

## **Lenz, Bernard**

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**From:** Lenz, Bernard  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** Nasonovs, Jurijs  
**Subject:** FW: Alley Paving Between 100 blocks of 16th & 17th Sts S

Just for your information.

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**From:** Novak, Karen  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 2:32 PM  
**To:** Lenz, Bernard  
**Subject:** FW: Alley Paving Between 100 blocks of 16th & 17th Sts S

FYI

**From:** [chzweeth@gmail.com](mailto:chzweeth@gmail.com) [<mailto:chzweeth@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Charles Weeth  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 2:29 PM  
**To:** Turtenwald, Randy; Novak, Karen  
**Subject:** Alley Paving Between 100 blocks of 16th & 17th Sts S

The remaining two segments (North and Center) of the alley on my block are up for paving and the plans are to do so 100% with concrete. One segment (South) was paved many decades ago.

I'm in favor of the change because the drainage has always been a problem, especially here in the center segment. We've frequently had a small pond when the snow melts or there is even a moderate rain. If the conditions are right, usually as the snow melts and then there is rain, water can back up from the storm sewer on the SW corner of 17th & Main Sts street all the way back to the alley and into the yards and the older garages.

There are now 4 rentals on Main St with the north segment of the alley in back. One rental no longer has the original single car garage but the entire backyard has been used as an unpaved parking lot for 5+ cars (with the sidewalk often serving as the driveway); the one next door has a 2 car garage and paved driveway with only 2-3 cars parked at a time and the backyard remaining as green space; the one two doors down has a 2 car garage with a gravel driveway, but the garage is used for storage so the tenants park 2, 3 or 4 cars in the unpaved backyard, plus another 1-2 cars in the gravel driveway; and the one next to this has a 2 car garage and a paved driveway, but the garage is used for storage and the tenants park 3-4 cars in the driveway and the unpaved backyard.

The areas of the yards that are unpaved are mudpits when wet and dustbins when dry, with only weeds and weed trees along the edges where there is no traffic. The ground is tamped down from the traffic so much of the rain water really drains to the alley.

In at least two of these rentals, it appears that the off street parking easily exceeds the 75% threshold, further adding to the issues with drainage, among others. **Has this been addressed?**

Over the years as people have added on to their homes, replaced small one car garages with larger 2 car garages, put in bigger driveways and parking areas, there is even more runoff making the drainage problem even worse. None of these changes however comes close to the 75% threshold and some of us have been putting in rain gardens, rain barrels, drywells, etc. to mitigate the stormwater drainage issue.

**Has this plan taken into account the various grades to back yards and garages that are below the alley grade?**

CenturyTel has a buried bunker in the center of the northern segment that is a phone switching junction to UW-L that they have frequently had issues with water seepage. **What if any impact might this have on the project?**

There are sanitary sewer pipe and buried electrical lines under the alley. **What if any impact might these have on the project?**

**Has La Crosse considered any of the green alley paving options? Many cost less than paving an alley 100% with concrete, allow for better storm water management and yet remain capable of handling the limited traffic typically in alleys.**

Chicago has done a fair amount of green paving in their alleys and closer to home Dubuque also has a program.

Other options with concrete are to use some stamped and colored concrete for a more aesthetic look and speed humps in alleys that are often used as shortcuts.

I particularly like the honeycomb concrete with grass. I've used something similar with street bricks for an area by my driveway that is also used for snow storage. I often have to reseed it in the spring, but it looks nicer and provides better drainage than if it was solid bricks.

I am also aware of another technique where only the center 10-12' of alley is paved, with the remaining 8-10' is planted with grass in a base of plastic honeycomb with gravel and black dirt - but I do not know how well this would work in our winters if the alleys are plowed.

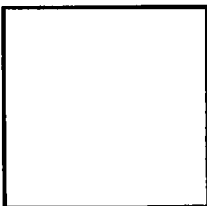
Thanks in advance for you consideration.

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