

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BOARD**  
**PUBLIC HEARING – 2016 STREET PRESERVATION PROJECTS**  
**March 24, 2016, 6:30 PM, Room 303**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Montgomery, Chief Administrative Officer; Brian Hansen, City Treasurer; Jim Benning, Director of Public Works & Utilities; Cindy Voigt, City Engineer.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Leah Blevins, City Treasurer's Office; Duncan Schwensohn, Engineering.

**PERSONS PRESENT FOR AGENDA ITEMS:** Elizabeth Park, 706 E. Skyline Pkwy.; Lori Prudhomme, 534 E. Skyline Pkwy.; Kay Bakke, 527 E. Skyline Pkwy.; Roy & Meghann Levitt, 805 E. Skyline Pkwy.; Sam & Helen Smith-Stone, 415 E. Skyline Pkwy.

David Montgomery called the hearing to order at 6:32 PM.

**1. Public Hearing on the 2016 Street Preservation Project**

Duncan Schwensohn gave a short presentation on the project. It will be a full-depth reclamation on Skyline Parkway from Mesaba Avenue to Kenwood Avenue in which two inches of existing asphalt will be removed, the remaining asphalt will be pulverized to create a new base, and 4" of new asphalt will be placed on top. There will be some curb and gutter replacement and ADA pedestrian ramps will be constructed at the intersections. He anticipates a two-month window for construction and expects the project to be completed by the end of August. The road will remain open for most of construction. This work should add 15 to 20 years to the lifespan of the road. The engineer's estimate is around \$450,000, and special assessments to benefitting properties are capped at \$21.25 per front foot. The city will have a full-time inspector onsite while construction is taking place, and there will be regular communication with property owners.

At this point the meeting was opened for comments. Roy Levitt of 805 E. Skyline Pkwy. asked if there was any sidewalk work planned, citing a section of public sidewalk in front of his house that becomes submerged under water during spring thaw. Duncan replied that the project did not include sidewalk replacement but that he could certainly look at problem areas. Meghann Levitt asked about pavement markings on the new pavement, citing the high amount of bicycle traffic on the street. Duncan said the centerline and the parking lane on the upper side of the street would be marked, but that the street does not meet state standards for having a dedicated bicycle lane or sharrow. Mr. Levitt said that since this segment of Skyline Parkway is a main thoroughfare he feels that more of the project should be paid for out of the overall tax base. Jim Benning said that the city consistently repaves roads with heavier traffic counts. Jim added that there is some state aid money involved in this project, and that the formula used to calculate special assessments has been designed to make things equitable for all property owners.

Kay Bakke of 527 E. Skyline Pkwy. asked if there could be limits placed on the number of large trucks using the road. Jim said that because it is an MSA route the city does not have the authority to do so. Ms. Bakke indicated her concern about the amount of construction traffic due to the project at the Kenwood/Arrowhead intersection, and Jim said that construction vehicles are all within the legal weight limits. He added that the city would never permit oversized loads to travel on Skyline.

Helen Smith-Stone of 415 E. Skyline Pkwy. said she was concerned about speeding vehicles once the construction is completed and the road is in better condition. Jim said that after construction the city can collect traffic data, and if high speeds do appear to be a problem, can address that with additional enforcement.

Lori Prudhomme of 534 E. Skyline Pkwy. asked if a crosswalk will be marked at the four-way stop on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. Duncan said it will. Elizabeth Park of 706 E. Skyline Pkwy. then asked about the walkway that goes from Skyline at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East down to East 13<sup>th</sup> Street. She said that many people use it to get down to the bus stop on 13<sup>th</sup>, and asked if any signage or pavement markings could be included at this area. Jim said that a crosswalk painted in an area with no signal or sign tends to give pedestrians a false sense of security, but that after the hearing she should talk to Duncan and show him where the area is. Ms. Smith-Stone asked if new speed limit signs would be constructed, and Duncan said no new ones were planned. Jim added that if the speed limit is not posted the statutory limit is 30 miles per hour, and reiterated that the city can collect traffic speed data after the construction is completed.

Ms. Prudhomme then handed out a written statement she had prepared and explained that her property and others on the lower side of the street can only be accessed by the alley below Skyline. She feels that spreading the assessments uniformly on a per front foot basis is unfair to the property owners on the lower side, as they cannot construct driveways off of Skyline, and that the project will not increase the market value of her property.

Sam Stone-Smith of 415 E. Skyline Pkwy. asked about manholes and catchbasins. Duncan said that if necessary they will be replaced, and that manholes will be adjusted so they are about 1/2 inch below the new pavement, which is the engineering standard.

The comment period was closed at 7:15 PM. Jim reminded the attendees that they could speak to the city council regarding this project at the April 11 meeting. He then moved to recommend the project, Cindy Voigt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 12 in Room 106A at 2:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Montgomery  
Vice-Chair, Special Assessment Board

Jeanne Horn  
SAB Secretary