplows.

The City prefers to use barrier style curb and gutter. This is a very common curb type used throughout town. The curb has a 6-inch vertical face. At driveways the curb head is removed and a small 1-inch rounded lip remains to control water. Surmountable curb has a 4-inch “steep ramp” look. At driveways the 4-inch height is not removed and creates a distinct bump while traversing your vehicle, strollers and wheelchairs up your driveway.

Please select your style preference.

VII. Traffic Management

The Edina Transportation Commission typically reviews traffic issues on local streets. We would like to know if you feel that your roadway has a traffic issue.

Questions

If you have questions after reading this letter, please email me at jsullivan@ci.edina.mn.us or call me at 952-826-0445.

Sincerely,

Jack D. Sullivan, PE
Assistant City Engineer

Enclosed: Property Owners Questionnaire
 Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope
 Neighborhood Reconstruction Map

If Yes, please include the name of your Irrigation Company: _____

Phone number: _____

Street Address: _____

C. Do you have an underground electric pet containment system in the City's right-of-way Boulevard?

- Yes
- No

IV. Residential Street Lights:

A. Do you favor upgrading your streetlights (there is a direct cost of approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 per REU)?

- Yes
- No

B. If the streetlights are upgraded, which style do you prefer? Please rank all the styles from 1 to 5, with 5 being most liked. Please answer even if you answered "IV. A" as "No".

Acorn:

Style can be viewed along Concord Ave from Valley View Rd to South View Ln, Edina.



- Dislike Like
1 2 3 4 5

Coach:

Style can be viewed in the Sunnyslope neighborhood, just north of Edina City Hall, Edina.



- Dislike Like
1 2 3 4 5

Arlington Lantern:

Style can be viewed in the Country Club neighborhood, just north of West 50th St along Wooddale Ave, Edina.



- Dislike Like
1 2 3 4 5

Round Lantern:

Style can be viewed at County Road 101 and W 78th St North, Maple Grove.



- Dislike Like
1 2 3 4 5

V. Pedestrian Issues:

A. Knowing that residents pay a portion of sidewalk costs in Edina, do you see a need to add new sidewalks in your neighborhood?

- Yes No

B. If Yes, Where? _____

C. Please list specific neighborhood pedestrian issues below (e.g. crossing adjacent busy roadways, etc.).

VI. Concrete Curb and Gutter:



Barrier Curb and Gutter



Surmountable Curb and Gutter

If directed by Council to install concrete curb and gutter, which style do you prefer?

- Barrier Curb and Gutter Surmountable Curb and Gutter

Other: _____

VII. Traffic Management

A. Do you feel your neighborhood or roadway has any traffic issues?

- Yes No

B. If yes, where? _____

VIII. Receive Weekly Project Updates:

Once the project is under way, if you sign up for our “City Extra” e-mail notification service, you will receive project construction updates on a weekly basis. This is our best form of communication with you as it happens more frequently. This service is free and allows individuals to sign up to receive e-mail messages from the City on a variety of topics. To sign up for the service go to the City Extra website at <http://cityextra.cityofedina.com> and place a check mark in the box next to this project’s name, “**Braemar Hills Improvement Project**” Please contact the City at 952-927-8861 if you are having trouble signing up for City Extra.

Please tell us how we can reach you if we have questions or comments about the data you have given to us on this questionnaire.

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email Address _____

The Minnesota Data Practices Act requires that we inform you of your rights about the private data we are requesting on this form. Under the law, your telephone number and email address are private data. This survey when submitted will become public information. There is no consequence for refusing to supply this information.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped-envelope. **Please complete all questions and return to the City of Edina by October 30, 2009.**