



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Public Works**

**Date:** November 16, 2009  
**To:** Honorable Scott Benson, Chair Health, Energy & Environment Committee  
**Referral to:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission Update on Guidelines for Street Trees and Boulevards**

**Recommendation:**  
Review and refer to HE&E.

**Previous Directives:**  
HE&E Action taken 8/17/09: Report back to the Health, Energy & Environment Committee on Streetscape Guidelines following review and referral by the Transportation and Public Works Committee, no later than November 2, 2009.  
T&PW Action taken 4/22/08: - Received and filed the Access Minneapolis Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks  
T&PW Action taken 2/15/08: Received and filed Street Trees and Boulevards Guidelines update  
HE&E Action taken January 24, 2008: Received and filed Guidelines update.  
HE&E Action Taken 7/9/07: Received and filed report and directed staff to:  
a) Refer issue of Streetscape Standards to T&PW and Z&P Committees for review; b) Request that the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission return to the HE&E Committee with recommendations;  
c) Direct the Sustainability Manager to coordinate activities with those departments.

**Prepared by:** Lois Eberhart, Surface Water & Sewers Administrator 612-673-3260

**Approved by:**  

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Steven A. Kotke, P. E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** Lois Eberhart, and Members of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission

**Reviews**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	n/a
Civil Rights Approval	n/a
Policy Review Group (PRG):	n/a

**Financial Impact**

No financial impact

Action is within the Business Plan

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification:	n/a
City Goals:	consistent
Comprehensive Plan:	consistent
Zoning Code:	n/a

**Background/Supporting Information:**

Public Works will update the Health, Energy & Environment and the Transportation & Public Works Committees on the draft Guidelines. When finalized, the Guidelines will be published as Chapter 9 of the *Access Minneapolis Design Guidelines for Streets and Sidewalks*.

The core guidelines effort includes coordination with Public Works staff from areas that work with various right-of-way components: street and streetscape design, right-of-way administration (encroachments and private utilities), right-of-way maintenance, sidewalks, paving, materials testing, street lights and signage, traffic and parking, transportation planning, sewer and storm drains, and water mains. In addition, Public Works is developing the Guidelines with the assistance of Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Forestry personnel, Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC) members, CPED/Planning staff, Minneapolis Development Review staff, Sustainability section staff, and with input from the Pedestrian Advisory Commission, the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, the watershed organizations, and the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee.

Sustainability is the general theme around which the city shaped its updated Comprehensive Plan. The city's sustainability initiatives have highlighted that an increase in the city's tree canopy is an important environmental indicator, and the Comprehensive Plan notes that, in addition to desire for healthy trees for myriad environmental and aesthetic benefits, improved methods of incorporating trees into right-of-way may be very beneficial to the city for its stormwater management responsibilities. The city is increasingly faced with the need to reduce stormwater runoff volume and pollutant loading, and these are some of the many benefits healthy trees provide.

The guidelines initiative is being undertaken with two general types of projects in mind: One is the need for guidelines for new or reconstructed streets – for example, street projects that present opportunities to improve conditions for various travel modes (vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, buses) or for various other public purposes (street trees, stormwater management, signage, streetlights, street furniture, etc.). The second is the need for guidelines for incidental projects that will affect (or be affected by) existing streets and right-of-way -- for example, projects that are submitted to Minneapolis Development Review, and/or projects that are reviewed by the Minneapolis Planning Commission.

Examples of documents on which the initiative is building are the city's 2004 Urban Forest Policy and the August 2007 Pilot Version of City Trees: Sustainability Guidelines & Best Practices prepared for presentation to the city and the MPRB by Tree Trust and Bonestroo (two organizations with key staff that are members of the MTAC).

Cc: Members of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission  
Michael Schmidt, MPRB  
Gayle Prest, Sustainability Manager