

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
Special City Council Work Session Minutes
MONDAY, December 13, 2021
ROBBINSDALE City Hall
6:30 p.m.

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 6:33 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director;
Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator
CAC Members: Jason Greenberg and Gene Montanez
Planning Commissioners: Judd Harper, David Ulbrich, Julie Ralston Aoki

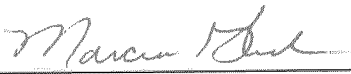
Presentation and Discussion: Blue Line Extension Proposal

3. Dan Soler, Hennepin County, presented the report with City Council asking clarifying questions throughout.
 - With BNSF unwilling to share or sell their right-of-way, Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council are committed to exploring alternative light rail option still connecting Target Field and Target Station, using the West Broadway portion designed in Brooklyn Park, staying close to the alignment with stations at 63rd, Bass Lake Road, and Downtown Robbinsdale. In terms of FTA funding process this is a modification of the same project.
 - In previous discussions, BNSF had no interest in entertaining any proposal, not interested in any offer for purchase.
 - Regarding proposed West Broadway route to North Memorial- council suggested an alignment closer to the bridges or alternative to purchase homes visually impacted by the new LRT bridge. Solar indicated this would be looked at in the impacts/mitigation phase.
 - Elevated bridge either from Lowry or W Broadway would have elevated station near North Memorial and transition to center running prior to the signal at 35th Ave. The north bound left turn signal at 35th would need to be red or green-not flashing yellow.
 - Project looking at/recommending closure of the slip-lane access to the frontage road at Elim (south bound next to 40th) and the south bound access to McDonalds and other businesses.
 - Adding in the south bound left into the Twin Lake boat launch & neighborhood or the Crystal Lake boat launch would require addition of a signal and extra project width. Noted that current option to exit the Twin Lake area left onto south bound Bottineau Blvd would not be an option.
4. Nick Landwehr, Metropolitan Council, reviewed incident response protocols and Rob Hume, Kimley-Horn, responded to technical questions.
5. Brainstorming options for mitigation included:
 - replacing and encasing all utility crossings, moving forward with quiet-zone ready railroad crossings at 41st & 42nd (which would require some rebuilding of CR9),

- options that could substitute for the removal of trees – could it be adding trees in a different area of the city – would there be provision for on-going maintenance & replacement for the landscaping elements,
 - reimbursing the city for staff time wasted on BNSF alignment study.
6. Regarding potential station at 40th, Solar indicated that Hennepin had talked to Elim about their interest in selling excess property for potential park & ride. If talks with potential developers are unsuccessful, return to future park & ride is possible. Project not in position to acquire this early in the process.
 7. Station option south of 41st showed need to move the town center wall eliminating a row of parking both on the upper and lower part of the ramp. Upper Robin Center could be redeveloped for a park & ride ramp.
 8. Solar noted resident/business input not being wild about elevated option through downtown Robbinsdale and emphasis on needing safe pedestrian crossings including bridge or tunnel. Solar noted that the topography change in the downtown area makes both bridge and tunnel options challenging. Option for tunnel showed impact to the Town Center parking structure.
 9. A sample view of traffic modeling at 42nd Ave PM peak drive time was shown. All the study 3-cycle videos will be added as links on the city website. It was noted that one of the Federal requirements was to reduce congestion so that after build it needed to be the same or better. Recalling previous traffic data shared showed negative movement.
 10. Audience questions were addressed including:
 - The model extended the time for north bound left turns resulting in less stacking although double left reduced to one turn lane. The build/no build had the same number of vehicles.
 - Impact of footings for piers in elevated option.
 - Confirming that a park & ride would need to be provided somewhere in the downtown to address demand.
 11. The issue of funding shortfall identified on the southwest project was raised. Solar noted that neither the County nor Met Council had agreed to fund the shortfall and discussion continues.

ADJOURNMENT

12. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the work session at 9:12 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem