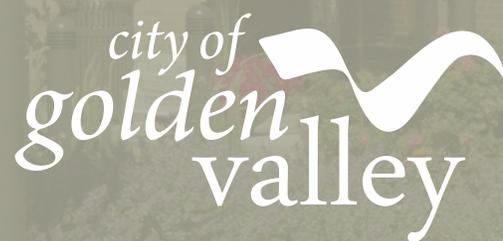


# **Pavement Management Plan Street Width Policy COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT**



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# Overview

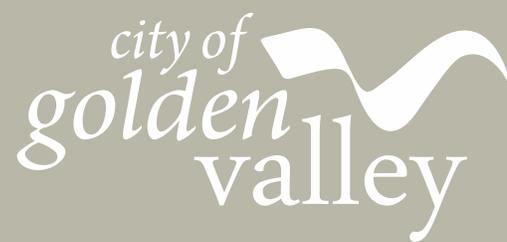
Soliciting input from residents living in the upcoming Pavement Management Plan (PMP) project areas was a major component of the Golden Valley City Council revisiting the PMP street width policy.

On Sept 18, 2020 City staff mailed a letter to all properties adjacent to a scheduled PMP reconstruction over the next four years. The letter included background information on the Council's initial decision to increase the standard residential street width from 26 feet to 28 feet and why the Council is revisiting the discussion now. To read the full letter see Appendix A.

The letter also included information on how residents can share feedback on the issue. See Appendix B for feedback submitted through an online comment box. See Appendix C for feedback submitted via email.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Letter To PMP Adjacent Properties**





7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

September 18, 2020

### Pavement Management Program – Street Width Discussion

Dear Resident/Property Owner

As you may be aware, over the next four years the City of Golden Valley is considering reconstruction of the street adjacent to your property as part of the City's Pavement Management Program (PMP). The schedule to complete the street reconstruction is shown on the attached map. Last fall, questions regarding the width of the newly constructed streets spurred a larger discussion by the City Council, which resulted in the City amending its policy and increasing its standard residential street width from 26 feet to 28 feet.

Due to feedback from residents about this policy change over the past months, the City Council will again discuss the standard residential street width policy at its Council/Manager meeting **Tuesday, Oct 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm**. At this meeting, the policy, along with estimated costs and assessments, will be presented. For more information on the PMP, please visit the City's PMP webpage at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp), call me at 763-593-8030, or email me at [joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov).

Please note that no actions are taken and no public comment is received at Council/Manager meetings. However, your input on this topic is requested and may be provided in any of the following ways:

- Go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp) or to submit comments electronically the City's website.
- Email comments to [engineeringdept@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:engineeringdept@goldenvalleymn.gov) and/or City Councilmembers, whose email addresses can be found at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/council/members.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/council/members.php)
- Written comments may be placed in the Utility Payment Drop Box at the front door of City Hall or mailed to:  
City of Golden Valley  
Attn: Sue Schwalbe  
7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

All comments received by Oct 8, 2020 will be included in the Council/Manager meeting packet, which will be available online at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov) the afternoon of Friday Oct 9. Should you have any questions or difficulties submitting comments, please contact me at 763-593-8030 for assistance.

Due to the pandemic, all Council/Manager meetings are held virtually via Cisco Webex. To monitor the meeting on Webex, please refer to the meeting agenda for the phone number and access code. For technical assistance, contact the City at 763-593-8007 or [webexsupport@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:webexsupport@goldenvalleymn.gov).

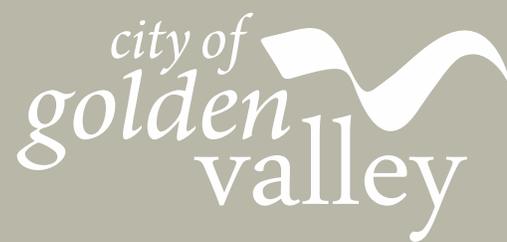
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Oliver".

Jeff Oliver, PE, City Engineer

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Online Comment Box Feedback**



### Submitted Responses (printed verbatim)

I'm a 4 year resident of Orkla Drive and am in support of the 26' street width. There's very little traffic on our street and very few people park on the street for any significant amount of time. As a result, I don't not feel that a 26' wide street will impact our quality of life at all. The cost savings and positive environmental impact outweigh any potential concerns for me. Thank you. -Ellen Johnson

I wish to provide my written support to establish a 28' road width for all remaining PMP's, including the one that impacts my neighborhood in 2023 based on the original city council vote on the topic in November of 2019. I understand this will result in a higher tax assessment for me, and my neighbors.

We live on Duluth Street west of Winnetka, and we love our wide street. Driving south down Valders near Plymouth Avenue, their miserably narrow street is always so clogged up with cars parked on either side, and I would hate to live there. It looks like a junkyard or like someone is constantly having a party and is hard to even drive through some days without worrying about someone jumping out into the road, opening a door into the road, or just having huge pickup trucks parked on both sides and not being able to squeeze through (and we have a small car!). If we wanted to live in a crowded-feeling, claustrophobic city, we wouldn't have chosen to live where we do.

Such a huge change to our street would really hurt our neighborhood dynamic. Our street is where neighbors meet and walk, and there's never any worry about parking or getting hit by a car because there's plenty of space.

If our wide concrete street turned into a narrow, cheap asphalt one, we'd be devastated and I know the character of our neighborhood we love so much would be damaged. The condition of the street itself is good, too -- I don't know why we'd spend money replacing it when it's absolutely fine.

28' - HONOR IT!

Please keep the streets at 28'. This is what the people want and what Golden Valley should have.

-April Nilsen 22 year GV resident

Please do the will of the people! I received my assessment last year for 28' and was ready to pay it in advance. I was worried when it was postponed due to COVID. I was worried that some tomfoolery would occur to reduce the streets to 26'.

PLEASE KEEP THE STREETS AT 28'

Aquila, Xylon, 23rd, etc.

It sounds to me like we have a bunch of Donald Trumps on the city council that we cannot trust. They vote and say one thing and then turn around and do the opposite. 28 feet is what was voted on and passed. Bob Wollak

With regard to the PMP planned for my neighborhood 2022, I'd like my street to remain 29 feet wide. I would not like it to be any narrower than 28 feet, if it must be narrowed at all.

First, I would like to thank all involved for reaching out to residents for comments. As a resident who will be directly impacted by the upcoming PMP, I am excited about the prospect finally having curbs and updated streets. While I applaud the City Council exercising fiscal responsibility, I am strongly opposed to reverting back to the 26 foot width streets. From a purely financial standpoint, I should be someone pushing strongly for just the opposite. I am 67 years old and opted to delay my retirement, in part, recognizing the upcoming assessment. Had cost alone been the driving factor in my decisions, I would feel differently. However, after seeing the impact on neighborhoods that have already undergone reconstruction, I believe that narrowing street widths as a cost saving mechanism is short sighted and wrong.

Having spent the bulk of my working life as a vendor for governmental entities such as the State of MN, Metropolitan Airports Commission, MN School Board Association and the League of MN Cities; I am keenly familiar with the competitive bidding statutes. While staff may provide you with projections, the simple truth of the matter is that the cost differential is at best, an educated guess. As someone that participated in the bid process, there are a multitude of factors that affect the amount of a bid. While I am not discounting the staff's work on cost projections, nevertheless it is somewhat misleading to suggest that higher bid amounts are solely related to street width. I would only ask to take this into consideration.

The benefits of traffic calming is interesting. I totally agree that narrow streets slows traffic flow. The issue for me is if that benefit is 1) necessary and 2) desirable. I also believe that this is the issue that you have heard most about from people in the neighborhood. I've lived in my home for 29 years. I can't recall an auto accident ever occurring in the neighborhood. As with many neighborhoods, there are numerous stop signs, hills and curves all of which slow down traffic. I don't see that disrupting the present traffic flow further is of benefit. What I do know is an extra foot or two can make a life altering difference for pedestrians or bikers. If you are not familiar with our neighborhood, I suggest that you drive around and envision narrower streets. Take a look at the street I live on (Zealand Ave.) There is a pronounced curve which can be hazardous even now if a car or delivery truck is parked in the apex. Narrowing will only compound that issue.

This is a cost/benefit decision that you need to make based on the fact that we will live with the decision for the next 40-50 years. Again, I favor the wider streets despite that fact that odds are that I will not be around long enough to enjoy the full benefit of the project. To me, the safety factor far exceeds the cost factor, particularly when factoring the length of time between these projects.

Thank you for allowing me to be heard.

Jeff Wanat

We have lived at 8425 Winnetka Hts. Drive since 1989 (2022 PMP area). As twice-a-day-dog walkers, we are strongly against narrowing the streets in our neighborhood, particularly because of the increased narrowness of the streets during winter because of plowing. We are willing to accept increased costs of the PMP project that will happen if we keep the streets at their current width, or at the compromise width of 28 feet.

Please listen and respond positively to all of the neighbors who are opposed to decreasing the width of our Golden Valley, sidewalk-less streets.

Martha Harris and Richard Robinson

I am very disappointed we are even having this discussion. The Council voted 4-1 last fall for the remaining streets of the PMP to be 28 feet wide. Why are we now having a re-do?

I understand that these are difficult economic times, but the Council approved an increase in their budget. We have lived at our home for over 40 years and have paid taxes all those years for others to have the streets they want. Now, when it is almost our turn, you want to narrow the streets to save a little money?

There are other budget items that can be cut. I walk on Duluth Street almost every day. When I see someone in their yard, I ask them about the proposed sidewalks.

Not one person I have talked to is in favor of the sidewalks. We have lots of people who walk in our neighborhood. We have residents with small children, people who are walking dogs, and some of us who are walking for exercise. We have walked near Medley Park where the streets are narrow. Walking there when cars are parked on both sides of the street and having cars come at you and behind you is scary!

I was so impressed when council members listened to neighborhood concerns and voted accordingly. Please don't betray the trust of your constituents.

