



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2007

WHO: Mark Funkhouser, Aggie Stackhaus
Evert Asjes, Ed Wolf

WHAT: Major Policy Announcement

WHEN: JANUARY 16 (Tues) 10 AM

WHERE: Meyer Boulevard and Oak Streets

UPDATED!

(2 pages)

**MARK FUNKHOUSER: MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Residents in South Kansas City woke up this morning to yet another water main break. Combined with cold temperatures, it has created an icy mess at 106th Terrace and Walnut. Mayoral Candidate Mark Funkhouser will address this issue with a major policy announcement about infrastructure maintenance Tuesday morning at the intersection of Meyer and Oak, site of two water main breaks in last week.

“In Kansas City, water mains break ten times more often than in other cities,” said Funkhouser, who as City Auditor began raising the issue of infrastructure maintenance in the early 1990s. “As mayor, I’ll make our city a city with well-maintained water lines, catch basins, sewers, curbs, sidewalks and roads.”

Funkhouser will announce three policy changes that will be among his top priorities when he is elected mayor in March:

1. Passage of an ordinance stipulating appropriate funding of infrastructure maintenance. The mayor and City Council have only agreed to a resolution, which is not binding. With an ordinance, the Mayor and Council will have to hold public debate before agreeing to cut spending on infrastructure

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maintenance.

2. Renewal of the City's current one-cent sales tax for capital improvements. This would not be a new tax. Funkhouser will call for the tax to be passed without a sunset clause, and he will call for 50 percent of its revenues to be dedicated to infrastructure maintenance
3. Reconstitution of the Community Infrastructure Committee (CIC), which first convened in the mid-1990s as a diverse body of concerned citizens who devised a strategy for addressing Kansas City's deferred infrastructure maintenance. The CIC will assist in passage of the capital improvement tax's renewal. Its members will also stay on top of the issue of deferred maintenance and hold the mayor and City Council accountable.

Joining Funkhouser for this press event will be families affected by recent water main breaks, former City Council Members Aggie Stackhaus and Evert Asjes, and Ed Wolf, former Director of Public Works and co-author of The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's recently released report on deferred maintenance.

END

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