



CITY OF STOUGHTON
DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
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Date: August 13, 2013

To: Paul Lawrence
Finance Committee Chairperson

From: Rodney J. Scheel
Director of Planning & Development

Laurie Sullivan
Finance Director

Subject: Curb and Gutter Assessments

We have been requested to provide input whether to change the curb and gutter special assessment ordinance. Current ordinances establish that property owners pay 50% of the cost for curb and gutter replacement and 100% of the cost for curb and gutter where none exists at the time the project is completed.

This long standing ordinance continues to provide a partial funding mechanism for street construction projects. It is not uncommon for communities to use a 50/50 split for cost sharing of curb and gutter even communities with stormwater utilities such as Fitchburg.

Curb and gutter serves several functions. It gathers water from crowned pavements and directs it to stormwater management facilities, thus reducing the amount of water that gets under the pavement which causes premature deterioration. It strengthens pavements by providing a solid edge for compaction of sub base and asphaltic materials at a location that is susceptible to damage by large trucks such as garbage trucks. It provides a definable edge for traffic and parking. Areas without curb and gutter such as along Racetrack Road routinely object to drivers parking on “their” grass.

Changing the ordinance to not require any owner participation creates a situation where previously assessed property owners may feel they weren’t treated fairly. While they may not have a legal standing to challenge previous assessments, they may still seek consideration of the change.

If the ordinance remains in place, overtime all properties will be subject to the same assessment policy as their curb and gutter is replaced.

Staff supports continuation of the 50/50 cost allocation for curb replacement ordinance.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

cc. Mayor Donna Olson (via email)
Street Superintendent Karl Manthe

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