



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

City Council Work Session

October 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Regan Gonzalez at 5:45 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Edwina Garcia; Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann; and Ben Whalen.

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Neil Ruhland, Communication and Engagement Manager; Kelly Wynn, Senior Office Assistant; Blanca Martinez Gavina, Executive Analyst.

Others Present: Amber Blanchard, MnDOT Metro District Project Director; Andrew Lutaya, MnDOT Metro District West Area Engineer

Item #1	MNDOT’S ANALYSIS OF I-494 FREEWAY/INTERCHANGE ALTERNATIVES – PHASE 2
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Mayor Regan Gonzalez introduced City Manager Rodriguez.

City Manager Rodriguez gave an overview and introduced Amber Blanchard and Andrew Lutaya from the Minnesota Department of Transportation or MnDOT.

Mr. Lutaya, gave an overview of the overall project timeline for phase 1 screening process, mainline alternatives and other details within the phase 1 screening process.

Ms. Blanchard, reviewed phase 2 screening process, schedule, timelines, TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meetings and PAC (Policy Advisory Committee) meetings. Additionally, she reviewed the responsibilities and scopes of these meetings and committees.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez wanted clarification as to the process of information within the PAC and TAC in addition to the scope.

Ms. Blanchard clarified that the scope encompasses the whole vision of the project which would be from Highway 169 to the river.

Director Asher asked for more clarification on the timeline which relates to the corridors of commerce and the preliminary design on the vision lay out.

Ms. Blanchard said that after the TAC meeting in November there will not be specific recommendations as it will be purely informational. Additionally, she reviewed the scoring methodology, incremental benefits costs, fiscal considerations and other aspects of Phase 2.

Council Member Trautmann asked about breakdown of regional vs local fiscal or economic impact within this project.

Ms. Blanchard responded that there is currently only a focus on travel time.

Council Member Whalen clarified the updated information in the presentation.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked about income equity and impact.

Ms. Blanchard stated that it will increase on the scoring of the passengers.

Council Member Supple inquired about regional transportation plans/ general purpose lanes, and whether there were other factors other than Minnpass which had inconsistencies.

Ms. Blanchard responded that reliability and four other factors are part of the criteria. She then continued to review phase 2 and Portland interchange types, reviewing each of these types.

Mr. Lutaya continued to review and explain the different types of interchanges, criteria, and fiscal considerations.

Director Asher wanted clarification on the roundabouts and other aspects of the regional planning process.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez wanted to know whether the City has been reviewing the different interchange options and provide feedback as to which one makes the most sense for the City.

Director Asher inquired about the different aspects of the interchanges asked questions to MnDOT representatives.

Council Member Whalen wanted to know if the joint grant with Bloomington would encompass this project.

City Manager Rodriguez, remarked on sharing information effectively to all affected parties.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked for clarification within local cost participation.

Ms. Blanchard clarified that the information on cost participation will be forthcoming.

Council Member Trautmann also wanted clarification about costs participation and understand what the expectations, timelines and where they will be getting the information.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked for clarification about the scope of municipal consent and cost participation. Additionally, she wanted to know if the previous contributions for cost participation will be considered.

Ms. Blanchard stated that they are still working on the details.

Council Member Supple inquired about access at Portland interchange, and other significant changes to 12th and Nicollet.

Ms. Blanchard stated that the entire area will be included in the review.

Council Member Whalen referenced the impacts on the right of way within the construction area.

Ms. Blanchard explained the next phase will contain all the details.

Director Asher inquired if the vision layout moves forward and the general purpose lane is the right way to go, what happened to the corridors of commerce money.

Ms. Blanchard said that they still do not know.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked about whether past costs could be considered as cost participation.

Mr. Lutaya stated that MnDOT does not take into account past participation as it is MNDOT policy.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated that there will be many efforts for the City's past participation to be considered.

Council Member Trautmann asked who sets the policy that past participation cannot be used as cost participation.

Ms. Blanchard stated that the Commissioner sets the policy and that changes to the policy are done with input from stakeholders like the City of Richfield.

Council Member Trautmann stated that it is devastating that past participation is not considered as cost participation.

City Manager Rodriguez inquired about the policy on cost participation policy and inquired whether there was an exception process.

Ms. Blanchard stated that there could be an exception to the cost participation policy.

Ms. Blanchard reviewed the cost estimation and broke down different aspects of the project.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez wanted to know who is expected for to participate within this project and how the gaps in funding are going to be filled.

Ms. Blanchard mentioned that a phasing will be taking place to manage funding gaps.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez asked who will be within the scope of cost participation.

Ms. Blanchard stated that all cities that are impacted by the construction project will be expected to be part of cost participation.

Mr. Lutaya clarified that of there any additional asks, like sidewalks, those aspects would have to be covered by local partners.

Council Member Garcia wanted to know about percentage of federal financial support.

Ms. Blanchard stated that they do not know yet. She also gave a review of the additional funding options.

Mr. Lutaya reviewed drainage aspects for the project and answered questions from Council Member Whalen about preliminary drainage options.

Mayor Regan Gonzalez stated that these are preliminary conversations and there will be future meetings with more details and an opportunity to engage deeper on the project.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:53 p.m.

Date Approved: October 22, 2019

Maria Regan Gonzalez
Mayor

Blanca Martinez Gavina
Executive Analyst

Katie Rodriguez
City Manager