



Circle Pines City Council Newsletter

Street Reconstruction

December 2007

This is a newsletter by the Mayor and City Council covering topics of interest to the community.

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A Special Report on Streets from your Mayor and City Council

We held public meetings over the last year to talk with residents about upcoming street repairs – what engineers believe is needed, the estimated costs, how to pay for them, etc. This newsletter is focused on the results of those discussions.

Executive Summary

We believe we need to protect our investment in streets by adequately scheduling and funding their maintenance to lengthen their usable life or, where necessary, to replace the street if it has indeed reached the end of its life. We know this won't be cheap, but professional engineers have told us the most cost-effective approach to each particular street, and the City Council has carefully reviewed all of the available options. We have decided that we can't wait until our infrastructure crumbles...we need to get started on an affordable, long-term approach to one of our community's most important assets – the streets that we drive on and walk on every day.

Have a question or an opinion? Don't worry - there will be more opportunities for citizen involvement as we deal with each particular street over the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Your Mayor and City Council

P.S. We would like to thank all of the residents who have participated in the open meetings or talked with us on this important topic-your voice has helped shape our strategy!

What's Inside?

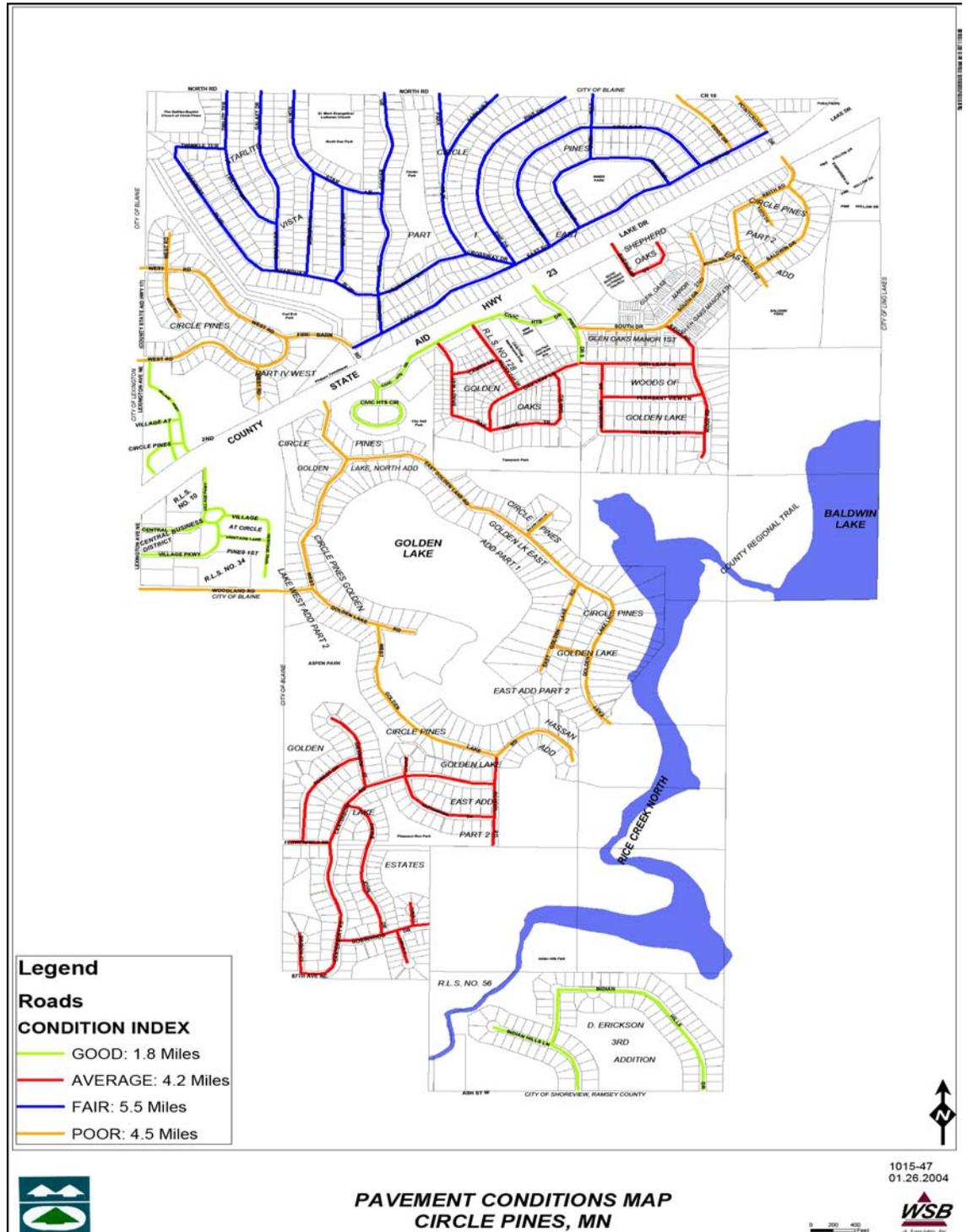
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What about My Street?

Street conditions in Circle Pines vary according to the age of the street, the amount of traffic, and other factors such as the condition of the base below the street. The map below shows how the City Engineers have professionally rated the general condition of each street in the City. Other factors are considered such as whether water and sewer lines should be replaced at the same time.

The information below is an estimate only!!! Specific details and dollar amounts will be determined for each project.

