



November 30, 2011

RE: Tracy Avenue (Benton Avenue to Vernon Avenue) – Resident Questionnaire

Dear Resident:

The City of Edina has initiated the process of roadway and utility improvements for the summer of 2012 for your neighborhood. The first step was to hold an open house on November 28, 2011, for you to become familiar with the street reconstruction process. A second meeting will be held on December 19, 2011, where preliminary design drawings of the roadway will be presented. You will receive a separate notice by mail for this meeting.

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. Please read the information below before you complete the questionnaire.

Things to know and consider:

- Residents in Edina pay a portion of the overall project cost in the form of a special assessment. Tracy Avenue is a Municipal State Aid route, in which the City is eligible to receive funding from MnDOT for the street improvements as long as it meets their design standards. The City of Edina's assessment policy identifies that 20% of the street improvement costs for the project are specially assessed to the adjacent benefitting properties. Special assessments are based on a Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) or, per property, and are payable over 10 years.

The estimated special assessment for your neighborhood will not be determined until after information has been gathered from the questionnaires and a feasibility report is completed, which is planned to be complete in January 2012. An estimated range of the assessment amount will be provided to you at the December 19, informational meeting. If the project is completed during the summer of 2012, the special assessment for your property will not be levied until fall 2013.

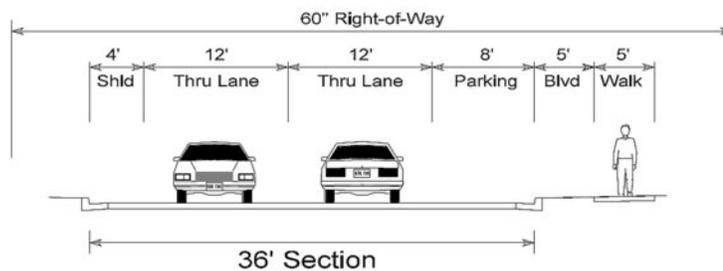
- Special assessments for roadway projects in the City of Edina typically fund roadways, sidewalks, and street lights. Other utility upgrades such as water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and concrete curb and gutter are funded through the utility fund and are not special assessed.

- Construction typically starts in spring/early summer and end in late fall of the same year.

Questionnaire:

The following information explains the questionnaire that is enclosed. A map showing the boundaries of the area to be reconstructed is attached to this letter. After reading this letter completely, please complete the questionnaire and return by **December 12, 2011**, in the self-addressed stamped envelope.

It should be noted, the questionnaire asks you about your feelings about the design characteristics of Tracy Avenue, such as adding or removing parking lanes, bike lanes, and sidewalks. The following figure shows the existing typical section of the roadway. The addition and/or removal of lanes or sidewalks will mean the footprint of the corridor may be changed and may add significant impacts that may not be feasible.



Design Characteristics

I. Pedestrian Issues

Presently, there is a 5' sidewalk on the east side of the street. Let us know your feelings about the importance of pedestrian facilities and whether you feel a sidewalk is needed on both sides of the street. In addition, we would like to hear your input regarding pedestrian crossings and safety for pedestrians along the corridor.

II. Bike Lane Issues

Tracy Avenue is designated a primary bike route by the City of Edina. Currently, there is no signed or striped designation along Tracy Avenue related to that. We would like to know how you feel about on-street bike lanes. The MnDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual requires a minimum 5' bike lane and recommends a 6' bike lane adjacent to a parking lane.

II. Benton/Tracy Intersection

The east and west legs of Benton Avenue at the intersection of Tracy Avenue are currently offset by a distance of 70' from centerline of the west leg to centerline of the east leg. As part of the design, we will be analyzing this intersection. We would like to know your input in terms of safety, traffic, sight distance, pedestrian facilities, and any other additional items that would be helpful to know while proceeding with the design.

III. Traffic Management

During street reconstruction projects the issue of vehicle speed or volume within the project limits are typically raised by residents. We would like to know if you feel that your roadway has any traffic issues. Please tell us about it in the traffic management section of the questionnaire.

V. On-Street Parking

Currently, on-street parking is only permitted on the east side of Tracy Avenue. We are looking for your feedback in the questionnaire to gauge the importance of parking along the corridor. Parking is not required, however if park is desired MnDOT requires parking lanes to be a minimum of 8' wide for streets with the design speed and traffic volume characteristics of Tracy Avenue.

VI. Residential Streetlights

As part of all reconstruction projects, staff typically asks if residents favor upgrading their streetlight system. Funding for streetlights are currently through special assessment for residents.

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

Property Inquiry

VII. 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 or 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 of Edina's 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.

VIII. Local Drainage Problems

Does storm water runoff 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.

IX. Private Underground Utilities

Some residents install private underground utilities in the City-owned boulevards, also called the right-of-way (ROW). 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 restored only if you indicate that you have these systems on your returned questionnaire in the private underground utilities section. Additionally, if the contractor knows the location of these private utilities, they can attempt to avoid damaging them during construction.

Receive Project Updates via the City Extra

If you sign up for our “City Extra” e-mail notification service, you will receive project updates as they occur. During this stage of the project, such updates are usually notifications of upcoming meetings. Later, if the Council chooses to proceed with construction of this project, the updates will occur weekly. During construction, the updates will include information such as when access to your driveway might be limited or when to have your contractor repair your private lawn irrigation system if it was damaged by construction activities.

The City Extra service is free and allows you to sign up to receive messages from the City regarding this project and any other project of interest. To sign up for the service, go to the City Extra website at <http://cityextra.cityofedina.com>. Follow the instructions to sign up and then select “Tracy Avenue – Benton Avenue to Vernon Avenue” from the list of projects under Public Works. Any information you provide will be confidential, and only specific information you request will be sent to you. Your subscriptions are protected by your own personal password. Please note, the City of Edina website is currently being reconstructed. If the Tracy Avenue project is unavailable, please try again after a few days.

If you do not have access to e-mail or the internet, please call me at 952-826-0371, and I will have hard copy of correspondences sent to you.

Questions

If you have questions after reading this letter, please feel free to call Andrew Plowman with WSB & Associates, Inc. at 763-287-7149 or myself at 952-826-0445.

Sincerely,
Jack Sullivan, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer

Enclosures: Map
Questionnaire
Self-Addressed Envelope