

**From:** [David Deardurff](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Mill and Overlay Assessment Hearing 9/18  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:12:20 AM

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Hello,

My name is David Deardurff and my family lives at 1817 Highland Parkway. Unfortunately I cannot attend the hearing on Wednesday at 3:30 at City Council Chambers related to File #MO2308 and my assessment #245508.

In summary, last year, the City performed Mill and Overlay services on Fairview Avenue. We are being assessed over \$3k for this work. I believe this is an unfair assessment for a few reasons.

- Fairview Avenue is not some minor street I happen to live on where traffic patterns slowly add up over time to cause deterioration. Fairview Avenue is one of the busiest thoroughfares in St. Paul, with direct access to Highway 5 and access into the heart of Midtown. Many, many people benefit from the use of this street that do not live in this area. Further, many people that do live in this area travel this road every day and are not being assessed. The sole individuals being assessed are only those that live on the street. This is an unfair burden because thousands of people regularly use the street I live on while I rarely use the lesser traveled streets they live on, which illustrates just how important of a thoroughfare Fairview is. Yet, only those of us living on this street are being asked to pay for that convenience. If I was being assessed on a lesser traveled road like Highland Parkway (which I also live on as I am on a corner lot), I would much more understand the rationale.
- My understanding is that the basis for an assessment is that a special benefit should be received. This is a basic maintenance project project to maintain the upkeep of a road which I do not think provides by any special benefit at all. In fact, I would argue that this mill and overlay project, if anything, would provide a net negative benefit to my property. Living on an extremely busy street actually decreases my property value, so any actions that improve the quality of the street would increase the potential traffic flow, creating a more active street and further reducing property values.
- From what I have heard (I have not independently verified though as to be honest, I am not sure how), for the projects happening on Snelling and Cleveland, there will not be assessments for these areas because these are critical county and state roads used for key city travel routes. Yet, I believe from a travel pattern perspective, Fairview is quite similar in its usage. To me, this means Fairview plays a similar critical route for the city and thus should be treated similarly to the purpose of county and state roads.
- I have seen from many articles online that there have been other mill and overlay projects that judges have rejected passing on to St. Paul citizens in 2022. I am not quite sure what the final resolution of that is, but it does indicate that there are serious concerns about the legitimacy of this type of assessment.
- Lastly, I am concerned about the quality and viability of this type of solution. I don't want to be in this same place in 5-10 years having to talk about another disruption to my life caused by another mill and overlay project.

Please accept my concerns above when conferring and discussing about the resolution for this hearing and ratification of Assessment. I believe this is a mistake and unfair burden to those of us who chose to live on a street that provides such critical travel patterns within the St. Paul community.

Thank you.

David Deardurff

1817 Highland Parkway

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