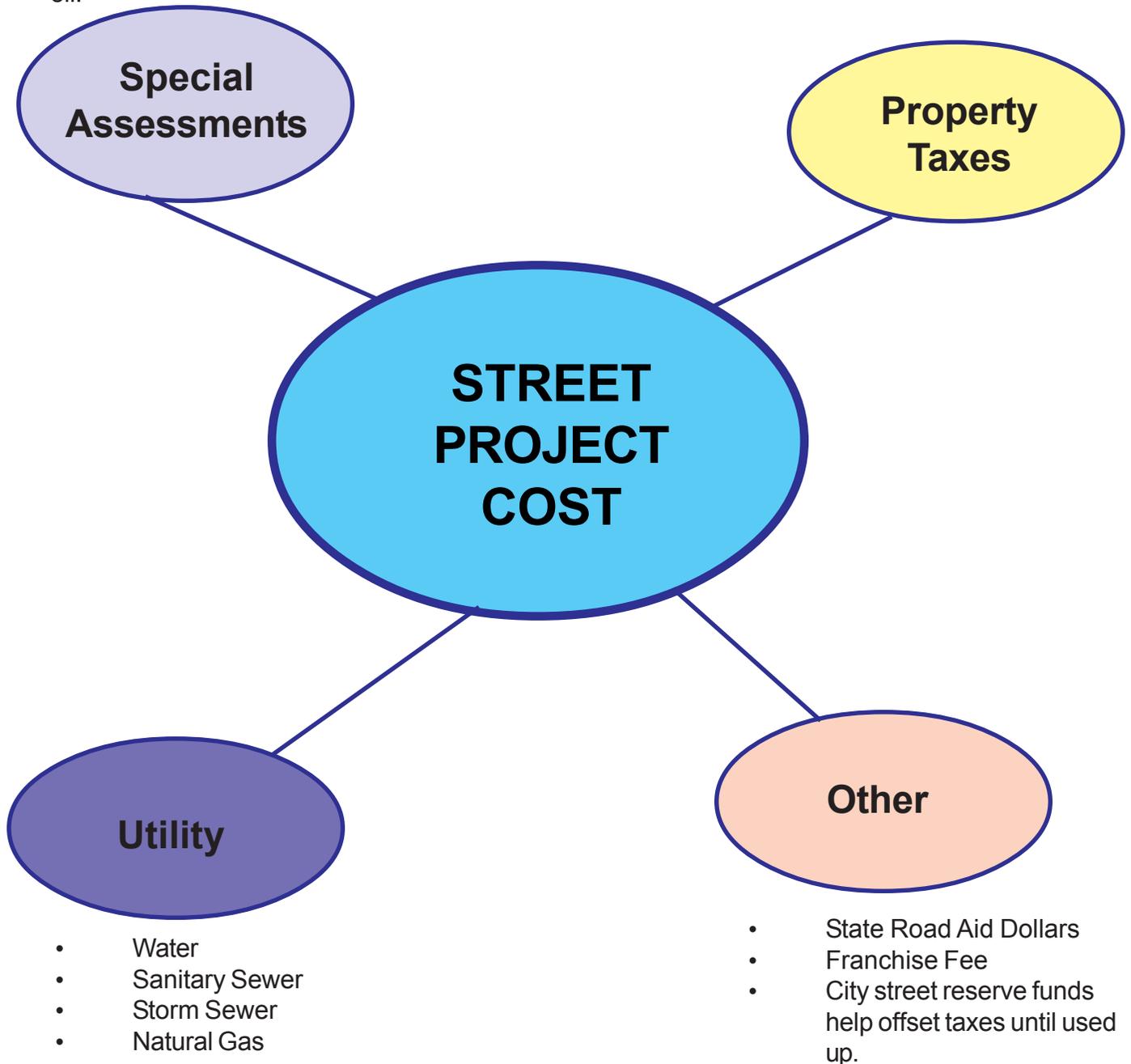
It is projected that streets currently in "Yellow" or 'Poor' condition need a full street replacement sometime between 2008 and 2014. "Blue" streets in 'Fair' condition will likely soon follow with full street replacement (Yellow and Blue streets were built around 1967). "Red" streets in 'Average' condition will likely need a 'mill and overlay' process done between 2009 and 2013 (this process simply grinds off the top inch of pavement and replaces it with fresh asphalt to lengthen the life of the street). "Green" streets are much newer and require less expensive maintenance.



How will this be funded?

First, let's start with the obvious fact – everyone knows that the majority of street costs are, in the end, paid for by residents. There is no getting around that, especially since the state has cut almost all general funds the City received in the past. We will be tapping City reserves, adding a couple of small fees necessary to generate enough long-term revenue to help pay off the bonds, and requesting annual (but limited) state 'road' reimbursement money that is available to us since we have now hit the 5,000 population mark. Finally, the City recently adopted a special assessment policy outlining the percentage of the cost that will be assessed to homeowners who live on the particular street being reconstructed or a mill and overlay.

The chart below outlines the street funding resources within our community as it looks for revenue to pay the bonds that will fund street reconstruction projects. We obviously will do our best to keep all costs as low as possible, but much depends on the future cost of oil.





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**Want to learn more about what you read inside?
Want to share your thoughts on this topic?**

More in-depth information is available on the City website at www.ci.circle-pines.mn.us (see the “Street Reconstruction” section). Look to the website regularly for new information and updates or call City Hall at 763-784-5898. You can always email or call any City Councilmember or the Mayor at the contact information listed on the front page of this newsletter.

***** City Council's Core Values on Streets *****

“Professional, Frugal, Cautious but Proactive Street Maintenance & Reconstruction”

- * We will use professional engineers to advise the City as to what streets are priorities (& when)
- * We will use competitive bidding and other efforts to get the very best price and design
- * We will emphasize strong communication and involvement with residents, start to finish
- * When we decide it is necessary to reconstruct a street, we will 'do it right the first time'
- * We will be fiscally responsible and do our very best to apportion the costs in a way that is fair to all City residents.