Barbara A. Wollak

Living in one of the last remaining neighborhoods that have yet to be repaved in Golden Valley's PMP, and seeing how the 26' streets recently put in the community (near Medley Park and eastward) over the past few years and what that does to reduce the walkability and altering the feel of the neighborhood, I am a strong proponent of keeping the remaining streets at their current width of 28 feet, and not continuing the trend of reduction in street widths to 26 feet.

I'm an avid cyclist, and also walk the neighborhood quite frequently. With the reduced widths of the streets just west of me, I feel much less safe, and have more angst when it comes to interaction between pedestrians and motorists in those areas than in the past when they were 28 feet wide.

The marginal cost differential for 26 foot widths is not worth the minor savings it would afford, as the "feel" of the neighborhood is substantially affected.

Regards

I believe the city should be moving aggressively towards reducing its infrastructure debt burden. I also think there would be benefit to the residents to provide some analysis to truly understand the full life cycle costs of different options. For example, the cost of a 24 foot road and sidewalk, 26 foot with a sidewalk, 28 foot without a sidewalk. Including not only the PMP cost but an estimate of the amortized maintenance cost. Obviously these are not simple to calculate without bids, but it seems to me that paying for a wide road for pedestrian benefits may not net out over a smaller road with a sidewalk. As a parent of young children, a sidewalk is infinitely safer and more enjoyable to use with my family than a wide road.

My home is in the 2023 PMP area. I was involved with our neighborhood last year in discussions and meetings with the City Council, and was elated last year when the Council voted to set the street width at 28 feet. We moved to Golden Valley 24 years ago, and have enjoyed many things in this community, including the wide and often winding streets. The streets are busy in the summer with walkers with or without pets, families with children, often children on their own riding bikes and scooters, and many adult bikers. It is very important to me that the City maintains wide, safe streets. We would prefer that the existing widths are maintained and not reduced at all, but think the new policy of 28 feet last year was a good settlement. Please keep the 28 foot policy and don't reduce our streets again.

I am in favor of retaining the 28 foot street width.

I live near a city park and a nature area. Consequently, there is significant pedestrian traffic on the streets in my neighborhood. I am concerned that a significant narrowing of the streets would make it more difficult to accommodate safely simultaneous pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile traffic and parked automobiles on the streets.

While I am sympathetic to the costs to homeowners during the Covid-19 pandemic, the current pandemic will pass eventually. Perhaps investigating financing options for homeowners would be helpful.

I continue to support the comments I provided last year. For the safety of everyone utilizing the streets (whether walking, driving, biking), the streets should remain as wide as possible.

Dear City Council,

As a resident and tax payer of the City of Golden Valley for more than 20 years I am concerned that the City is cutting corners in regards to public safety and sense of place with our street widths. Is it fair to provide wider streets for some of our community and smaller streets for others? The small amount of savings does not outweigh our concerns for safety and aesthetics (sense of place). An average car is over 7 feet from mirror to mirror and 8 feet mirror to mirror for a truck. We have a lot of activity on our roads especially because we have no sidewalks. People walking with pets and kids playing in the streets. A 26' wide street would reduce sightlines and make it less safe for people to see someone coming into the street. A truck parking on both sides of the street would give less than 10 feet for pedestrians and cars to share the road. Why do some communities get safer streets than others? Please make all our streets 29 feet at a minimum.

Best regards

Jeffrey W. Ankeny

Dear City Council Member(s),

We are contacting you in regards to the Pavement Management Program - Street Width Discussion.

Our names are Andrew and Kimberly Sorensen, and we have lived at 2365 Xylon Ave N since 2017 with our two daughters, who are 3 years and 10 months old.

We are really looking forward to having our streets repaved, as they are in dire need of repair (but appreciate the improved patches done this year - they really helped!).

We have seen the recently repaved streets near our home, and while they look great - we have some concerns for our family.

We love walking around our neighborhood with our kids, and currently feel very safe in the wider streets, even without sidewalks. On the narrower streets, it feels much less safe if there is a work truck, or city trucks doing repairs, etc as it limits the ability to pass with car traffic coming the other direction. We had a couple close encounters while our daughter was learning to ride her bike where it's hard to have good visuals. We have chosen to have our daughter learn to ride her bike on the crumbling wider streets instead of the beautiful new paved narrower streets because of the greater risk with passing traffic and parked cars.

We are thankful that you are collecting GV resident's input into this decision, and strongly prefer to maintain our lovely wide streets that help make our neighborhood so great!

Andrew & Kimberly Sorensen

I am writing in favor of 28 foot wide streets. Last year, when I had an email correspondence with RJ Kakach regarding the narrower streets, he said that if the city council approved a street width of 26 feet, then ALL streets would be reconstructed to that width. That was concerning to me as I live at the end of Duluth Street which is currently a 44 foot wide street. While I am not opposed to improvements and a narrowing of the street, I am opposed to a ridiculously narrow street - especially Duluth Street which is an artery for the smaller neighborhood streets and therefore sees higher traffic by cars, bicycles and pedestrians. I cannot imagine having our street be 26 feet wide. Our end of Duluth Street is frequently used as a parking lot for people using the General Mills nature area as well as for U-turns by delivery trucks, utility trucks, city trucks, people who are lost and general parking on both sides of the street. I understand that there is a plan to potentially create a cul-de-sac with the PMP, but it won't alleviate the hazard of cars and trucks constantly making U-turns in front of our house and the trail. A narrower street will make it more difficult to turn around, allow for parking and for drivers to be observant of the many users who come and go out of the nature area. Many days of the week there are cars parked on both sides of the street. With the bicycle and foot traffic that comes and goes out of the General Mills nature area, a 26 foot wide street will be a bottle neck as well as impeding safe access to our own driveways at times. I also walk and bike the neighborhood streets for exercise and think that 26 feet is too narrow. We had discussions over this issue last year with the council and our neighborhood made it clear that 28 foot wide streets were important to us. I urge you to reconsider making a blanket resolution to make ALL the streets 26 feet wide. Duluth Street should NOT be 26 feet wide for the reasons I stated. Feel free to contact me if you want to discuss any of my concerns.

I support the City policy increasing its standard residential street width from 26 feet to 28 feet, as I have concerns about the overall impact of narrowing my street more than absolutely necessary (see below).

1) While I am encouraged to hear studies show that narrower streets MAY result in slower speeds, because this section of Duluth street is straight uphill grade I am worried that drivers WILL NOT slow down but rather continue to "hit the gas" and speed up that hill to their next turn. That is, I have my doubts about a narrower street being equal to a safer street.

2) My other concern is about the impact on community. No matter what it seems clear that the 2022 PMP will result in the width of my street (Duluth St west of Winnetka) being narrowed significantly: essentially going from a 4-lane wide concrete street to just barely two-lanes wide. Many neighbors are accustomed to being able having on-street parking available on both sides of the street as currently such in no way restricts traffic flow.

I encourage the GV City Council to not amend the City policy on residential street standard again. But that rather you vote to reaffirm the decision to keep the streets at 28 feet in width.

Thank you.

We are advocating for the 2021 PMP to be completed in as cost-effective manner as possible. As a working family, we certainly have a vested interest in our own assessment being lower. And as tax payers, we do not see the value in the streets being set two feet wider when these funds could be allocated to other city services and infrastructure. We also question why the approximately five miles of streets in the remaining PMPs merit a greater width, and why they merit more tax dollars, than some other streets within Golden Valley. We believe the city has a fiduciary responsibility to complete this project in the least burdensome manner as possible, benefitting both home owners in the PMP and all Golden Valley tax payers.

During the pandemic, we, as many residents, have been home and enjoying the neighborhood on walks and bike rides. We can often go blocks without seeing a car pass or a car parked on the street, which leads us to question why wider streets are necessary. We believe it is important to consider the wide array of residents affected by the PMP assessment, the necessity of residents' requests contributing to increased amounts, and the financial impact of large assessments on all those impacted.

We are newer residents of Golden Valley, moving here two years ago. We were drawn to the community because of the many great amenities, the proximity to the Minneapolis/St Paul metro, the close neighborhood feel it provided, and the safe environment to raise our family. We are in a community and a home we love. All of these positive factors contribute to making the housing market in Golden Valley very desirable and very competitive, which has resulted in our family, and I assume many newer residents, paying a significant portion of household income to mortgage payments. In addition, the housing stock is older and our home does require repairs, which we continue to make to not only enhance our own home but also improve our neighborhood. We ask that the council do all they can to find ways to make the upcoming assessment as affordable as possible for working families and all tax payers of Golden Valley.

Thank you, Andrea & Al Lentini

When I go for walks I like that there is currently more room for cars/trucks so that they do not get too close to me or other pedestrians. I also appreciate having more room when driving and passing oncoming traffic. Shrinking our streets down to a 26-foot width is too narrow. If they cannot stay what they currently are, 29/33ft, then no less than 28ft. My driveway slopes down to the street and the street curves down a hill. If the street gets narrower, it will make it more difficult getting in and out of my driveway when cars or delivery vans are parked on the street. Also, winter is already challenging when snow is piled up on both sides of the street, so if it is made at least 3 feet narrower, it will be harder to get around. The streets being repaved will be this new width for decades (50 yrs?). I think we should make them no less than 28 feet.

I was informed, in the September 18, 2020 letter sent by the city, that you are considering modifying street widths during the reconstruction of streets in the area I am a resident of, and this impacts especially Zealand Ave N where my property is located.

Barring any compelling reason to reduce Zealand Ave N and other neighborhood street widths, I am asking you to keep our existing street widths. It is my understanding that the additional cost to maintain the existing street widths as opposed to reduced widths is insignificant, especially considering street lifetime, so this reason itself should not justify reduced widths. Maintaining current street widths offers multiple advantages, including pedestrian security as there are no sidewalks, and preserving the nice appeal of the area of Golden Valley where I live, which is one of the main reasons I chose to move there about seven years ago. To summarize this, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

I do NOT AGREE with narrowing our city streets. As mentioned in the comments that people have expressed previously ( Walking/biking, snow storage, parking restrictions and the big change to our neighborhoods) the council needs to also give consideration to the safety of your citizens. With the narrow streets emergency vehicles will have a harder time passing through the streets if vehicles are parked on the street. It would also be harder for other type of utility vehicle also. Or residents towing there personal trailers. Also think about snow blocking you view and cars inching out into the street to get a clear view on a narrower street.

