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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Dan Roadt  
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**FROM:** Peter C. Daniels, P.E., City Engineer

**DATE:** September 7, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Communication regarding 2022 Special Assessment Rates**

The Engineering Department is recommending a 3.5% increase in the 2022 special assessment rates. While the bids we received in 2021 revealed an **8% decrease** in the cost of constructing concrete streets; the bids we received in 2019 jumped a huge 32% and increased again in 2020 with a 4% increase. But the Council chose to leave special assessment rates unchanged in 2021 due to the hardship experienced by West Allis taxpayers as a result of various laws, orders and regulations implemented at all levels of government during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the last 28 years, the fluctuations in cost increases to the City have alternated between steep increases like in 2019 to moderate decreases as we experienced in 2021. The average increase in prices has only averaged about 3.5% per year over the last 28 years. The Engineering Department is therefore recommending that we at least raise special assessment rates in line with this average 3.5% increase even though this will not keep up with past inflationary rises in cost or make up for past decisions to leave rates unchanged.

