

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2012
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JULY 27, 2012

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. The Waters** – The City has received the required park dedication fee from the developer of The Water senior housing project. The City has granted the grading permit for the project. The project grading is under way.
- 2. Employee News** – Paul Buell started employment with the City of Edina in 1984 as a Community Service Officer. In 1988, he was promoted to a full-time position in our Police Department as a Police Officer. Today is Paul's last day of employment with us. We all wish him well in his retirement.
- 3. Freeway Construction Update** – MnDOT informed us this week that both directions of I-494 between Highway 100 and I-35W will close at 10 p.m. tonight for removal of the Xerxes Avenue Bridge over the weekend. (Ramps in the closure area may close by 9 p.m.) During the removal, drivers will be directed to use Highway 100, Highway 62 and I-35W to bypass the closure. The roadway will reopen by 5 a.m. Monday, July 30.

In addition to bridge removal over the weekend, MnDOT will install moveable barriers for upcoming overnight lane closures. Work throughout this summer and fall will include shoulder reconstruction, Xerxes Avenue Bridge construction, westbound auxiliary lane addition between Nicollet Avenue and Portland Avenue and I-35W and Highway 100 and ramp resurfacing. Ramp closures for resurfacing are likely to occur in September and October. Updates will be made in advance of any ramp closures.

MnDOT plans to suspend work for the winter in November, and resume work in April 2013. They'll continue to work on the new Xerxes Avenue Bridge, which is expected to open to traffic in late May 2013. In spring 2013, they will also work on median reconstruction and in late summer or early fall they plan to resurface mainline I-494 over four weekend closures. The entire project is anticipated to be completed by September 2013.

- 4. Route 46 Transit Changes** – Earlier this year, Metro Transit conducted a review of some of the lowest ridership trips on Route 46. Part of that review was the consideration of public comments. In response to the comments, Metro Transit has revised its proposed service plan reduction. Fewer trips will be eliminated than originally proposed. During morning rush hours in the eastbound direction, the times during which service operates every 15 minutes will be reduced. Afternoon rush-hour service will operate about every 20 to 30 minutes instead of every 15 minutes. Also, some early morning and evening service will be eliminated. On weekends, some early morning and evening service will be eliminated. Specific trip changes are detailed on Metro Transit's website.

In addition to these revisions, there will be some minor trip time adjustments. Updated pocket schedules and online timetables will be available in late August. The schedule changes effective on Sept. 8. Ridership levels will be evaluated again in 2013.

5. **Hornets Nest Project** – The School Board approved the Braemar Facilities Use Agreement this week. The City and Drive For The Hive have executed the Memorandum of Understanding and the design and construction contracts. Pre-construction meetings at the site are under way.
6. **Commissioner Callison** – Hennepin County Commissioner Jan Callison will make a presentation to the City Council at the Aug. 21 meeting to update the Council on issues of mutual concern. She will also stand for questions from the Council.
7. **Quarterly Report on the Web** – The Work Plan has been added to the website. You can find it in the “Government Corner” in the bottom left-hand corner of the home page.
8. **Appropriation of 2011 Undesignated Fund Balance** – I am working with staff on a recommendation for the Council for appropriating the \$1.6 million undesignated General Fund balance from the 2011 budget. I will present the recommendation to the Council at the Aug. 6 Council meeting.
9. **Aug. 6 Work Session** – I have made a change to the planned subjects for the Council’s Aug. 6 Work Session. I have rescheduled the presentation the Council was scheduled to receive on a rental housing inspection program in order for the Council to discuss the proposed options for the France Avenue Pedestrian Crossings Project.
10. **Candidate Forum** – The filing period for prospective candidates for City elective offices opens on Tuesday, July 31. On Wednesday, Aug. 1, City Clerk Debra Mangen and I will conduct a candidate forum in the Council Chambers starting at 5 p.m. to give filed candidates and prospective candidates a primer on Edina’s city government structure.