I also believe narrow streets will effect our home values. Many of my new neighbors have comment that our wider streets was a factor in purchasing their residence.

As a city tax payer, I have paid for other areas of the city to have wider and or maintain the width of their street when it went through the PMP so why should that be taken away from me? I feel the City Council made a promise to us last fall and now they want us to go through this AGAIN and blame it on COVID 19. All citizens had the right to voice there opinion when this was discussed prior and we did a lot or work and everyone spent a lot of time on this issue and now you want to start over again.

PLEASE leave the streets as they are.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed street width as part of the pavement management plan. We have lived in our Golden Valley home for more than 10 years and we recently made a significant investment in renovating our home as we plan to reside here for many years to come. Any changes or reductions in the width of our streets will impact us, as homeowners and residents, for decades. We request that the City Council continue with the plan approved last fall that keeps street widths to at least 28' to allow for space for walking, biking and safely navigating our neighborhoods. The additional time home this year as we navigate COVID has highlighted just how important these spaces are to our community.

Hello,

I have lived in Golden Valley for 4 years, I live on Westbend Rd. When I came to look at my now house with my relator, I distinctly remember during on Duluth St and recognizing how wide the streets are and I commented to my realtor how lovely that was. She added that not many cities have streets this wide. The wide streets allow for two cars to be parked parallel to one another but still allows for cars to drive in between even in the winter when the snow banks flow over a ft out onto the street. I implore you to find another city that has this feature. In the summer the wide streets allow for families to walk, bike, and do activities without worrying about stopping traffic.

The 29-30 ft streets are an awesome part of Golden Valley and one of the many reasons I love living here. I strongly encourage you to keep the streets at this width otherwise we become just like the other suburbs.

\*\*\*Please Reconsider Narrowing The Streets\*\*\*

I write to you today asking that you stay with your original decision to maintain the wider streets for the upcoming street projects.

I was born in Golden Valley and have been raising my family here for almost 20 years. I can't think of another city that I would rather be in. We have a great neighborhood with wide streets for my family to go on walks and ride bikes. There are 9 kids that live nearby and they are always out riding bikes, skateboarding, rollerblading, and riding scooters in our streets, please reconsider narrowing them.

Please review your notes from the city council meeting from last year where 3 residents stood up and spoke passionately explaining why we need to keep the streets at the wider length.

Hello Golden Valley City Council,

It has come to our attention the city is reconsidering street dimensions from 28ft to 26ft.

We're fairly new to the neighborhood and have enjoyed walking the dog, running, and the general dynamic of the area with it's current dimensions. Post implementation of streets down the way have caused an abundance of caution while walking pets or taking visiting nephews to the park (weaving in and out of service trucks while avoiding oncoming traffic).

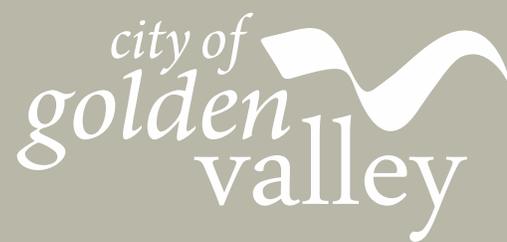
Short term savings is not a worthwhile venture for an infrastructure that could last decades.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kellie and Tony

# APPENDIX C

## Resident Emails



## Nelson, Carrie

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**From:** Kakach, RJ  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:51 AM  
**To:** Nelson, Carrie; Oliver, Jeff  
**Subject:** RE: Message from Naumann Dylan ([REDACTED])

Carrie,

Can you file this email as feedback on the street width discussion?

Here is a summary of my conversation with Abby below. She lives near 23<sup>rd</sup> and Valders and her street is scheduled for 2023 and 2024 (two years since she is on a corner lot). Her main concern was she was told the streets would be done by 2021 and now it will be 2023 and 2034. I told her the schedule shifted back 1 year due to COVID and she may have gotten some incorrect information about the 2021 date, as originally her streets were to be redone in 2022 and 2023, the pushed back 1 year to 2023 and 2024.

She also wanted to include that she is for the 28-foot streets and an increased assessment of ~\$300 – ~\$600 based on the website estimates is small in comparison to the overall assessment amount and therefore worth the extra money to build 28-foot streets.

Thanks!

---

R.J. Kakach, P.E. | Assistant City Engineer | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8043 (Office) | 763-593-3988 (Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [rkakach@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:rkakach@goldenvalleymn.gov)



---

**From:** Nelson, Carrie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 8:45 AM  
**To:** Kakach, RJ <[RKakach@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:RKakach@goldenvalleymn.gov)>; Oliver, Jeff <[JOliver@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:JOliver@goldenvalleymn.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Message from Naumann Dylan ([REDACTED])

Good morning!

Can one of you call this resident back?

Thanks,

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**From:** Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System <[unityconnection@vm-mail.org](mailto:unityconnection@vm-mail.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:09 PM  
**To:** [cnelson@vm-mail.org](mailto:cnelson@vm-mail.org)  
**Subject:** Message from Naumann Dylan ([REDACTED])

**From:** [City of Golden Valley](#)  
**To:** [Romano, Tomas](#)  
**Subject:** Email the City Manager's Department [#768]  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 6:35:53 PM

---

Name \* Andrew Snope

Email \*



Comments \*

Hello Mayor Harris and Council Members,

I have seen some Facebook posts and now in the Post, the issue of the promised wide street. I just wanted to say that in today's world of its turmoil of issues, this whole uprising of "wide streeters" seems rather privileged.

While the width of their street is a neighborhood issue. The budget and tax impact is a citywide issue. Keep the 30,000 ft view.

Keep up the good work.

Thank you!

Andy

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** PMP Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 5:07:28 PM

---

Good Afternoon;

I'd like to provide my written support for setting the road width standard to 28 feet for your remaining PMP's, including mine, which is scheduled for 2023. I understand this will result in a higher tax assessment for myself and neighbors, but feel the wider width is important to the overall neighborhood aesthetic as well as offering a safe space to walk, which so many of our neighbors (including myself) do on a daily basis.

Respectfully,

Jinnie Hall

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#); [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** Asphalt Curb vs. Cement Curb  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 10:05:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.emz](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.emz](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.emz](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.emz](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.emz](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[oledata.mso](#)

---

Hello,

I live at [REDACTED] (in the 2024 PMP blue zone).

The asphalt curb in front of my house has been repeatedly torn up by snow plows. Additionally, I have 3 sprinkler heads in the grass near the curb. A snow plow snapped off the top of one of the sprinkler heads, which needs to be replaced.

**I'd like to ask you to have a cement curb poured in rather than another asphalt curb.** My neighbors down the block, who have a cement curb in front of their houses, don't have a problem with their curbs being destroyed by snow plows.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

-Thomas Rydberg

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Oliver, Jeff](#)  
**To:** [Nelson, Carrie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 28 foot wide streets  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:13:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Please log.

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**Jeff Oliver P.E.** | City Engineer | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8034 | 763-593-3988  
(Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY)  
[joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov)  
*\*Please note new email address.\**



**From:** Cruikshank, Tim  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:08 AM  
**To:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Cc:** Golden Valley Council Members ; Oliver, Jeff ; Nevinski, Marc  
**Subject:** RE: 28 foot wide streets  
Thanks Gillian.

---

**Timothy J. Cruikshank** | City Manager | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8003 | 763-593-8109 (Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)



**From:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:17 AM  
**To:** Cruikshank, Tim <[TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: 28 foot wide streets  
FYI

---

**Gillian Rosenquist** | City Council Member | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-529-9279  
[grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 8:08 AM  
**To:** [Rosenquist, Gillian](#)  
**Subject:** 28 foot wide streets  
Kitty and I are in favor! TWO VOTES  
Walter Enloe PhD  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Narrow Streets in Golden Valley  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:26:07 AM

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Dear Mayor Harris and Golden Valley City Council Members,

I am resending my email regarding the issue of the PMP, changing your decision once again, and narrowing our streets to 26 feet in width, as you continue with the street reconstruction plans. I would urge you to return to your earlier decision to keep the streets at 28 feet. As a long-time resident of Golden Valley, avid walker, and caring neighbor I am concerned about narrowing the streets for many reasons including the following:

- With the proposals to add more nearby high-density housing, what sense does it make for narrower streets in the area? The streets will be used more, not less, and will need to accommodate more drivers, bikers, and pedestrians as new residents live in and enjoy the community.
- I work and commute in the City of Mpls. where many of the streets are too narrow. Why would we aspire to adopt the same problems as a city where snowplows struggle, driving and parking is a constant challenge for both private and public use such as patronizing area businesses or civic/school events, and pedestrians and children are often casualties of being hit by vehicles trying to navigate narrow streets?
- We live on the Orkla/Wynnwood Road/Valders curving street. There are many, many families with young children on our block as well as other streets in Golden Valley. Narrowing the streets to the proposed width of 26 feet will ensure more risks for pedestrians and children who regularly walk, bus, bike, skateboard, and play in our neighborhoods. That extra width gives just a few more feet, visibility, and reaction time to avoid tragedies.
- We need to remember that Minnesota = WINTER for almost half of the year. Once the snow flies and builds up on the sides of our streets as it always does, the streets are even narrower and the risks even greater. Why add to that very practical problem?

The current street width of 28 feet strikes a good balance between allowing our residents to safely use and enjoy the streets, parking for area residents, and traffic for larger vehicles such as emergency vehicles, waste disposal trucks, snowplows, and school buses. Please keep our streets at 28 feet width and do not authorize them to be narrowed to 26 feet.

Best wishes, Jan Thurn

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#); [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** Street width - honor 28" width PMP  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 2:45:55 PM

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Here's my input - honor the 28' PMP as promised last year.

