



City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

325 COURT STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN 49783

Phone: 906/632-5730

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David W. Strickland, P.E.
City Engineer

May 7, 2010

TO: All Affected Property Owners

SUBJECT: Proposed Sidewalk Construction
Safe Routes to Schools Program
Public Informational Meeting 5:15 PM on May 26, 2010

The City of Sault Ste. Marie was approached by Bahweting School for support and assistance in regards to a Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) program. The SR2S program is an international movement, and now a federal program, to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need for good health. SR2S initiatives also help ease traffic jams and air pollution, unite neighborhoods and contribute to students' readiness to learn in school. In order to participate in and receive grant funding for the SR2S program, the school must submit an application indicating the proposed steps and projects they propose to implement to improve the area of the elementary school to support the goals of this program. Bahweting School has prepared and submitted an application for this program.

Currently, a majority of the students who attend Bahweting School live to the north and west of the school grounds. However, the sidewalk along Seymour Street runs from E. 8th Avenue north, requiring bikers and walkers to use the road from E. 8th Avenue to Marquette Avenue. Additionally, there is no sidewalk along the north side (school side) of Marquette Avenue, which means bikers and walkers would need to make additional road crossings, especially at the Seymour and Shunk Road intersections and in front of the school, which tend to be high volume traffic areas around school pick-up and drop-off times. Therefore as part of the SR2S application, the school has proposed to install new sidewalks both on the west side of Seymour Street from Marquette Avenue to E. 8th Avenue, and on the north side of Marquette Avenue from Seymour Street to Shunk Road. The proposed sidewalk would be 5 feet wide and would be setback from the road with a vegetated buffer strip. Areas that do not currently have curb and gutter would be evaluated to potentially include the installation of curb and gutter. Ramps to the sidewalk would also be evaluated and designed for handicap accessibility. As this proposed project would be constructed in the City's right-of-way, the school approached the City for their consideration and assistance. Upon the completion of the project, it would be a City owned sidewalk and the project would therefore be considered a public improvement project.

As part of the review process for obtaining the grant, the State requires the City to inform property owners along the proposed installation route to determine if there are any residential concerns for this possible project. Therefore, if you are receiving this letter, it is because City records indicate that you own property along the proposed sidewalk installation location as shown on the attached map. It should be noted that as this project would be part of a grant, property owners along the route would not be assessed any cost for the installation of this sidewalk.

The City would again like to reiterate that this project has not been finalized. This project will only go to construction should the school receive the SR2S grant funds. Should the funds be secured, detailed construction plans will need to be prepared and a State bidding process will need to be followed. Therefore, **IF** this project is funded, construction is not anticipated for at least 1-2 years. Again, I wish to emphasize that the property owner is not being assessed for any portion of the installation costs.

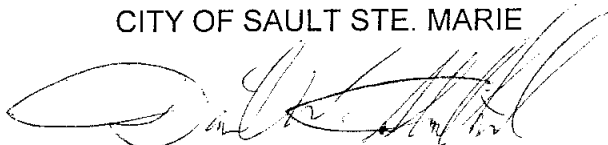
The City has scheduled a Public Informational Meeting for the proposed sidewalk improvement project. The Public Informational Meeting will be held at 5:15 P.M. on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 in the Commission Chambers located on the Second Floor of the City-County Building, 325 Court Street in the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the proposed sidewalk installation project.

I would recommend that you attend the Public Informational Meeting at 5:15 P.M. on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 should you have any concerns, either for or against the proposed project. You may also submit your written comments to the undersigned on or before Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding the Project, please feel free to contact this office at 906-632-5730.

Sincerely,

CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W. Strickland', is written over the printed name.

David W. Strickland, P.E.
City Engineer

enclosures

cc: Spencer Nebel, City Manager



CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE, MI
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
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SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

REVISIONS			DRAWN BY: T. COLLINS		
NO.	BY	DATE	APPROVED:	SCALE: NO SCALE	SHEET
				FILE: SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL	1 of 1
				DATE: 2/26/2009	

