

This is truly unbelievable! It is not sustainable for our entire city!!!

On Wed, Aug 9, 2023, 10:23 AM

All,

For quite some time we have been attempting to figure out the cost of the street reconfiguration (narrowing) to accommodate these off-street bikeways on Adam's, Lincoln and Heritage. I threw out a number of \$100,000 per block a couple months ago. There are 5 blocks involved. Therefore \$500,000 total. The city never contested that number, thus the assumption was that it was more than that. They blocked Brad Ness attempts to get the real number. Other knowledgeable people suggested it may be twice my estimate. Let's split the difference and guesstimate it at \$150,000 per block and \$750,000 total for the 5 blocks involved.

The construction crew is in their 4th week of work on Adam's and is at best, 50% done. The last 2 weeks has been focused on the massive replacement of the storm sewer piping system. That led to our speculation that this massive storm sewer replacement may be linked solely to the street narrowing on Adam's. If that is true, this would also be the plan for Lincoln and Heritage. It seems improbable that this was in the \$5.3M 2023 Street Reclamation and Overlay budget. In reviewing the agenda for the NCC regular meeting Tuesday night, there was a \$18,240,000 G.O. Bond resolution. After diving down into the details behind this, we found the \$14,815,000 is for Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements, and \$3,425,000 for various storm water utility improvements. The line items for this are:

- 1) Storm repair project.
- 2) Lincoln waterway box culvert project.
- 3) 2023 Reclamation and Overlay Stormwater costs.

That led us to speculate that all this piping cost we are observing is buried in this budget. I don't know the allocation of the funds to those 3 line items, but my sniffer says \$2.5 M is for item 3).

Therefore, if all of this speculation is accurate and this work over 5 blocks is being done solely because of street narrowing to "ACCOMMODATE BIKEWAYS", then we may be looking at \$500,000 per block plus \$150,000 per block that I had previously estimated. That means that the total cost for these 5 blocks of off-street bikeways may be \$3,250,000 (\$650,000 per block)!

I was able to get Brad Ness to question Dave Bennet at the NCC Meeting on this. Bennet confirmed that the storm sewer replacement is being done because of the curb realignment on these streets.

To remind everyone, our Petition was based on three major points:

- 1) Overly intrusive and unjustified bikeway designs.
- 2) NCC ignoring citizen input.
- 3) Wasteful spending and high taxes.

I don't think most of the NCC even grasps this linkage of the total infrastructure cost for these bikeways. I find it interesting that they included this funding in the WWT Bond and not in the Street Project. I have a suspicious mind!

We'll continue to firm up all of these numbers and then decide what to do with this revelation. I feel another "Letter to the Editor" forming in my head.