I participated in the meetings last year and emailed then, too. I really don't need to hear the last year's arguments for 26' regurgitated back to me again. It was more than a few of us residents that got involved, wrote emails and showed up expressing our wishes in favor of 28' widths over 26'. We said we would pay the additional PMP cost then. And what a slap - now you're disregarding us and on top of that, transferring that maintenance of extended city boulevard back onto us and calling it a tax savings.

As far as saving all of the taxpayers money by reversing your promise and going back to the 26' width and the argument that all residents need to be considered and not just a few of us, is very short-sighted. Our street PMPs are at the whiplash end of the sectors being updated these past 10 years. There have been many economic downturns that have led to project implementation delays. And then the tax levy to us affected folks go up with inflation. So it's not been an equitable consideration of *all the taxpayers* as it's costing us at the PMP end (the sectors still to be done) more each time there are delays and backsliding. So at least be fair to us by keeping your promise to pave the streets at 28' minimum width.

On the issue of safety, the idea that traffic is "calmed" is just that - an idea, a conjecture without genuine data to support the notion. This was discussed during last year's council meetings that many of us attended. At least one resident who's street was reduced to 26' spoke to the council and stated it had no effect on slowing traffic but was more dangerous to walk along. Also, many of our streets are curved, as mine is in an S curve off of Medicine Lake Road, and will be dangerously impacted by narrower streets. Mine is a schoolbus route. As you enter from Medicine Lake Rd, you can't see the bus at the other end. School children will have to walk on a narrower street, snow piled high in winter making the road even narrower, to catch their bus.

Shelley Parker  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Oliver, Jeff](#)  
**To:** [Nelson, Carrie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: narrow streets  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:18:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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Again.

**Jeff Oliver P.E.** | City Engineer | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8034 | 763-593-3988  
(Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY)  
[joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov)  
*\*Please note new email address.\**



---

**From:** Cruikshank, Tim  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:17 AM  
**To:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Cc:** Golden Valley Council Members ; Oliver, Jeff ; Nevinski, Marc ; Kakach, RJ  
**Subject:** RE: narrow streets  
Thank Gillian.

**Timothy J. Cruikshank** | City Manager | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8003 | 763-593-8109 (Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)



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**From:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Cruikshank, Tim <[TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: narrow streets  
Gillian Rosenquist  
Council Member  
763-529-9279

---

**From:** Barbara Wollak <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:10 AM  
**To:** [grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov)  
**Subject:** narrow streets  
Dear Councilperson Grosenquist,

Thank you for your service to Golden Valley.

As one of your constituents, I want you to know that I strongly support maintaining the current street width for the remaining PMP to 28 feet. I was so disappointed that this issue is coming up again. There was a 4-1 vote in favor of the wider streets last fall. We do not want a redo! If you want to save money during these difficult economic times, there are other ways to cut the budget, like the sidewalks along Duluth Street.

We have lived in our home for over 40 years and have paid taxes all those years for everyone else to get the streets they want. Now it is almost our turn and there is talk of narrowing the streets to save money? We want a pedestrian friendly neighborhood. We have lots of neighbors of all age who walk and bike our streets.

Please don't betray the trust we placed in you.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Respectfully,

**From:** [Oliver, Jeff](#)  
**To:** [Nelson, Carrie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 28" Street Widths - Golden Valley PMP  
**Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:55:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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**Jeff Oliver P.E.** | City Engineer | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8034 | 763-593-3988  
(Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY)  
[joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov)  
*\*Please note new email address.\**



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**From:** Cruikshank, Tim  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Cc:** Golden Valley Council Members ; Nevinski, Marc ; Oliver, Jeff ; Kakach, RJ  
**Subject:** RE: 28' Street Widths - Golden Valley PMP  
Thanks Gillian.

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**Timothy J. Cruikshank** | City Manager | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8003 | 763-593-8109 (Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)



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**From:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:28 PM  
**To:** Cruikshank, Tim <[TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: 28' Street Widths - Golden Valley PMP

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**Gillian Rosenquist** | City Council Member | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-529-9279  
[grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** [Rosenquist, Gillian](#)  
**Subject:** 28' Street Widths - Golden Valley PMP

Hi Council Member Rosenquist,  
My name is Jon Beattie and I live at [REDACTED] with my family. My wife and I moved in just over a year ago into this neighborhood and one of the biggest draws for us purchasing in this neighborhood was how wide and safe the streets were/are. My wife and I take daily walks with our 3 children (6, 3, 4 months) and the wider streets give us a lot of peace of mind and comfort knowing that there's plenty of room for them to ride their bikes safely on the side, for us to push a double stroller (or sometimes a double & a single stroller) or walk hand in hand. We would not feel this same peace of mind with 26' street widths as that is a 3' reduction from current street widths (about the width of our double-BOB stroller).  
I wanted to reach out and ask for your support of us keeping 28' street widths as part of the upcoming PMP project. I know that you originally had supported this but have converted to the opinion that 26' street widths is the better option. This is the first house that we have owned and it has been a bit alarming/surprising to have so much back and forth on the street widths over the 1.5 years that we've been living here.

The extra two feet (vs. the potential 26' street widths) allows us to keep the peace of mind mentioned above for our daily family walks. It maintains a safe amount of space for walking as a family, exploring our beautiful neighborhood and not feeling confined to single-file lines in order to remain safe. Our daily walks are a big part of how we connect with one another and enjoy time outside together and we are very hopeful to be able to maintain the initially accepted 28' street widths.

Thank you for your support in this matter,  
Jon Beattie



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Keeping streets at least 28 feet wide  
**Date:** Friday, October 2, 2020 3:17:52 PM

---

Hello Mayor,

I grew up in Golden Valley and have owned my own home here for over 15 years. I live at [REDACTED]. North and part of what both drew me and keeps me here is that our neighborhood is pedestrian friendly.

I have two small dogs that I walk every day and with no sidewalks in our neighborhood, it's important to have space to do that safely.

Being close to the General Mills Nature Center and walking distance from two parks has been a draw for many of us.

I join Kathy Longar and my other neighbors in urging you and your City Council colleagues to keep our streets at least 28 feet wide.

Narrowing them to 26 feet will be both hazardous and make our neighborhoods much less desirable.

Thank you, Julie Borgen

**Julie Borgen**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Oliver, Jeff](#)  
**To:** [Nelson, Carrie](#)  
**Cc:** [Kakach, RJ](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Street CIP Reconsideration Request  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 7:23:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [p5.jpg](#)  
[p6.jpg](#)  
[p7.jpg](#)  
[p8.jpg](#)  
[30E9F31E72CC49AD9DD26F8973B1074C\[3943069\].gif](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image005.jpg](#)  
[image006.jpg](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Another one.

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**Jeff Oliver P.E.** | City Engineer | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8034 | 763-593-3988  
(Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:joliver@goldenvalleymn.gov)  
*\*Please note new email address.\**



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**From:** Cruikshank, Tim  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 5:29 PM  
**To:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Cc:** Golden Valley Council Members ; Oliver, Jeff ; Nevinski, Marc ; Kakach, RJ  
**Subject:** FW: Street CIP Reconsideration Request  
Thanks Gillian.

---

**Timothy J. Cruikshank** | City Manager | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8003 | 763-593-8109 (Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)



---

**From:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** Cruikshank, Tim <[TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:TCruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Street CIP Reconsideration Request

---

**Gillian Rosenquist** | City Council Member | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-529-9279  
[grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov)



---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 3:25 PM  
**To:** [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Street CIP Reconsideration Request

---

**From:** Kuebelbeck, Kelly  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 2:59 PM  
**To:** 'sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov' <[sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov)>; 'lfonnest@goldenvalley.gov' <[lfonnest@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:lfonnest@goldenvalley.gov)>; 'grosenquist@goldenvalley.gov' <[grosenquist@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:grosenquist@goldenvalley.gov)>; 'mharris@goldenvalley.gov' <[mharris@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:mharris@goldenvalley.gov)>; 'ksanberg@goldenvalley.gov' <[ksanberg@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:ksanberg@goldenvalley.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Street CIP Reconsideration Request

More pictures

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**From:** Kuebelbeck, Kelly

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 2:57 PM

**To:** 'sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov' <[sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov)>; 'lfonnest@goldenvalley.gov' <[lfonnest@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:lfonnest@goldenvalley.gov)>; 'groesenquist@goldenvalley.gov' <[groesenquist@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:groesenquist@goldenvalley.gov)>; 'mharris@goldenvalley.gov' <[mharris@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:mharris@goldenvalley.gov)>; 'ksanberg@goldenvalley.gov' <[ksanberg@goldenvalley.gov](mailto:ksanberg@goldenvalley.gov)>

**Subject:** Street CIP Reconsideration Request

Golden Valley Mayor Harris and Council Members,

I have lived at the corner of Valders and Winnetka Heights Drive for over 18 years. When we moved in, the City told us we should be expecting new roads in the next three years...which did not happen due to budget delays during the recession. These roads were in terrible shape 18 years ago when we moved in and today they are much worse.

Every spring, the potholes are so bad that our cars (many in the neighborhood) are damaged (suspension issues and flat tires) before GV staff is able to fix the potholes; it took two months this year. Meanwhile, we trek on the roads like we are four-wheeling in the spring...looking for patches of road not damaged. See attached photos (coming in subsequent emails).

The effect of narrowing the streets around Medley has not been a good one. During rush hour, Ensign can feel like a one-way as we wait for other cars to pass first. The roads with less traffic don't look the same either. Homes look smaller and the neighborhood does not feel as welcoming. I understand that the idea here is to cut costs because of COVID and I humbly ask you to rethink this decision.

