

**From:** [Jake Whitman](#)  
**To:** [Jennifer Ross](#); [Garrick Landsberg](#); [Historic District Commission \(Staff\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Jake Whitman](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] IVA Opposes DTE Curb Replacement  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 5:48:50 PM

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Dear Commissioners and Staff,

I am writing on behalf of the Indian Village Association Board Of Directors to express our opposition and concern over DTE's proposal to remove many of our original stone curbs in their effort to update gas service in the neighborhood.

These curbs were first placed on Seminole, Iroquois and Burns more than 125 years ago, just as the first homes were being built. In the decades since, many are battered and bruised, but they help to define the character of our historic neighborhood. They deserve to be preserved and protected.

Photographs from our archives (see attached) show how these curbs were here even before the automobile, when the horse and buggy was a familiar site in the neighborhood. They are the same curbs once scuffed by the tires of the vehicles owned by automotive pioneers, many of whom lived in this neighborhood. As the historic pictures also show, many were in place when the streets were originally paved with cedar logs.

In their application, DTE shows no photographic evidence to support the claim that the originals are too damaged to be replaced and reused.

More troubling, our neighbors on Seminole report seeing some of these original curbs being removed by backhoe and transported away by dump truck to an unknown location.

If the original curbs are indeed damaged or "crumbling" as DTE has described, why are there no photographs showing this?

Where are the original curbs being disposed?

We strongly believe that the residents of our neighborhood and the HDC deserve more answers before these pieces of Detroit history are lost forever.

Sincerely,

Jake Whitman  
President  
Indian Village Association



















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