

For the direct and immediate attention of:

City of Bloomington Mayor Winstead, City Council, Mr. Bob Simons and City Engineering Staff.

My name is Ken Young, and my family members have lived at 8924 Fremont Avenue since 1980. Over that period of time, the street has not been refurbished, along with the belief that it may not have been done, as such, before that time also. It is now time to proceed with the 2015-101 PMP street improvement project that the city has planned and placed in rotation. I support my decision based upon my reasons as outlined herein.

The first, and most foremost that I have noticed, is an obvious sub standard appearance when compared to the streets adjacent to Fremont Avenue with respect to not having curb and gutter in place. As a result of this, there is always water retention immediately and after precipitation, and subsequent freezing of such in the winter months. The street drainage is therefore in definite need of improvement, along with the overall surface condition. In addition, there is the cost to the City of engineering surveys, of which have been completed and would perhaps have to be repeated again in the future due to any delay now, resulting in a duplication of unnecessary expense should the project not be approved and thereby adding to the overall cost. This is aside from not even considering the construction expense of which will also inevitably increase over time.

Next, as I have talked to my neighbors on Fremont, I have discovered a very negative attitude with some of whom who would reject the proposal based solely on cost alone without a complete understanding of what the future consequences would be if we delay in not doing it in 2015. It is because of this basic ignorance that there exists a backlash against the city in taking an approach of anger. With this attitude in place, the answer is merely to say NO to the proposal as the easiest way out without analytically thinking through the situation as the City has presented. I actually had one neighbor that was against the street improvement based on the fact that this person believed there would be no cost to them because 'the City cannot do this', and, in addition to which, they could not comprehend why the City would even consider doing such a project in the first place. As I tried to explain the letter that was sent to this individual, they responded by giving a blank stare and closing the door on me. This rationale creates a solution by some through simply submitting a NO to your survey that was mailed in a letter to all home or property owners on Fremont Avenue. I can only conclude from this experience in trying to talk to this individual, that there may be some, but not all, who have voted NO as the easy and simple way out in not thinking it through, not to mention what appears to be a complete non comprehension of the letter itself.

In addition, in driving down the street, there are several sewer 'man-hole' covers that are not level with the street. Personally, I am tired of dodging these while driving for the danger this could pose in swerving to avoid them. Also, one concerned home owner I talked to was elderly and wanted to walk on the street for exercise, but was prevented from doing so due to the fear of tripping and perhaps falling as a result of stepping in a deteriorated area as is now present adjacent to their property.

Finally, yes, there is a cost to do this. The City has been fair in assessing properties at the 25% to 50% level. Sure, we could avoid this cost by delaying it, but only to the extent that it will be done so in the future at what I believe would be a much higher expense ratio. This is not to say that I can afford this assessment now, as I can't (being retired and on a fixed income), but it is much better to absorb it now and thereby not taking the chance that it would not increase later on.

Initially, I was against this project, but in retrospect I feel that this was a wrong decision, and it is with these reasons that I firmly and strongly ask that the City Council approve the street improvement project for Fremont Avenue, and I believe that these reasons, as I have presented, far outweigh any reasons that may be given in opposition for not approving this project.

It is time for this work TO BE APPROVED NOW and TO BE DONE NOW.

Thank you for your concern in improving Bloomington and making it a better community in which to live in and to enjoy.