We have been suffering for decades with poor road conditions and have paid the same in taxes as the rest of the Golden Valley home-owners with nice, new, wide roads. We don't want *the feel* of our neighborhood to change and for there to be less room for pedestrians, kids, and bikers. Instead, we would prefer either:

- a. waiting a couple more years, or
- b. diverting funds from the proposed sidewalk on Duluth to prevent the narrowing our streets.  
Note: we would prefer, however, a painted cross-walk instead since there have been accidents at this location (there is a blind spot at the top of the hill on Winnetka making it more dangerous to turn than when Winnetka was four lanes; I have nearly been hit crossing the street at this bus stop when it is dark. In addition, I have witnessed several close accidents).

We kindly ask you to reconsider, not go back on your word, do what you say you are going to do, and not degrade the look and feel of our neighborhood. Please.

Kelly Kuebelbeck



**KELLY KUEBELBECK**  
Sr. Product Marketing Manager  
Accruent | Healthcare



A close up of a sign? ? Description automatically generated



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*Please be advised that this email may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us by email by replying to the sender and delete this message.*

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Street width discussion  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 5:04:44 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City's plan for street reconstruction. I know that funds are limited as always, but when it comes to infrastructure and long term projects like this one, I think some visionary thinking should be in order. We don't only live for today — future (and present) residents of our fine city will appreciate many times over that our leaders for today are thinking of the next generation of residents for tomorrow. 30 foot street widths provide ample space for side street parking, while moving traffic (and emergency vehicles) can move both ways without abatement. I am very willing to be assessed more money to accommodate traffic needs both present and future.

Don Mleziva

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Cc:** [Harris, Shep](#); [lformnest@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:lformnest@goldenvalleymn.gov); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** Street widening  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 8:00:49 PM

---

I feel that the city should maintain the current width of my street and not narrow it to 28 feet. My street already seems a bit narrow if cars are parked on even one side. Two winters ago, the city snow plow dug up both the curbing in front of my house and part of my lawn. I think that any further street narrowing might cause more problems like this.

Please keep my street's width as is. Thanks.

Earl Hoffman

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#); [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** Street Widths  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 3:04:44 PM

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Dear Golden Valley Mayor and Council,  
My name is Susan Senger and I have been a homeowner in Golden Valley for 30 years. I have always found our city to be an excellent place to raise a family.

My concern is in regards to the change in the street width. I understand that an agreement was made 10 months ago that our streets would be 28 feet. Now there seems to be a change to 26 feet.

As a parent, dog walker, and a driver, I would like for you to fulfill the agreement of the street width to remain at 28 feet. I walk daily and want to stay safe. Many young families are now moving into our neighborhood. They deserve the same safe streets that my children biked, walked and learned how to drive on.

I hope you do the right thing for our city and move forward with our streets at 28 feet.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Susan Senger  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Street width issue  
**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2020 12:55:16 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern:

We have lived at [REDACTED] since 1989 (2022 PMP area). As twice-a-day-dog walkers, we are strongly against narrowing the streets in our neighborhood, particularly because of the increased narrowness of the streets during winter because of plowing. We are willing to accept increased costs of the PMP project that will happen if we keep the streets at their current width, or at the compromise width of 28 feet.

Please listen and respond positively to all of the neighbors who are opposed to decreasing the width of our Golden Valley, sidewalk-less streets.

Martha Harris and Richard Robinson

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** 28 feet street width - Zealand Ave N  
**Date:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 8:33:44 PM

---

Hello,

My name is Bethany Beattie and my husband, Jon, and I are proud to call Golden Valley our home, having just celebrated our one year anniversary of purchasing our first house here (in the summer of 2019). We live on Duluth Ave. N. and have so enjoyed meeting our wonderful neighbors and partaking in all that Golden Valley has to offer. You will see us and our three young children taking daily (if not more!) walks (with a large double stroller!), bike rides, scooter rides, etc. in our beautiful neighborhood.

Last November, I felt proud to involve myself in local politics and exercise my citizenship by reaching out to the city council members asking that our streets be repaved at 28 feet, instead of being narrowed to 26 feet. We were thrilled when the vote for 28 feet streets passed!

You can imagine my shock when we received notification that two council members have reversed their decision from last fall, and that the city is now planning to narrow our street to 26 feet. We felt small, frustrated, undercut, ignored, duped. These beautiful, wide streets we utilize and enjoy on a daily basis were one thing we looked long and hard for in our home search. We did not ever think that they could be taken away from us so quickly after moving into our home.

Pre Covid-19, it was a frequent compliment we would receive when hosting guests, parties, etc. at our house: "You have such wide streets! Amazing!" We felt so happy and proud. It is so nice to have space for parking with plenty of street left for pedestrian use and passing vehicles.

During Covid-19, I can't tell you how much it has meant to be able to have access to such a nice, wide street. As a nurse, I'm deeply appreciative of the importance of social distancing in preventing the spread of Covid-19. I have noticed the number of walkers in our neighborhood has increased dramatically during these past 6 months, as people turn to outdoor exercise for health and sanity during this pandemic. I want to assure you that my family and myself have been staying home, washing hands, wearing masks, and doing everything we can to protect ourselves, our neighbors and our city. We are thankful to live with conscientious neighbors. We frequently cross the street to avoid coming in contact with others and see fellow exercisers do the same. Sometimes, both sides of the street will be occupied and a third party will walk in the middle of the street, until we have all passed each other, to ensure proper social distancing. I know our street would not be repaved until 2022, but reducing our street width to 26 feet would truly impact the safety and accessibility in our neighborhood. It is easy to picture how cramped the streets would feel with a car parked on one side of the street (if not both!), one or two lanes of traffic driving by, and families and petwalkers all trying to share the same space in a safe and socially distanced manner. Who knows how long social distancing will be encouraged? Some aspects of pre Covid-19 life may return, but some will stay. Social distancing may very well be one of them. It just makes sense to give others space when possible.

Even without Covid-19 and social distancing, having our street narrowed to 26 feet would dramatically change the feeling and accessibility of our neighborhood. I will feel significantly more apprehensive during family walks, as vehicles will have less space to pass my children. The thought of having restricted parking in our neighborhood is unnecessary. With the width at 28 feet, there is no need to have parking restricted, something none of us would welcome.

I want to thank you for your time and service for our city, especially during this pandemic. I am sure it has been a stressful season with many decisions to be made, which have big impacts on those living here. There must be so much that goes on behind the scenes, and I thank you for your dedication to your citizens and

city. I can imagine the complexities of considering all sides and trying to make the best choice for all parties involved.

Please consider doing anything and everything in your power to advocate for the streets to be 28 feet instead of 26 feet, as the previous vote had decided. Having wider streets is crucial for safety, resident satisfaction and maintaining the beautiful, open neighborhoods of Golden Valley of which we are so proud to be a part.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Bethany

Bethany Beattie



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Narrowing of streets in GV  
**Date:** Saturday, October 3, 2020 6:13:32 PM

---

To the Golden Valley City Council and Mayor and Engineering Dept.

I live at [REDACTED] in Golden Valley. I am writing to let you know that my family and I are extremely opposed to the proposed narrowing of streets in our area. Our section of Aquila Avenue is currently 30' wide from curb to curb. Because things keep seemingly flip-flopping, I'm not sure if the proposed 28' width or the even worse possibility of a 26' wide street is currently on the table. Either way, if you narrow our street, it's going to be too narrow for traffic to pass in the winter by the time snowbanks pile up high. It will also make bus stops far less safe for kids when snow piles high.

I'm not sure why this narrowing has been proposed, but I'm all ears if you'd like to explain to me why you think it makes sense. I live on this street. You don't. You don't see how narrow it already gets every winter.

My property taxes have gone up nearly 40% since I moved here many years ago. It's ridiculous. Yet we see so little in return for this. Where does it all go? Apparently not to streets. Don't charge us more and give us less value and a lower quality of life on our streets.

**Eric Sorensen**

--

**Eric Sorensen**  
Creative Director/Copywriter  
<https://www.ericsoresencreative.com>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** PMP street width  
**Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 10:22:38 AM

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To the engineering department,

I am very concerned about narrowing our city streets to a 26' width. Orkla Drive, scheduled for the 2024 PMP, is currently at 29'. The safety of our residents **must** take precedence over everything else....including cost. This is a 50 year decision. Please reconsider.

Toni Ihrke

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#); [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Golden Valley Streets  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:55:36 AM

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Dear City Council,

As a resident and tax payer of the City of Golden Valley for more than 20 years I am concerned that the City is cutting corners in regards to public safety and sense of place with our street widths. Is it fair to provide wider streets for some of our community and smaller streets for others? The small amount of savings does not outweigh our concerns for safety and aesthetics (sense of place). An average car is over 7 feet from mirror to mirror and 8 feet mirror to mirror for a truck. We have a lot of activity on our roads especially because we have no sidewalks. People walking with pets and kids playing in the streets. A 26' wide street would reduce sightlines and make it less safe for people to see someone coming into the street. A truck parking on both sides of the street would give less than 10 feet for pedestrians and cars to share the road. Why do some communities get safer streets than others? Please make all our streets 29 feet at a minimum.

Best regards

Jeffrey W. Ankeny

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** A Really Bad Idea; Reducing the Width of City Streets  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:29:53 PM

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To: Mayor Harris;  
Council Members Fonnest, Rosenquist, Harris, & Sanberg;  
CC: Golden Valley Engineering Staff, Kathy Longar  
Re: Golden Valley City Plans Reduce the Width of City Streets from 29/30 ft to 26/28 ft.

My wife Mary and I reside at [REDACTED]. No. We have lived at this address for nearly 37 years.

Along with all the residents of this City we have learned that the City is planning to reduce the width of the streets as a part of its Project Management Plan ("PMP") to renew/rebuild the streets and associated infrastructure.

We don't have an issue with the basic plan for street & infrastructure renewal. We agree this work is desperately needed. However, there is no need to reduce the width of the streets. In fact, a good argument could be made to make the streets a little wider but we'll settle for the status quo.

We have heard that one of the arguments for narrowing the streets is to save money on initial construction costs and on-going maintenance. Really; how much money would be saved by narrowing the streets by 1, 2 or even 3 feet? We are guessing that compared to the total cost of this project, the savings are a trivial amount. Whatever this small savings, it is nowhere near the value to all of us of what we lose in the form of increased street congestion and reduced safety.

