



City of Robbinsdale

City Council Work Session
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner called the work session to order at 7:14 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Murphy, Parisian, Mayor Pro Tem Wagner

Absent: Mayor Blonigan

Staff: Tim Sandvik, City Manager; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

DISCUSSION

A. Blue Line Light Rail Extension Discussion

Sandvik introduced the discussion.

The consultant, Bolton & Menk, gave a brief presentation on the proposed station area plan for Robbinsdale.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner noted the Council does not have any questions for Bolton & Menk. Sandvik highlighted some of the outstanding questions and concerns that staff have. Bolton & Menk noted that the plan is simply a document of recommendations for the Council's consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner asked if the station area plan would be available for Robbinsdale residents to view and comment on. Hennepin County noted that the plan includes urban design recommendations and should serve as a conversation starter. It is not expected to be adopted. Hennepin County confirmed that the document is available to the public, it just depends on how the City wants to post it. Sandvik noted that the station area plan encourages folks to think beyond the immediate project corridor. Staff are looking for direction on where the Council wants more information or where there are concerns.

Member Parisian thanked the consultant for their presentation and expressed excitement about the proposal, as well as support for pedestrian and bike connectivity. Parisian is intrigued by the proposal to convert the 41st Avenue intersection into a pedestrian walkway. Parisian posed the question of how taller buildings would impact traffic flow. Parisian stated that something for the city to consider is how we are improving pedestrian and bike crossings, specifically on 36th Avenue. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner agreed.

The METRO Blue Line Extension project office presented the current draft corridor plans. They discussed ridership numbers and potential station locations.

The project office presented high-level concepts of the planned Park-and-Ride station. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner asked if one entrance to the parking ramp is typical. The project office responded that the drafts represent main access points and there is opportunity to allow for additional access to the parking ramp. The Council and

project office discussed the ground level and overall height of the parking structure.

Murphy asked what is being planned for the City of Crystal's parking. The project office stated that they are planning a 170-space parking lot. Murphy and the project office compared the planned Park-and-Ride to Hubbard Marketplace and the routes it currently services. They discussed redevelopment and tax-paying capabilities of the designated lot.

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner shared an anecdote and expressed support for lowering the speed limit on County Road 81.

The project office presented the planned concept for the Lowry Avenue station. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner asked for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) opinion on the proposal. The project office responded that MPRB is supportive of the new at-grade design. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner requested having bike lockers at the Lowry Avenue station. Member Parisian requested enhanced lighting at the station for safety and visibility.

Member Parisian requested data related to ridership experience in terms of perceived safety. The project office responded that the Metro Transit Chief of Police will be speaking about that at the upcoming Corridor Management Committee meeting. The group discussed ridership data and modeling, and the project office confirmed that updated data is being modeled right now and will be rolled out in the springtime.

The Council and project staff discussed efficiencies of light rail transit compared to bus rapid transit.

The project office informed the Council that Metro Transit has plans for the current Blue Line Lake Street Station, which include taking out the elevators, putting in open staircases, adding another point of exit, adding pedestrian access points, adding ramps, and increasing visibility. Commissioner Lunde noted that Lake Street has a lot of activity, regardless of the light rail station. Lunde informed the group that social workers are currently working to engage with folks on Lake Street and have a more visible presence. Parisian asked if the engagement plans at that station are intended to grow beyond Lake Street as the line extends. Lunde shared the work that the Brooklyn Center Police Officers are currently doing at the Brooklyn Center Transit Center.

Robbinsdale staff outlined concerns for limiting speed limits, reduction of traffic lanes, removal of turn lanes, removal of frontage roads, and access to boat ramps. Mayor Pro Tem Wagner does not share concern about reducing the speed limit. Parisian is open to the reduction of speed with consideration of how traffic is diverted.

The project office asked for feedback on requested updates to the intersection of 42nd Avenue and Broadway Avenue. The project office and Council discussed potential ideas to improve the intersection.

The group discussed anti-displacement efforts and investments in downtown Robbinsdale.

Pearson discussed grade-separation and traffic impacts of the proposed 41st Avenue promenade. McCoy discussed impacts on the urban forest, boat launch access, and grade separation.

Murphy expressed concern about voting on municipal consent without a full City Council and noted that the Council should vote on municipal consent after the Ward 2 seat is filled in August. The group confirmed that voting for municipal consent would likely occur after Robbinsdale has elected a full City Council.

STAFF UPDATES

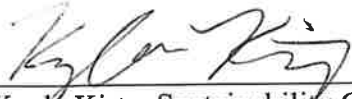
None.

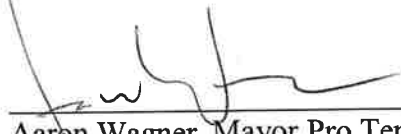
COUNCIL UPDATES

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Wagner adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.



Kayla Kirtz, Sustainability Coordinator

Aaron Wagner, Mayor Pro Tem