



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

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The City of Saint Paul's Department of Public Works will hold a neighborhood meeting to present a proposed street paving project on WESTERN AVENUE between Selby Avenue and University Avenue to be constructed during the summer of 2014. This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the construction process and to inform city staff of your concerns. The meeting will be held at:

**6:30-8:00pm, Wednesday,  
February 12, 2014**  
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**Ober Community Center  
376 Western Avenue**

**General Street Reconstruction Information:**

Street reconstruction includes concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer drains, sewer and water main repair as needed, bituminous pavement, sodded boulevards, boulevard trees, lantern style street lighting, sidewalks, concrete outwalks and concrete driveway aprons. 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. Construction will begin in the summer of 2014 and be completed in the fall (November) of 2014.

**Specific Topics to be discussed at the meeting are:**

**Street Widths:**

For most of Western, the street width will remain the same as the existing street width. It is proposed to ban parking on the west side of the street between Marshall and Aurora in order to accommodate designated bike lanes. Parking will be banned on both sides of the street between Aurora and University. Parking will remain on both sides of the street between Selby and Marshall. It is also proposed to re-align the Marshall and Western intersection to reduce redundant asphalt and to create a rain garden.



**Ash Trees in the Boulevards:**

In 2009, a noxious insect, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), was found to have invaded the Hampden Park neighborhood of Saint Paul. In states like Ohio and Michigan, where this insect has gained a foothold, EAB has proven to be deadly to nearly all ash trees. Wishing to cost effectively replace trees likely to be affected in a timely manner, the City has decided to remove all boulevard ash trees where major construction is scheduled. Ash trees will be replaced with other species in conjunction with this street project. The City's policy for dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer will be further explained at the meeting.

**Water Services:**

As part of this project, Saint Paul Regional Water Services 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, which will indicate whether or not your service will be affected by this replacement program. If you wish to replace your portion of the service, which is behind the property line, you must hire a private contractor. **Saint Paul Regional Water Services** will also send out a list of contractors. You can contact the service desk at **651-266-6270** if you have any questions.

The homes that are affected will receive a notice the day before their water is temporarily shut off for this replacement work.

The hydrants and water main may also be replaced near your property. The hydrants are typically replaced during the winter and early spring. In these cases you will be notified on your front door that you will be out of water for the day. The water main replacement will be done during the Public Works construction project. In cases where the water main in front of your home needs replacing, you will be put on a temporary water service that runs above ground while the main is installed and tested

**Gas Meters:**

If you still have gas meters inside of your home, Xcel will probably be working on your block to update their system and to move those meters to the outside of the house. For more information about natural gas work on your street, please contact **Mike Madigan, Xcel Energy**, at **651-265-7068**.

**Sewers:**

The Contractor will be installing or repairing storm or sanitary sewer mains and building catch basins. The City will check the mainline sanitary sewer and connections. If there are indications that your service connection is bad, we will send you a letter suggesting that you have it repaired.

**If you have problems with your sanitary sewer service, now is the time to get it fixed. You can save money if your service is repaired during construction versus after.**

Repairs to the connection or to the sewer service from the property line to the main can be done by the City's contractor. You will need to sign a waiver form if you would like the City's contractor to do the work. Waiver forms will be available at the meeting or can be obtained by calling **Barb Mundahl** at **651-266-6112**.

Any work required on private property should be done by a private contractor. All work on the sanitary service is at the property owner's expense. Please contact the **Sewer Utility Service Desk** for information regarding your sanitary sewer service at **651-266-6234**.

**Outwalks:** will be moved if they are within 5' of an existing tree, to help prevent tree roots from heaving the walk up in the future. Carriage walks are the narrow sidewalks that run adjacent to the curb. These will be removed with street construction. The City does not replace them. If you do not want an outwalk please let me know. Otherwise a 3' wide outwalk will be constructed at every residence.

#### **Boulevard Gardens:**

Some residents have **boulevard gardens**. They will likely be damaged during construction. If you have plants you want to keep, I suggest moving them. The Contractor will install topsoil within the boulevard and sod after the street work is done. If you do not want sod, please give me or the city inspector a call and let us know. Sprinkler systems in the boulevard may also be damaged during construction. It is the property owner's responsibility to remove or replace their sprinkler system.

#### **Street Lighting:**

New lantern style street lights will be installed in the project area. The existing street lights on wood poles will be removed once the new street lights are operational. The wood poles will be removed if they only carry a street light. If they also have electrical, phone or cable TV lines, they will remain in place. Xcel and other utilities do not bury their over-head lines as part of construction projects like this unless that work is paid for by the affected property owners.

#### **Assessments:**

The project is funded by **assessments** from the property owners and by street improvement bonds. The property owner's assessment covers approximately 25% of project cost. The 2014 assessment rates have not been set yet. The estimated rate is approximately **\$85 per linear foot of street frontage**. Corner residential lots are assessed for the short side only. Commercial lots, including apartment buildings are assessed for both sides.

Assessments will be approved in the fall of 2014. A bill will be sent to the property owner. Whatever portion of the bill that is not paid within 30 days will automatically go onto the property taxes, where it can be paid over 20 years with simple interest. There is a senior citizen deferment program. For more information, contact **Lynn Moser** at **651-266-8851**.

**Existing sidewalk** will be replaced dependent on severity of condition. At this time, there is no intention of installing sidewalks where none exist today.

#### **Public Art:**

Public Art Saint Paul, the City's non-profit public art partner, has secured private funding to engage an artist in design of the project and in creating works that will be integrated into the streetscape.

We plan to start construction in the summer of 2014 and be completed by fall. You will receive a letter from the construction manager about a week before we start work on the project. I recommend keeping the letter for the useful numbers that you may need later during construction.

Weekly project updates will be available on the web site:  
[www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/government/publicworks/construction](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/government/publicworks/construction).

Please contact me at 651-266-6112 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mundahl, P.E.  
Project Manager