In any case, of all the residents we've talked to (there are many) NOT A SINGLE ONE wants narrower streets and ALL are willing to pay whatever the small extra cost is associated with keeping them as is.

All of this brings me to my questions for all of you:

1. Has the City Council conducted any kind of survey of Golden Valley Citizens/Tax Payers to determine what percentage of them would choose narrowing the streets with the small savings vs. leaving them at the current width and pay the extra cost?  
If so, what was the result? If not WHY NOT? Given the direct and significant detrimental impact that narrow streets will have on every single resident, don't you think a simple survey would be useful and the right thing to do?  
We are very confident that such a survey would reveal that 90+ % of the residents would vote to keep the street width as is, regardless of the higher cost. Is it possible that a survey has not been conducted because you know what the answer would be and you don't want the result to get in the way of what you have already decided to do?
2. Given that the cost savings argument for narrowing the streets is at best, wimpy weak and that you know (or should know) that the residents are willing to pay what it costs to keep their streets as is, the cynical part of me thinks you have in mind some other reason for narrowing the streets. Is there another reason? Can you share it with the people who elected you to office?  
If there is no other reason than the weak cost saving argument and it has been

put to rest by those who pay the bill, then we suggest you make a decision that reflects the will of the people who put you in office.

Respectfully  
Phil & Mary Zins

**From:** [Cruikshank, Tim](#)  
**To:** [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Golden Valley Council Members](#); [Nevinski, Marc](#); [Kakach, RJ](#); [Oliver, Jeff](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Keep Golden Valley streets at least 28 feet wide  
**Date:** Friday, October 2, 2020 4:03:52 PM

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Thanks Gillian.

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**From:** Rosenquist, Gillian  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 3:45:02 PM  
**To:** Cruikshank, Tim  
**Subject:** Fwd: Keep Golden Valley streets at least 28 feet wide

Gillian Rosenquist  
Council Member  
763-529-9279

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**From:** Julie Borgen  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 3:19:45 PM  
**To:** lfonnest@goldenvalleymn.gov ; grosenquist@goldenvalleymn.gov  
**Cc:** Kathy Longar  
**Subject:** Keep Golden Valley streets at least 28 feet wide  
Hello Larry and Gillian,

I grew up in Golden Valley and have owned my own home here for over 15 years. I live at [REDACTED]. North and part of what both drew me and keeps me here is that our neighborhood is pedestrian friendly.

I have two small dogs that I walk every day and with no sidewalks in our neighborhood, it's important to have space to do that safely.

Being close to the General Mills Nature Center and walking distance from two parks has been a draw for many of us.

I join Kathy Longar and my other neighbors in urging you and your City Council colleagues to return to your earlier position of keeping our streets at least 28 feet wide.

Narrowing them to 26 feet will be both hazardous and make our neighborhoods much less desirable.

Thank you, Julie Borgen  
**Julie Borgen**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Cruikshank, Tim](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Nevinski, Marc](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PMP street width  
**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2020 6:22:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)

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Thank you. We will include with the compilation of feedback we are receiving on this topic that will all be shared with the City Council.

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**Timothy J. Cruikshank** | City Manager | City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Road | Golden Valley, MN 55427 | 763-593-8003 | 763-593-8109 (Fax) | 763-593-3968 (TTY) | [tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tcruikshank@goldenvalleymn.gov)



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**From:** Toni Ihrke  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 4, 2020 10:29 AM  
**To:** Cruikshank, Tim  
**Subject:** PMP street width

Dear Mr. Cruikshank,

I am very concerned about narrowing our city streets to a 26' width. Orkla Drive, scheduled for the 2024 PMP, is currently at 29'. The safety of our residents **must** take precedence over everything else....including cost. This is a 50 year decision.

Toni Ihrke

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kueny, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Kueny, Robert](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pavement Management Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 2:33:29 PM

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**From:** Larry <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:41:30 PM  
**To:** Harris, Shep; Rosenquist, Gillian; Harris, Maurice; Sanberg, Kimberly; Fonnest, Larry  
**Subject:** Pavement Management Program - Street Width

Greetings All,

For the past 29 years, we have lived at [REDACTED] and wish to express our strong support for 28-foot-street-widths in our neighborhood for the following reasons.

**SAFETY - SAFETY - SAFETY**

Our neighborhood is a "walking" neighborhood with many, many citizens passing our home with their children and/or pets. The traffic in our neighborhood is ever-increasing and narrower streets, especially those like ours with hills and curves, would be a dangerous hazard to the many walkers. The General Mills Nature Area is just one reason that many of us are inclined to walk in our streets to-and-from this marvelous outdoor preserve.

We see the neighborhood changing as many elderly folks die or move away. Several younger families with children or planning to have children have moved in and expect to raise their families in a safe environment. Kids biking or walking to the parks need safe streets. In addition, many of the older homes changing ownership are being remodeled which increases the assessment value for Golden Valley's property taxes (a recoupment of the increased street cost).

More homes are being rented in our neighborhood with multiple young tenants, each having a vehicle. Street parking is not uncommon, especially when friends visit for a televised Vikings game or other event. Long-term residents also appreciate wider streets when large gatherings of family and friends occur, many of which are during the snowy season when the streets become narrower. These uses lend themselves to wider streets for resident safety and ease of traffic.

Lastly, the obvious safety reason is for school buses, emergency vehicles, trash-hauling trucks and the many delivery vehicles from FedEx, UPS and Amazon running daily throughout the neighborhood. The wider streets make it safer for traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

**COST**

The idea that cost is a major reason for narrower streets is without merit. Our streets have been in place for 50+ years and the incremental cost for wider streets is negligible when amortized over that period of time. Also, most homeowners are willing to accept the increased cost. The "extra cost" incurred now is well worth the benefits to homeowners during the next 50+ years.

We have contributed our taxes without objection to ALL of the other street projects in Golden Valley, be it 26 or 28-foot-streets. We are the last area to be reconstructed and should have the same privilege of sharing our costs rather than being penalized for inflationary costs occurring while we waited more than 20 years for our streets to finally be reconstructed.

There has never been a better time than NOW to seek municipal bond financing. Interest rates are at an all-time-low with 30-year Minnesota municipal bonds currently yielding 2.5%. Golden Valley would be wise to refinance as much of its existing debt as possible to save on interest costs which would also help pay for wider streets.

What is the reason for maintaining Duluth Street at its current width? Constructing this street to the standard width would save current costs. In addition, there is also no need for the proposed sidewalk on Duluth. It should be the same as all other streets in the neighborhood - no sidewalks! Two ideas for cost savings.

**FINALLY**

We strongly support retaining the 28-foot-street-width for our neighborhood. Most of our surrounding communities provide 28-foot or wider streets. If Golden Valley is to remain a viably attractive community to people of all ages, we must do everything possible to accomplish that goal - safe streets are a major component of that ideal.

Respectfully,

Laurence Crepeau

Naomi Crepeau

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Pavement Management Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 5:43:51 PM

---

Golden Valley Engineering Department,

I have been a resident of Golden Valley since 1980. After all the discussion about street width for the Pavement Management Program I am unhappy to hear the City Council is again looking at a 26 feet width. I live in the northwest corner of Golden Valley and travel through the area that had streets narrowed in 2019. I have had to turn around and use a different route through the neighborhood if there are work vehicles at a house, two trunks parked across from each other and you can't even get by. Why do our comfortable wider streets have to go? Is this really safer, not for walkers or children. The new streets feel like glorified alleys! I live on Aquila and my street is a connecting street for people and delivery trucks to get to Medicine Lake road, much busier than most residential streets. Please think again and keep the street width at 28 feet!

Sincerely,

Sharon Staffaroni

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** PMP Feedback  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:40:26 PM

---

Hello GV Engineering Dept,

We are contacting you in regards to the Pavement Management Program - Street Width Discussion.

Our names are Andrew and Kimberly Sorensen, and we have lived at [REDACTED] since 2017 with our two daughters, who are 3 years and 10 months old.

We are really looking forward to having our streets repaved, as they are in dire need of repair (but appreciate the improved patches done this year - they really helped!).

We have seen the recently repaved streets near our home, and while they look great - we have some concerns for our family.

We love walking around our neighborhood with our kids, and currently feel very safe in the wider streets, even without sidewalks. On the narrower streets, it feels much less safe if there is a work truck, or city trucks doing repairs, etc as it limits the ability to pass with car traffic coming the other direction. We had a couple close encounters while our daughter was learning to ride her bike where it's hard to have good visuals. We have chosen to have our daughter learn to ride her bike on the crumbling wider streets instead of the beautiful new paved narrower streets because of the greater risk with passing traffic and parked cars.

We are thankful that you are collecting GV resident's input into this decision, and strongly prefer to maintain our lovely wide streets that help make our neighborhood so great!

Andrew & Kimberly Sorensen

--

Andrew Sorensen Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Cc:** [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [Harris, Shep](#)  
**Subject:** Golden Valley PMP CIP Streets 2021-2024  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:27:54 PM

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Beyond my disagreement with the city of Golden Valley's apparent decision to narrow our streets against already existing PMP Policy, I'm taken by the City Council and Mayoral lack of notification and expedited agenda to push through something we as residents do not want.

I bought my home at 8350 Duluth Street in October of 1994. We very much like living here And have actively supported the community volunteering with our kids thru ISD 281, coaching community softball for years, launching and maintaining a Girl Scout Troop, and even our daughters piloting the puppet wagon several summers.

This potential decision against the wishes of the residents in such a truncated timeline is very unlike Golden Valley.

I do not want the streets narrowed and I certainly do not want side walks. People already safely walk and bike our neighborhood daily like north woods communities do on summer weekends. Additionally, snow removal is hard enough without the added almost 60 feet side walks would add across my lot alone and under plowed snow.

I'm proud of Golden Valley not being New Hope or Crystal. Let's move forward with some pride in neighborhoods being Golden Valley.

