

12 November 2014  
8635 Fremont Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55420

RECEIVED

NOV 13 2014

Mark Bernhardson, Bloomington City Manager  
Gene Winstead, Bloomington Mayor  
1800 Civic Plaza  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, MN 55431

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
Office of the City Council

Gentlemen:

As you may guess from my address I am writing to you regarding the ongoing discussion of road reconstruction for Fremont Avenue (86<sup>th</sup> street to 90<sup>th</sup> street). I have no illusions about the final decision for this project and am quite sure that regardless of property owners response the council will approve the reconstruction. Although I am not personally in favor of the reconstruction I am writing not to speak against it as much as to speak against the way it has been presented to the property owners.

It would have been more respectful and certainly more transparent to have been upfront in the letter sent out this fall informing us of the land survey project. How much better to have informed property owners at that time that reconstruction of Fremont Avenue was being considered and further notification would come within a certain date.

The general information meeting was as expected informative and appreciated. However, at that meeting when asked about submitting a petition against the project we were told that 100% of the property owners must sign the petition before it would be considered by the council. Clearly this was not correct. We were also told that if the reconstruction was not approved by the council at this time it would be ten years before it would be considered again. I did not take this either as a threat or promise but as fact. Yet at the city council meeting we were told that wasn't necessarily true. Also at the informational meeting we were told the reconstruction of Fremont would not increase our property values. At the council meeting a council member said the street reconstruction would increase our property values. So which information given was correct? I would suggest that you clarify these issues to everyone attending the informational meeting and council meeting. It would be helpful to know the correct answers.

By far my major concern is with the cover letter and so called survey mailed to the property owners on November 6<sup>th</sup>. It would take a huge stretch for the form to be considered a survey. It is a questionnaire and at that a very poorly written one. The first question hardly bears response it is so condescending. Does the city honestly think the residents are so dumb as not to recognize inflation and cost increases on projects in future years. Such an obvious attempt at intimidation would be laughable if not so serious.

The cover letter, did no one proof it? Who on earth approved sending it out to the property owners? I found it at best a badly veiled attempt at intimidation and at worse an insult to the intelligence of the recipients.

In the second paragraph under *PMP Overview/Future Maintenance*, it is stated if the street is not reconstructed the roadway condition is anticipated to continue to deteriorate in the next few years. Well of course that would happen given just prior to that statement the writer tells us normal maintenance procedures will not continue. The message is clear, our way or your street will suffer and not receive the standard care and attention due other streets in Bloomington. Take that you property owners, message loud and clear we have the power and your street and you will suffer.

In the *Future Project Consideration* section owners are again reminded that the cost may not only increase in time but wait it gets even worse property owners are told they may have to pay the entire cost. So much for the earlier assurance about costs of road projects being shared across the city. In other words go along with this now or not only will you as tax payers have to share in the cost of other city road projects but you may have to cover all costs of a future project on your own street. Then the next sentence is perhaps meant to calm the reader, we are assured that this is not being said to scare us. Really, does the city (the writer is after all representing the city) really think that such information would scare the residents, that they would be frightened? I think not, perhaps some will be intimidated but scared? Choice of words here makes a huge difference.

Oh and just in case anyone doesn't realize it we are reminded that the final decision will be made by the city council members who are the elected representatives of the owners. I doubt very much that anyone owning property in Bloomington isn't aware that the city council is elected to represent the people. What an insulting and condescending statement. I do think you can do better, at least I hope so.

A final thought on the council meeting itself. I fully support the woman who spoke against the agenda being set to not only run into the early morning hours but putting property owner/taxpayers items so late. The response was that the agenda is set in order of items received. Is this a policy of the city? If so I strongly urge you to reconsider it. Having had numerous years setting agendas and chairing board meetings I can easily speak from experience and know it is always best to set agenda's according to not only members convenience but also with consideration to how long items are expected to take. It boggles the mind that a council meeting would run until 2am. If the agenda is that full perhaps it is time to consider an additional council meeting to handle all items in a timely manner. Very few can give the attention needed to provide subjects under consideration proper consideration and make thoughtful decisions at such an hour.

I have been a resident of Bloomington for nearly fifty years, during that time I have had interaction with many city departments including but not limited to building, inspection, forestry, police, animal control, licensing and motor vehicles. With few exceptions I have felt as though I was treated with respect. Not so with the communications dealing with

the street reconstruction project. The property owners deserve better and the city can do better.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I do not want nor do I expect a response as I have no wish to enter into a dialog, I simply wanted to share my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dor Olson', written in a cursive style.

Doris Olson



\* Survey letter that Ms. Olson is referring to in her letter.

Fall 2014

Dear Resident:

Beginning September 22nd and continuing into the fall, you will see survey crews from Bolton & Menk, Inc. in the area gathering data that will be used in putting together a feasibility study for 2015-2017 Pavement Management Program Street Reconstruction projects. Bolton & Menk has been contracted by the City of Bloomington to complete these surveys. The City is considering potential reconstruction of these roads. On the reverse side of this letter is a preliminary map of possible streets that may be included with these upcoming projects.

At this time there is no proposed design and we are merely gathering information. When the survey crew is in the area, they may be placing stakes in your yard. These stakes may be marking control points or property corners. Sometimes the stakes also mark the center of a radius, which may fall a considerable distance into your yard. Please do not be alarmed as they are not any indication of the new road.

There will be informational meetings in the fall of 2014 to discuss the proposed 2015 PMP Street Reconstruction project. Subsequently, a public hearing in front of the City Council, also in the fall/winter of 2014/2015, will be held to order the project. Everyone with property affected by the 2015 PMP Street Reconstruction project will be invited to these broad-scope meetings. Similarly, if your road is designated for a subsequent year, the process will correspond to the schedule above for the year prior to projected construction.

If you have any questions in the future please feel free to contact me at (952) 563-4864/[sjorchumb@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:sjorchumb@ci.bloomington.mn.us) or the project engineer, Bob Simons at (952) 563-8758/[bsimons@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:bsimons@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

Sincerely,

Steve Jorschumb  
City Land Surveyor

cc: Bob Simons  
Shelly Pederson  
Julie Long