

**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** City Manager  
**FROM:** PW & Parks Dir./City Engineer  
**DATE:** February 8, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Postponement of 2016 Street Improvements



City of West St. Paul

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

As discussed at the January 25, 2016 OCWS there are financial and engineering reasons to postpone the 2016 Street Improvement Project. The streets that were scheduled for improvements were:

<u>Street</u>	<u>From / To</u>
Humboldt Ave.	from Wentworth Ave. south to Marie Ave.
Kraft Rd.	from Humboldt Ave. east to Livingston Ave.
Runge Lane	from Smith Ave. east to Charlton Ave.
Edith Drive	from Smith Ave. east to Charlton Ave.
Fox Ridge Rd.	from Livingston Ave. north to Livingston Ave. south
Fox Ridge Ct.	from Fox Ridge Rd. west to the cul-de-sac end
Edgewood Lane	from Charlton Ave. east to the cul-de-sac end

Based upon the Mn. 429 process the timeline to get this project to bid would have put it into May of 2016. Most contractors have their work lined up prior to May every year so the bidding environment would not have been as competitive and higher prices would have been reflected. The current timeline also puts construction beginning in late June or early July. Starting a project that late pushes timelines into fall. If the 2016 and 2017 Street Improvement Projects were combined and bid in winter 2017 there would be more competition and bid prices should be more favorable.

Some of the streets are adjacent to and parallel Robert Street. Clearly, traffic on Robert Street will be impacted in 2016 and the adjacent streets will see higher traffic volumes as a result. Having additional road construction on these adjacent streets would likely lead to higher driver frustration and impact the City's overall traffic operations on our local network adjacent to Robert Street.

It is critical that the private I/I work be completed on future reconstruction streets prior to paving a new coat of asphalt as some repairs require excavation of the roadway. Based on the current timeline it is not likely that all 2016 properties would have completed their inspections before construction started. Having contractors working on top of each other is costly in time and expense. By postponing the 2016 projects we can get the 2017 I/I properties scheduled for this summer so they are out of the way when we show up to reconstruct the roads.

St. Paul Regional Water (SPRWS) was not made aware of all of the potential 2016 streets so they didn't get to analyze their existing lines for potential replacement. The most cost effective time to replace watermain is when a street is torn up. We want to

continue to work closely with SPRWS to make sure their agency has time to evaluate and budget for replacement work or repairs on their system.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The CIP has \$2.5M budgeted for 2106 Street Improvements. This should be carried over to 2017 and combined to form a larger annual street improvement project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is looking for the City Council to formerly postpone the 2016 Street Improvement Project to 2017.