Thanks as always for your time and commitment to our city.

Ed Baker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] mobile anytime.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](mailto:Harris_Shep@goldenvalleymn.org); [Ifonnest@goldenvalleymn.org](mailto:Ifonnest@goldenvalleymn.org); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [EngineeringDept](#); [kathylongar@gmail.com](mailto:kathylongar@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** PMP plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:26:27 PM

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We have been Golden Valley residents for thirty three years. We STRONGLY OPPOSE having the width of our streets narrowed . Such action would affect parking, the safety of bikers and walkers, clearance on the streets when snow has been plowed, and the narrowing of curves which are already dangerous.

Please,do NOT narrow our streets when they are upgraded.

Julie and Allen Engle  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Street Width Discussion Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:41:40 PM

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Hello -

We believe our street is currently 29' wide and we would like it to remain that way. If it needs to be reduced to 28' wide that would be ok, but no narrower.

Thank you.

Linda & David Woessner

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** PMP input for Oct 13 Council/Manager meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 8:03:21 PM

---

Hello - We just submitted the following electronically on the City's website but wanted to be sure our feedback was received to be included in the Council/Manager meeting packet for the October 13 meeting. I'd appreciate a response to let me know this was received. Thank you.

We are advocating for the 2021 PMP to be completed in as cost-effective manner as possible. As a working family, we certainly have a vested interest in our own assessment being lower. And as tax payers, we do not see the value in the streets being set two feet wider when these funds could be allocated to other city services and infrastructure. We also question why the approximately five miles of streets in the remaining PMPs merit a greater width, and why they merit more tax dollars, than some other streets within Golden Valley. We believe the city has a fiduciary responsibility to complete this project in the least burdensome manner as possible, benefitting both home owners in the PMP and all Golden Valley tax payers.

During the pandemic, we, as many residents, have been home and enjoying the neighborhood on walks and bike rides. We can often go blocks without seeing a car pass or a car parked on the street, which leads us to question why wider streets are necessary. We believe it is important to consider the wide array of residents affected by the PMP assessment, the necessity of residents' requests contributing to increased amounts, and the financial impact of large assessments on all those impacted.

We are newer residents of Golden Valley, moving here two years ago. We were drawn to the community because of the many great amenities, the proximity to the Minneapolis/St Paul metro, the close neighborhood feel it provided, and the safe environment to raise our family. We are in a community and a home we love. All of these positive factors contribute to making the housing market in Golden Valley very desirable and very competitive, which has resulted in our family, and I assume many newer residents, paying a significant portion of household income to mortgage payments. In addition, the housing stock is older and our home does require repairs, which we continue to make to not only enhance our own home but also improve our neighborhood. We ask that the council do all they can to find ways to make the upcoming assessment as affordable as possible for working families and all tax payers of Golden Valley.

Thank you,  
Andrea & Al Lentini  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Cc:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Street Width Policy  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:53:17 AM

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Hello,

I was informed, in the September 18, 2020 letter sent by the city, that you are considering modifying street widths during the reconstruction of streets in the area I am a resident of, and this impacts especially Zealand Ave N where my property is located.

Barring any compelling reason to reduce Zealand Ave N and other neighborhood street widths, I am asking you to keep our existing street widths. It is my understanding that the additional cost to maintain the existing street widths as opposed to reduced widths is insignificant, especially considering street lifetime, so this reason itself should not justify reduced widths. Maintaining current street widths offers multiple advantages, including pedestrian security as there are no sidewalks, and preserving the nice appeal of the area of Golden Valley where I live, which is one of the main reasons I chose to move there about seven years ago. To summarize this, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

I hope that you will maintain current street widths during their reconstruction, a position shared by many neighbors I had the opportunity to speak with.

Best regards,

Jean-Bernard Stacchini

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#); [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#)  
**Subject:** PMP - Street Width considerations  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 9:23:18 AM

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Hello -

Maintaining street width is a very big part of "livability" criteria to me. I live on 23rd Avenue North. Our area has a tremendous amount of walkers, bikers, kids on scooters, tricycles, strollers, skateboards, people walking pets, etc. And, we have a large number of older residents that walk that need a little more space and time to walk or get out of the way of a vehicle.

Our area is a "community". This is how we socialize - by walking in many cases. My husband and I bought our home in Golden Valley just 3 years ago. We looked at a lot of homes with an eye towards community and livability. And we found it on 23rd Ave in Golden Valley. We lived almost 20 years in the same home in Brooklyn Park. That area is missing community with your neighbors. They have winding, narrow streets. I only knew about 4 households there. In my 3 years in Golden Valley, I know families in 14 homes. How did I meet everyone? Either they were walking, or I was walking and you strike up a conversation at the curb. It's wonderful. Narrowing the streets will not allow for that type of visiting. We will be dodging cars, garbage trucks, USPS vehicles, contractor vehicles, etc.

Last November when we went through this, I would have thought we were done. Now, for the Council to go back on their word, it is very disheartening. This is a prime example of why citizens do not trust government. We don't tolerate this from a national or state level and it should not be tolerated at the local level.

Estimates of cost saving are only \$361 per household out of a total of \$8,646 this year. Granted costs increase every year. But - sheesh, that amount shouldn't be a determining factor. The Council should not go back on their word.

If the City is looking for things to cut - this isn't it. This is an obligation that needs to be upheld. I have to uphold all my obligations.

The streets are estimated to last 50-60 years. We are in the last 3-4 years of the PMP. This is very shortsighted to make these changes now in the last stages of such a lengthy project just to save a few dollars in the short term.

I feel cheated if the Council does not uphold their obligation to maintain the street width.

Linda Caruthers

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [grosenquist@goldenvally.gov](mailto:grosenquist@goldenvally.gov); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [kathylongar@gmail.com](mailto:kathylongar@gmail.com); [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Cc:** [hallprince2@gmail.com](mailto:hallprince2@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Street width  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 11:26:11 AM

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October 8, 2020

Mayor Shep Harris

Larry Fonnest

Gillian Rosenquist

Maurice Harris

Kimberly Sanberg

Engineering Dept

We have lived here 44 years ([REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]) and enjoyed the community, safety of the streets. We do a lot of walking every day. We believe the width of the streets contributes to the safety. We would like to pass this on to future residents. Our kitchen window faces 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wisconsin, which gives us a good view of the traffic and pedestrian walking.

Our neighborhood is changing. There are many young families with small children and dogs moving in. A lot of strollers and dogs being walked along with smaller children on trikes, which takes up more space on street. This is why we need 28 feet wide streets for safety of the families. Also we need to protect the bikers and kids on scooters.

Twenty third Ave is a busy street with school buses, garbage trucks, delivery trucks, regular traffic, lawn service, tree removal, food delivery etc. If streets are only 26 feet wide that doesn't allow a safe space for pedestrian traffic especially if there are parked cars. In the future will you be putting up No Parking signs? In the winter time streets are packed with snow on the side which probably takes away one foot of safe walking space. This would be very unsafe if road would be 26 feet wide. Fire trucks would have a difficult time to move around.

I think instead of thinking about money you save to narrow streets, think about if one life were lost or child or adult badly hurt as a result of this project could you live with that? On November 19, 2019 the City Council voted to compromise and revise the PMP Policy to maintain 28 feet wide streets. Then on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the City Council meeting discussed changing the Policy to 26 feet width. This discussion took place without any prior notification or input from our neighborhood. How can the City Council, Engineering dept make this decision when it was approved Nov. 19, 2019 ? We are disappointment you are reconsidering the decision you made Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 2020, without input from the community it will affect. Please take our input into consideration.

Marion and Jim Hall

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** re: Duluth St redo as part of 2022 PMP  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:12:22 AM

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I understand that today is the last day for submitting comments regarding the 2022 PMP plan for redoing Duluth Street from Wisconsin to the west.

Duluth Street west of Winnetka Avenue is a major E-W Street that is currently 44' wide. I, and neighbors I have talked to, feel that reducing it to a 28' width (plus sidewalk and grass totaling perhaps 11') will make it less safe for all of us.

A Street width of 28' plus sidewalk with grass of ca. 11' equals 39'. PLEASE MAKE DULUTH STREET NOT LESS THAN 33' WIDE (plus sidewalk and grass) SO IT WILL HANDLE TRAFFIC SAFELY!!

DuWayne & Joann Kloos, residents

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Cityhall](#); [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** \*\*\*Please Reconsider Narrowing The Streets\*\*\*  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:03:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)

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Dear Mayor Harris and members of the council.

I write to you today asking that you stay with your original decision to maintain the wider streets for the upcoming street projects.

Below is what I came across just a few weeks ago. Driving south on Cavell Ave N trying to get home and find my path blocked by these trucks. I was not able to pass due to the narrow streets in this area. I had to wait until one of the trucks backed up. Even if the truck on the right was of standard size and no trailer I still would have been unable to get by. If cars are parked on both sides of these streets it would be impossible for me to pass through with my travel trailer and much worse, impossible for a fire truck to get by.

I was born in Golden Valley and have been raising my family here for almost 20 years. I can't think of another city that I would rather be in. We have a great neighborhood with wide streets for my family to go on walks and ride bikes. There are 9 kids that live nearby and they are always out riding bikes, skateboarding, rollerblading, and riding scooters in our streets, please reconsider narrowing them.

