

Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday April 21, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location – Virtual GoTo Meeting

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Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Will Schroer (Chair), Betsey Buckheit, Brandon Cash, Jesse Cashman, Galen Malecha, Suzie Nakasian, Lisa Peterson, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Ron Sommers, Dave Bennett, Ben Martig

Members Absent: Glenn Switzer, Glenn Castore

Others Present: Dennis Luebbe – Rice County Engineer, Rob Cooper – Three Rivers Community Action/Hiawathaland Transit, Cindy Stock – Recording Secretary

- I. Welcome/Introductions (5 Min)
The meeting was Called to Order at 10:32 AM by Chair Schroer, and introductions were exchanged.

- II. Review of minutes from February 13, 2020 (5 Min)
Malecha so moved and Nakasian seconded to approve the February 13, 2020 Minutes, which were approved unanimously.

- III. Hwy 19 Corridor (20 Min)
 - a. MnDot Initiating Corridor Study
 - *Dave Bennett presented a brief presentation on HWY 19 Corridor Study*
 - *21.6 miles TH13 West of Lonsdale to TH3 in Northfield*
 - *MnDOT Finalizing contracts with WSB*
 - *City along with County provided input on the scoping study*
 - *Waiting to hear from MnDOT when study will start – document available to NTAC?*
 - *Timeline of study / where funding coming from*
 - *Take into account Hwy 19 not just Northfield specific, provide map of corridor & additional connections/adjacent, and include concerns of companies along 19*
 - *Crash data along corridor will be reviewed*
 - *MnDOT will have some \$ for access and lighting improvements/not sure how*

much \$ MnDOT will have for urban improvements

- *Armstrong Road/Laurel Court stacking of traffic and access in/out*
- *[Luebbe] Rice County is participating in, and supportive of TH 19 improvements throughout the entire corridor, including locations within the City limits of Northfield*

b. *Transportation Committee Role*

- *Community and stakeholder input*
- *Think broad and about the plans and goals of the City along with broader regional impact*
- *How NTAC will work with MnDOT/utilize city connections to gather input/identifying all issues*
- *Submit to City Council for support*

c. *Rice County / Dundas / Bridgewater (Decker Ave Study to South of Hwy 19)*

- *Decker Avenue Corridor Study HWY 19 South to CR 1*
- *[Luebbe] The Rice County Board granted approval for the Highway Department to develop a scope of work for a corridor study and to solicit requests for proposals. Bridgewater T. and the City of Dundas have both supported a study via Resolutions. The County was asked to see if Dakota County would participate as part of this extension along Garrett Avenue.*

IV. *TH 246 (15 min)*

a. *Turnback possibility*

b. *Northfield Segments - Project scoping*

- *Within Rice and Goodhue County*
- *This would be from Hwy 3 to County Road 1*
- *Rice County has requested that the City review the Corridor within the City and provide a project scope and cost*
- *[Luebbe] The County continues to evaluate the merits of a jurisdictional transfer of TH 246 into the County system. No action has been taken. Goodhue County is awaiting a decision by Rice County. For the portions of TH 246 that lie within the City limits/ planning horizons: the County would like further discussions on the number of improvements, the scope, priority, scheduling, and cost shares ideas of the City.*
- *What would City of Northfield expect of county if co-owned road? What is in the best interest of Rice County? What would City's needs be?*
- *MnDOT always willing to talk if county or city wants to take jurisdiction of road*
- *Can grants be acquired?*
- *NTAC prepare plan to review at July meeting. There is real value in pro-planning in wants so when plans come NTAC is ready/study in place lays groundwork.*
- *Design scope and dollar amount before create budget requests*

- V. Transit (15 min)
- a. How do we advance transit?
- *How to help support and advance transit*
 - *[Cooper] MnDOT hosted a recent session with Transit Link; a service of the Met Council that serves riders in the areas surrounding the metro area for the purpose of driving connectivity with the rural transit providers.*
 - *[Cooper] Three Rivers CAP / Hiawathaland Transit is still functioning under the dial-a-ride model and are forecasting a return to deviated fixed routes later this summer, dependent on guidance from local County Health department recommendations, CDC, and MN Department of Health.*
 - *[Cooper] As part of a five-year plan in coordination with MNDOT and as part of a needs assessment that was completed at that time, service was expanded with the Connect route between Northfield and Faribault. Also expanded service hours to accommodate requests from local employers.*
 - *[Cooper] Will be revisiting current route structure in anticipation of the inclusion of the new Northfield transit hub.*
- VI. Transit Hub (10 Min)
- a. Update on funding and construction
- b. Update on Hiawathaland route change after construction and Benjamin Bus
- *Continues to be on the Strategic Plan*
 - *City received \$1.75 million for Transit Hub, Pavilion, Trail and Railroad Safety Measure on Second Street in the 2021 Bonding Bill*
 - *Status of Transit Survey? Create sub-committee to address/start*
 - *NTAC created sub-committee: Rob Cooper, Suzie Nakasian, Jesse Cashman, Lisa Peterson, Brandon Cash*
- VII. Upcoming Meeting Dates (5 Min)
- a. July 14, 2021 10:30-12:00
- b. October 20, 2021 10:30 – 12:00
- c. January 19, 2022 10:30 – 12:00
- VIII. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.