



## Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee

Thursday May 2, 2019

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Location – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room**

Northfield City Hall

801 Washington St.

### Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Dave Bennett, Suzie Nakasian, Galen Malecha, Liliana Trinidad Ramos, Will Schroeer

Members Absent: Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Ron Sommers, Glenn Switzer, Betsey Buckheit, Jesse Cashman, Lisa Peterson, Glen Castore

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

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- I. Welcome/Introductions (5 Min)
- II. Review of Minutes from March 7, 2019  
The March 7, 2019 minutes were approved.
- III. Update on Four Focus Areas:
  - a. Highway 246 Turnback: analysis of costs and benefits
    - D. Bennett presented a power point identifying details of a turnback ( a copy is attached to these minutes). Both counties would need to participate for a turnback to occur. Currently, Rice County is working with MnDOT on a turnback agreement. Goodhue County is only in discussions at this time. The City would need to negotiate a turnback and funding options with the counties. The City would then be responsible for future costs and maintenance.
    - D. Bennett will prepare a cost benefit analysis related to each of the City's options regarding the turnback. The committee will review the options at the next meeting and vote on a recommendation to the City Council.

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

- b. Highway 19 Corridor: report on initial feedback from local industries and discussion of a business engagement plan

D. Bennett reported on feedback from industrial businesses (a copy is attached to these minutes). Their main concerns were related to operational delays at the intersection of Armstrong Road/TH 19 and the pedestrian crossing at Post. Staff also observed that vehicles are utilizing Decker Ave. versus Eaves Ave. for access to the Northfield Hospital. There is not a left turn lane at Decker but there is at Eaves.

The committee determined they would like to receive community input on these issues and came up with the following phases to move forward:

Phase 1: Engage community input on concerns/design ideas for Highway 19 through the following:

- a. A community town hall meeting in the Council Chambers with maps showing the various nodes of concern along TH19 West to 1-35.
- b. Virtual town hall meeting via the City's website that will post the same information and gather input online.
- c. Business/industrial roundtable discussion (same presentation as above) specifically for local employers. Committee will approach the Chamber and NDDC to jointly sponsor.
- d. Announce all of the above dates in an article in the City Newsletter and newspaper.

Phase 2: Report community input to the Transportation Advisory Committee. TAC will discuss and develop a slate of recommendations for the City Council.

Phase 3: Council reviews recommendations, revises as needed and sends a formal recommendation to MnDOT to request that the City be involved in the anticipated redesign of the TH19 corridor.

- c. Transit Hub – Depot Update: report on bonding request

D. Bennett reported City Council support of the improvement to assist the depot group to build a driveway and parking lot at the site. A bonding request of \$2.5M has been submitted for these improvements. House File No. 2295 relating to capital investment: appropriating money



for the Northfield Regional Transit Hub; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds is attached to these minutes.

d. Local and Regional Transit

i. Report on Hiawathaland Transit Survey Results

T. Holguin reported on their local survey results, which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/1265/Northfield-Transportation-Advisory-Commi>

The main theme was the time it takes to get from point A to point B. There was also a strong need for a pre-set route from Northfield to Faribault.

ii. Design of Regional Transit Survey

Since the Carleton College students did not choose the plan of designing a regional transit survey, it was determined a survey committee, which includes Suzie N., Will S., and Liliana T., will draft a survey of regional transit needs.

Chair Nakasian provided a list of businesses to distribute the survey.

L. Trinidad Ramos also suggested community events at Jefferson Square and Dresden Park Townhomes to gather feedback.

iii. Survey Implementation Plan

The survey committee will circulate the draft to the TAC members electronically, edit as needed and administer it online as a google form/survey by May 22, 2019 in order to be able to gather input from St. Olaf students before the end of the academic year.

IV. Next Steps for each focus area

Highway 246 Turnback

D. Bennett will prepare cost benefit analysis related to the City's options.

Highway 19 Corridor

Phase 1 – Engage community through town hall meeting, virtual town hall meeting via the City website, business/industrial roundtable discussion, advertise in local newspaper.

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Phase 2 – Report community input to TAC and develop recommendations for City Council

Phase 3 – Council reviews recommendations and sends formal recommendation to MnDOT to request participation in redesign of TH 19 corridor.

Transit Hub

Provide bonding request details that was sent to the legislature.

Transit Survey

Subcommittee will draft survey and circulate to the TAC for review. Survey will be administered online as a google form/survey for distribution.

- V. Next Meeting Date/Time  
The next meeting will be scheduled via doodle poll for the second week of July.
  
- VI. Adjourn  
The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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