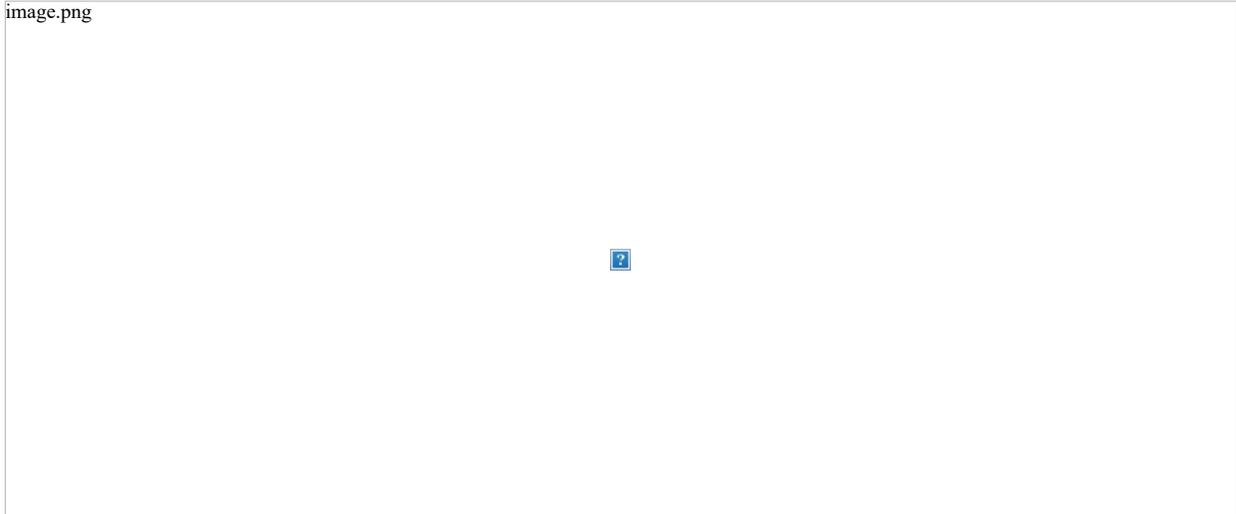
Please review your notes from the city council meeting from last year where 3 residents stood up and spoke passionately explaining why we need to keep the streets at the wider length.

Thank you for your time.

Kyle Sheppard

[REDACTED]

image.png



(In the area of 2510 Cavell Ave N)

image.png

(23rd Ave N & Ensign)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Cc:** [Harris, Shep](#); [lfonnest@golnedvalleymn.gov](mailto:lfonnest@golnedvalleymn.gov); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [ksandberg@goldenvalleymn.org](mailto:ksandberg@goldenvalleymn.org)  
**Subject:** Golden Valley PMP project - Street Width  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:29:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [thumbnail\\_avivo\\_stacked\\_rgb\\_bluesmall\\_f3ccf0a2-9afa-41df-aa6a-d2d7127e1e47.jpg](#)  
[2020\\_AD\\_Email\\_Signature\\_4cd6f6a5-b6e3-4ed0-a1b8-ab52a590ea18.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicholas Fry, current resident (home owner) at [REDACTED], Golden Valley, MN. Regarding street width for Xylon/Westbend and surrounding areas. I am not in favor of reducing the width of the streets. Please keep them the width they are now which I believe is 29 feet. This was one of my main reasons for purchasing my home in this neighborhood back in 2018.

Thank you,

Nicholas Fry  
Vice President of Information Technology  
(direct)612-752-8028 (fax) 612-752-8001



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#)  
**Cc:** [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** PMP survey and a win-win option to reduce PMP costs  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 2:24:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Hi City Council members,

In a pandemic and with a month between discussion of changing policy regarding local street width (September 8) and deadline for commenting to the city (October 8), homeowners in our neighborhood went door to door to ask opinions about street width. They explained that, had the 2020 PMP project been executed this year, the total homeowner assessment would have been \$8,646, and \$361 of that assessment was estimated to be due to the streets being 28 feet wide vs. 26 feet wide, as described in this link:

<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp/index.php>

Those who were reached gave the following opinions:

- 107 in favor of 28 foot wide streets even with higher homeowner assessment
- 4 in favor of 26 foot wide streets
- 28 with no opinion

Almost all homeowners were aware that the City Council had established a 28 foot wide standard last November after our neighborhood lobbied to have City Council Policy updated. Many homeowners thought the issue of street width had already been settled and weren't aware that City Council is considering revising the policy again due to a pandemic which certainly will last fewer years than the streets.

As Tim Cruikshank said at the September 8th City Council/Manager meeting, it is very difficult to pin down the actual difference in cost between a 26 and a 28 foot wide asphalt street. At that meeting, Sue Virnig estimated the cost difference at \$225,000 per PMP in today's dollars, or about 4% of total project cost since the 2020 PMP came in at \$5.7 million. Some of that \$225,000 cost difference is paid by the homeowner assessment, which is 20% of street reconstruction cost. That 20% homeowner assessment has been the percent given until the website information on the PMP (see link above) was updated to include that the homeowner assessment is 25%, so I ask City Council also to make sure the assessment percent is corrected.

Rather than narrow streets an additional two feet in our neighborhood, one way to reduce PMP costs is to eliminate a six foot wide concrete sidewalk on Duluth Street which is part of the 2022 and 20204 PMPs Duluth Street itself has 5% of the traffic on Winnetka, so a sidewalk is not needed given current traffic volumes. My understanding is that the purpose of the sidewalk is to draw people outside the neighborhood to the nature area, but that doesn't seem appropriate given that General Mills owns the land. The nature area is currently zoned industrial with discussions underway now to change the zone to light industrial. Although General Mills is restricted in how it uses the land due to city zoning regulations, General Mills

could decide against allowing residents to walk in the nature area except for a 1/4 mile strip where the city has an easement. (See map below my signature where the easement is calculated as 1,463 feet. The planned sidewalk to that easement is actually longer than the easement.) This sidewalk was approved as part of the 2040 Comp Plan, but neighborhood input was not solicited until after the Comp Plan was approved: a video was posted on the city website on August 11th, 2020 to solicit input from our neighborhood. That seems backwards.

Many of us in the area have lived in our homes longer than since the PMP program started in 1995, so we have been paying for other streets while we have waited and costs have continued to rise. More streets have been paved at 28 feet than at 26 feet, and several streets in the remaining PMP areas (Aquila, Valders, and Wisconsin) continue south of Duluth Street where the streets have already been paved at 28 feet. Please note that Aquila is the westernmost street that continues south to Duluth Street.

Since City Council is looking to cut costs, eliminating the Duluth Street sidewalk would be a win-win way to cut costs in the remaining four PMPs while still honoring the compromise reached last November by City Council that our streets would be narrowed from 29 or more feet wide to 28 feet wide. Thank you.

Kathy Longar  
Homeowner in Planned 2022 PMP

image.png

**From:** [Gerdes, Melinda I](#)  
**To:** [Harris, Shep](#); [Fonnest, Larry](#); [Rosenquist, Gillian](#); [Harris, Maurice](#); [Sanberg, Kimberly](#); [EngineeringDept](#)  
**Subject:** Golden Valley PMP  
**Date:** Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:35:25 PM

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Good Evening,

I am disheartened by the news of the City Council reconsidering the street width of the PMP. A year ago, the official written PMP policy stated to maintain existing street widths which would mean my street would remain 30 feet. Then there was talk the streets were being narrowed versus maintaining our existing street widths. Many residents showed up at Medley Park to voice their concerns to Mayor Harris as well as attend multiple city council meetings even when we were asked to listen silently. I urge each of you to go back and watch the recording of the city council meeting held November 19, 2019 and listen to the 5 members of Golden Valley that were allowed to express their concerns prior to the official vote as well as the conversations that occurred prior to the vote among the city council members. Residents agreed with the suggestion by City Council to narrow the streets to 28 feet which would reduce pavement and reduce pervious run off. The vote was held and the result was the policy would be updated to read Golden Valley street widths would be 28 feet for the 4 remaining years it would take to complete all the remaining streets in Golden Valley left to do with the PMP. The also was in line with our neighboring cities which include Plymouth, New Hope, St. Louis Park to name a few that have standard street widths of 28 feet.

Golden Valley residents concerns expressed include Golden Valley currently allows parking on both sides of the streets and residents would like that to continue. If we narrow the street, the city may be faced with voting to change parking to be on one side of the street in the future. I personally do not want a sign in my front yard that says no parking on this side of the street. I walk regularly, even in the winter. I see multiple people out walking, including the elderly, enjoying the outdoors. The volume of people and children, not to mention children that walk alone in groups of +10, has increased substantially with the new apartments next to Walgreens at the intersection of Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka. Narrowing the street reduces the safety of the people getting outside. Narrower streets make it less safe for the many children that play in the streets of Golden Valley, ride bike and skate board. Narrowing the streets reduces the value of the each of our homes. The list of reason are many however personally as a city we will loose the suburb feel of our community which is one of the many things I love about Golden Valley. I am not sure how to explain the feeling but when I drive or walk down the narrower streets to the west of me, it is a different feeling. Residents of Golden Valley that currently have narrower streets showed up at the park and expressed many, many, many concerns of living on narrower streets. The theory it slow traffic they expressed may be initially accurate however the slower speeds did not last. Concerns were expresses about fire and rescue vehicles not being able to get through streets if cars were parked on both side of the street especially during winter months and the general unhappiness and frustration the residents expresses that day I remember vividly. This was a huge deal to them because their infrastructure would be changed for the next 50-60 years. I hope Maurice and Kimberley remember this day as I know they showed up as individuals running for City Council.

In closing, I want to share with you that many of my neighbors don't want narrower streets. Like me they don't want 28 feet streets, instead prefer to have our new streets remain at the existing street width of 30 feet like we have today. With that said, last fall, many with these feeling did not show up because they said to me "Melinda, you can't fight City Hall". I said, we have to stand up and express how we feel and together we can make a difference. 28 feet streets was a compromise however I

felt ok about the new policy and felt the city council did really listen to the residents and tax payers of Golden Valley. As my email began, I am disheartened by the news that the City Council would even consider changing the PMP policy and jeopardize Golden Valley residents trust in the City Council. I urge you all to vote to keep the PMP policy at 28 feet. In my opinion, the estimated increase of \$360 out of a total of \$8,650 will be affordable by all over a 10 year period if residents don't choose to pay in full. Remember, residents of Golden Valley pay 1,000's of dollars in taxes each year to live in Golden Valley which has much high taxes than our surrounding neighbors. Breaking out the \$360 over 10 years period is **\$3.05** a month including the current 5% interest rate.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my concerns.

Golden Valley Resident

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