



**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

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## Memorandum

**TO:** Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works  
Michael Czaplewski, First District  
Martin Weigel, Second District  
Daniel Roadt, Fourth District  
James Sengstock, Fifth District

**FROM:** Michael Lewis, City Engineer

**DATE:** June 6, 2008

**RE:** **Communication from City Engineer Regarding Letter from Rosemary J. Fuhr, Taxpayer  
Alley Special Assessment**

Attached is a letter from Rosemary Fuhr regarding her alley special assessment. Using the example from Rosedale Street, she is claiming that City garbage trucks, snow plows, etc. damaged the alley pavement and demands that the City pay for the alley resurfacing. This same type of reasoning was used by residents along 116<sup>th</sup> Street and wisely rejected.

Everyone pays an equal assessment rate (depending on type of project) regardless of use, width, age or any other factor you may think of. Residents are not paying just for their street, but a share of the overall City street system. If type or weight of vehicles enters the equation, we will not be able to get any projects done. Anyone can claim that City vehicles, moving vans, delivery trucks, construction equipment, etc. damaged their street.

The deterioration of Rosedale Street was caused by age. If you compare Harrison Avenue from 94<sup>th</sup> west to Rosedale Street, you will find the same type of deterioration. School district vehicles and construction equipment did not have a significant impact on the condition of Rosedale Street.

The estimated cost of resurfacing Rosedale is now \$14,000. Resurfacing now will extend the life of the old concrete at least 15 years and probably more. If the resurfacing is delayed, the City will be looking at not only trying to maintain this roadway, but total reconstruction. Then we are looking at \$30,000 plus. I feel this is unfair to everyone else who have paid.

**Cc:** Mayor Dan Devine  
Paul Ziehler, CAO  
Engineering Department Senior Staff

9440 W. Orchard St  
West Allis, Wi 53214  
June 4,2008

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CITY OF WEST ALLIS  
ENGINEERING DEPT.

To whom it may concern,

I attended the Common Council Meeting last evening particularly to see what the Resolution about the resurfacing of our alley was about. I did not give my public opinion because I wanted to think about the matter a little more. The lady who had a picture board showing the heavy truck traffic on her Rosedale street was a major concern about the deterioration of the pavement by those vehicles! I met her in the hall and told her that it was a very good presentation and I liked her documentation of her complaint! I was thinking about this matter & realized that the most heavy traffic that would travel through our alley would be city equipment in the form of the garbage trucks,street sweepers & alley snow plows,otherwise,it would be our private vehicles. The assessment should not be imposed on the property owners,but absorbed by the city! The economic situation,job losses and higher prices for living are prohibitive now without paying for an alley or street to be resurfaced! I guess my biggest question is WHY? I do not want to be hit with another bill when I cannot afford some of my medications each month nor the simple luxury of cable TV. Or,how about having my furnace quit on me? Let's see...furnace or alley,hm-m.

My neighbors will also be writing and if this passes ("with only 3 or 4 people who spoke up")-I heard that in the hallway from the City Engineer;we will circulate a petition to try to stop the assessment for resurfacing the alley.

Thank you,



Rosemary J. Fuhr, taxpayer