

Todd Hurley, Director



**City of Saint Paul**

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DATE: April 30, 2013

TO: Diane Gerth, Chair  
Saint Paul Long Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee

FROM: Monica Bryand, Chair  
Streets & Utilities Task Force

SUBJECT: 2013 Streets & Utilities Task Force Priorities for the 2014 and 2015 Capital Improvement Budgets

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I am pleased to transmit the recommendations and priorities for the proposals reviewed by the 2013 Streets & Utilities Task Force. The task force members' commitment of time and energy demonstrate the value of citizen participation in city government. The members' final recommendations reflect the difficult decisions they faced and their dedication to make Saint Paul a better place to live. I am proud to have served as the chair.

In addition to presenting the Streets & Utilities proposals in rank order, the task force offers the following policy recommendations:

1. The task force recognizes the importance of the *Downtown Pavement Replacement* project, but has concerns about the cost of the project crowding out other worthy proposals. The task force recommends possibly funding this proposal at a lower level in the \$500,000 range instead of the full \$1,000,000 request. Task force members suggest that if funded, this project address at least one major east-west downtown street.
2. Task force members have mixed feelings about the *Battle Creek Road Reconstruction* project. Members believe that the project is necessary and long overdue. However, members also struggle with the substantial cost of the project, especially in light of the low traffic count of the impacted section of street. Some members suggest that city staff explore the possibility of a funding partnership with the Ramsey County Watershed District.
3. While the Streets & Utilities task force ranked the *Bridge Capital Improvement Program* relatively low on its priority list (#29 out of 56), members value the project and recommend that Public Works re-submit it in a future CIB cycle.
4. Task force members request that in future cycles all Streets & Utilities proposals include information on traffic count, number of bus lines, and presence of bike/pedestrian features. The purpose of including this additional information is to provide task force members with a better understanding of the total number of travelers impacted by a given proposal.