



Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee

Thursday March 7, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location - Council Chambers

Northfield City Hall

801 Washington St.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Dave Bennett, Suzie Nakasian, Glen Castore, Liliana Trinidad Ramos, Jesse Cashman, Lisa Peterson

Members Absent: Galen Malecha, Ron Sommers, Glenn Switzer, Will Schroeer, Betsey Buckheit

Others present: Tracy Holguin – Hiawathaland, Kris Vatter, Barb Neitzel – Recording Secretary

- I. Welcome/Introductions (5 Min)
- II. Consider Approval of minutes from January 25, 2019
The committee approved the minutes.
- III. Update Focus Areas (45 Min)
 - a. Regional Transit (30 Min)
 - i. Review of Hiawathaland Draft Survey Questions and Timeline
T. Holguin reported the survey would be initiated for six weeks and wrap up April 19th. They would need two weeks to determine needs before presenting to their board. Once approved by the board they will apply for a grant, which has a deadline at the end of June.
 - ii. Review of Supplemental Questions

Committee Members: Councilor Suzie Nakasian-Chair, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Galen Malecha, Ron Sommers, Glen Castore, Glenn Switzer, Will Schroeer, Betsey Buckheit, Liliana Trinidad Ramos, Lisa Peterson, Jesse Cashman



The committee supported Hiawathaland moving forward with their survey and discussed a separate survey pertaining only to Northfield.

J. Cashman stated a faculty member at Carleton is interested in having his class prepare a transit survey for the City. They would start from the design phase, inject questions and distribute the survey.

The committee discussed the various transit entities in Northfield. T. Holguin stated there is an opportunity for shared ridership to work together for one community through the Regional Transportation Coordinating Coalition (RTCC). She will send out more information related to this program.

iii. Discuss Implementation/distribution strategy

- Carleton College class will prepare transit survey for the City. J. Cashman will meet with the professor and should have a timeline by April 1st.
- J. Cashman will coordinate a meeting with Carleton and TAC subcommittee.
- Chair Nakasian asked committee members to add local contacts names, phone numbers and emails to a list to help assist Hiawathaland distribute their survey.

b. Trunk Highway 246 Turnback to Rice County: cost/benefits (5 Min)

D. Bennett noted a turnback of TH 246 has been talked about for a while and most recently in 2015. The highway could be turned back in two ways: 1) lump sum cash or 2) project specific improvement on the highway. In order to turn it back there would need to be support from both Rice and Goodhue Counties. Rice County has indicated they are in support of their portion of roadway while Goodhue County is still



exploring the proposal. The main pro would be local control of that portion of TH 246. A con would be long-term responsibility of the roadway. Currently, the State will only perform preservation projects on TH 246. It is not contact sensitive.

The committee asked D. Bennett to bring back more pros/cons, financial impacts and a timeline in order to make a decision to turn back the road.

Transit Hub – Depot Update and Site Improvement Costs (5 Min)

D. Bennett stated in 2016 it was estimated it would take \$250,000 to construct a roadway and parking lot on the site. The City will continue to pursue grant opportunities for this purpose.

Chair Nakasian asked if the City could develop an interim place in conjunction with the depot site so vehicles could start using it as a transit hub.

Alice Thomas, Northfield Depot, stated the depot group is interested in allowing their building to be used as an interim transit hub but would need to work through the logistics.

Mayor Pownell also noted the Economic Development Authority is looking at the Q Block as a whole. The City will continue to collaborate with them to determine how the two projects intermix and ensure compatibility of the site.

Highway 19 Corridor: Potential Next Steps (5 Min)

D. Bennett stated a preservation project is slated for 2024 but could be advanced to 2023. He feels it would be beneficial to meet with industrial big truck businesses to determine how their trucks operate along the Highway 19 Corridor and 35W



intersection. He will provide a summary of their discussion once he meets with them.

Mayor Pownell stressed the need to know and understand the counties plans for this corridor even though the City does not have jurisdiction over it.

IV. Next Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting was scheduled for May 2, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.