



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

Dan Haak, Manager Telephone: 651-266-6080
Street Engineering/Construction Fax: 651-292-6315
900 City Hall Annex
25 W. Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1660

July 25, 2012

Dear Property Owner:

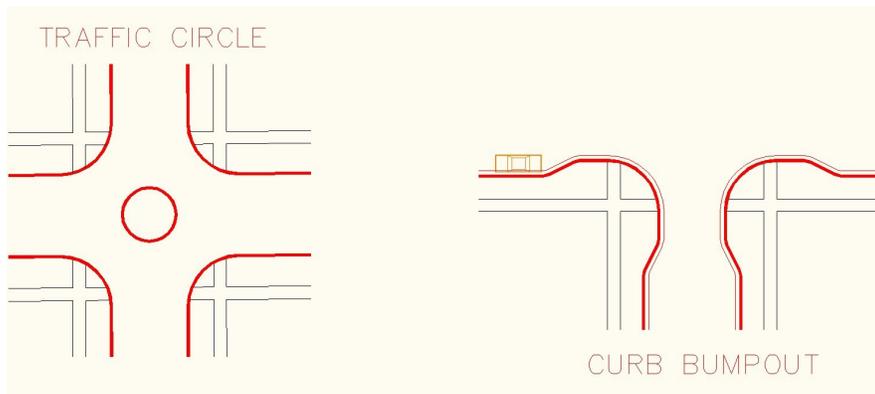
The City of Saint Paul's Department of Public Works will be reconstructing the streets in your neighborhood during the summer of 2013 as part of the Residential Street Vitality Program (RSVP). The work in your neighborhood is called the **Hatch-Agate RSVP Project**. The streets to be reconstructed are shown on the map on the last page of this letter.

General Street Reconstruction Information

Street reconstruction includes concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer drains, sewer and water main repairs as needed, bituminous pavement, sodded boulevards, lantern style street lighting, concrete outwalks and driveway aprons, and public art. In addition, as part of the City's Emerald Ash Borer Management Program, all ash trees in the boulevards will be removed by the City prior to the start of construction. New trees will be planted in the boulevards, as space allows, once the project is completed.

We are sending out this advance notice of the project so you can start to think about some options for your neighborhood. Some of those project options are listed below.

Traffic Calming devices such as bump-outs or traffic circles can be added to the project by petition of the nearby property owners.



A **traffic circle** is a raised curbed island in the middle of an intersection requiring approaching traffic to curve around the circle to move through the intersection. This requires banning of some parking and placement of signs to assist traffic movement around the circle in a yield condition. When a circle is added, all stop signs are removed from the intersection.

A **bump out** extends the curb line 6 feet into the street, about the width of a parked car, such that a



pedestrian on the corner has better sight lines for on-coming traffic and their crossing distance is shorter. The parking near the intersection is removed due to the bumped-out curb and resulting narrowing of the street in that immediate area. To find out more about traffic calming methods and the petition process, please contact **Monica Beeman** from the Saint Paul Public Works Traffic Division at **651-266-6214**.

Existing sidewalks will be reviewed by Public Works and may be replaced depending on the severity of any deterioration. New sidewalks can be added where no sidewalk exists. Additional assessments may apply to new sidewalk locations. Call **Al Czaia** at **651-266-6108** for more information.

Alley paving may be requested by the abutting property owners. A completed petition must be submitted by the property owners before October 31, 2012, for an alley to be reconstructed in conjunction with the project. This work is 100% assessed to the abutting property owners and typically runs about \$45/linear foot, or a little higher. This work must get City Council approval before we can add it to the project. For more information, or to obtain the required petition, contact **Scott Brimer** at **651-266-6225** as soon as possible.

Sewer Services

As part of the project, the Contractor will be installing or repairing storm or sanitary sewer mains, if necessary, and building catch basins to improve street drainage. During the design phase, the City will inspect the mainline sanitary sewer and the connections at the main from the individual house services. If there are indications that your sewer service connection is bad, we will send you a letter suggesting that you have it repaired as part of the project. With the City's inspection, we can only check the connection at the main and about 1' or 2' of pipe toward the homes. Property owners can hire a private sewer contractor to inspect the full length of the service to the house if they desire.

If you would like to have your sewer service replaced, you can save money if you have it done during construction versus after. Replacement of the connection at the main or of the sewer service from the main to the property line can be done by the City's contractor during the project. You will need to sign a request form if you would like the City's contractor to do that work. These forms can be obtained by calling **Lisa Falk-Thompson** at **651-266-6117**. **If you already have problems with your sewer service, you should definitely have this taken care of at the time of the project. Even if you don't have problems, you should at least consider replacing the service now to keep it in good condition long into the future.**

Any sewer service work on private property must be done by a private contractor, and arranged for by the property owner. All work on the sanitary service, all the way from the main in the street to the house, is at the property owner's expense. This cost would be in addition to the assessment for the roadway and street lighting construction. Please contact the **Sewer Utility Service Desk** at **651-266-6234** for any specific information regarding your sanitary sewer service.

Water Services

As part of this project, Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) will replace all **lead** water services from the water main to the property line at no additional expense to the homeowner. This is typically done ahead of the Public Works project starting. Not all homes in your area have services that are lead pipe. You will be contacted by letter if your service is lead and will be affected by this replacement program. If you wish to replace the portion of the service between the property line and the house, you must hire a private contractor. **Saint Paul Regional Water Services** can send you a list of approved contractors. Contact the SPRWS service desk at **651-266-6270** if you have any questions.

Boulevard Rain Gardens

The City of Saint Paul is partnering with the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) to promote the installation of rain gardens as part of this project. Residents may choose to have a rain garden installed within the boulevard in front of their property at no cost. Where feasible, the City will install a curb cut, create a small depression behind the curb, and install rain garden soil and hardwood mulch. CRWD will provide the native plants and coordinate a neighborhood planting day after completion of the street work. Homeowners are responsible to maintain the gardens, which includes watering until the plants are established and regular weeding throughout the growing season. More information about rain gardens can be found at bluethumb.org.

Public Art

In 2009, the City Council passed an ordinance stating that 1% of the cost of most public construction projects in Saint Paul be designated for the addition of public art to that project. A team of artists led by Marcus Young, City Artist in Residence, will be working with your neighborhood. If you are interested in being involved in the public art process, please contact **Regina Flanagan at 651-266-9159**.

There will be an assessment for this paving project, but the 2013 assessment rate will not be set until early in 2013. For your information, the 2012 assessment rate for projects of this type was about \$60 per linear foot of property frontage and we expect that rate to rise some for 2013. A Public Hearing for formal approval of the Hatch-Agate project by the City Council will be held in late 2012 or early 2013. You will be sent an official notice for that hearing. You will be able to comment either for or against the project at that Hearing.

Public Works is just beginning the design stage of the project. We will host a neighborhood meeting this fall to hear neighborhood concerns and to inform property owners more about the construction process. Construction is planned to start in the spring of 2013 and be completed by fall of 2013.

If you have questions about this project, feel free to contact me at **651-266-6117**.

Sincerely,

Lisa Falk-Thompson, P.E.
Project Engineer