

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
Special City Council Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

ROBBINSDALE City Hall

Following the REDA Meeting which starts at 7:00 p.m.

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Webb at 8:03 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Backen, Mayor Blonigan; Absent: Selman
Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Richard McCoy, Public Works Director;
Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator

Review and discussion of Robbinsdale Sections of the Draft Route Modification Report

3. There was a discussion of the route and other elements of the report. Glick noted the need to separate the goal evaluation for the Robbinsdale section from the Crystal-Brooklyn Park section. This had been discussed with the project office staff on January 10th and they agreed.
4. Council members confirmed that they had received the postcard regarding the draft modification that had been sent out by the project office.
5. Council members expressed some frustration that the self-evaluation process for goals. Mayor Blonigan noted the difficult format of the staff draft and need to better highlight changes. Member Backen offered to work on a reformatted report for staff to send to council members before the end of the week.
6. Discussion was wide ranging and included:
 - Engagement in Robbinsdale included preference for the rail alignment.
 - No-build should be considered as an alternative.
 - Climate change evaluation for the year 2030 with changing technology, electric cars and busses compared to LRT diminishes the environmental advantages of LRT. In addition, commuting habits are changing with more people connecting to work on-line.
 - LRT is the rapid spine, need to have ribs providing feeder bus connections to get people to and from where they live and where they are going unless both are reasonable walk/bike from the station. To be efficient timed transfer for buses needs to be near LRT station.
 - Noted earlier discussion at REDA regarding need to revisit the city's expectations for redevelopment. Does Robbinsdale want to develop like St Louis Park? Also noting the need to provide housing as the metro population grows.
 - Safety was discussed both for pedestrian crossing and on LRT.
7. Member Kline stressed that if the project is inevitable, what is the City's position on what is needed for the city to accept?

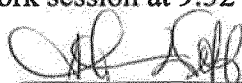
8. Glick noted that the short term project is to look at and react to the information in the draft report. Commentary on what the project can do to address concerns would be in the following year leading up to Municipal Consent.
9. Discussion concerned the disconnect of the transit station/bus hub/redevelopment potential and redevelopment desire, assuming the bus hub is relocated to a new location near County Road 81.
10. Glick noted that Robin Center has new ownership and Mike Steinhauser resigned from the BAC. There was short discussion on potential new BAC member.
11. There anti-displacement piece which is just getting underway. The anti-displacement efforts need to include businesses. Concern noted for independent owners/operators vs. chain businesses. Concern on displacement and gentrification.
12. Member Kline noted that the metro area cannot sustain one car per unit; need to have public transportation. Noted that Metro Mobility availability corresponds to public transit availability. LRT provides more certainty that the service will be available into the future than BRT.
13. Member Webb raised the issue about improving outreach to communities that are hard to reach and reaching those we don't usually hear from.
14. Glick noted that the survey the City Council had previously discussed to gauge a broader opinion on pro/con to the project proposal would still be valid as the discussion and finalization of the Modification Report will still be in process for a couple months. The comments on the draft will be reviewed for incorporation into the Final Modification Report. That report will be circulated for comment and potentially additional edits prior to Met Council and Hennepin County deciding whether to submit to FTA with a May 2022 target. Once FTA accepts, the focus would shift toward the environmental analysis and municipal consent for a year plus time period.
15. There was a short discussion on follow up to the letter sent to Warren Buffet and effort to connect to Federal representatives and the Governor.
16. Noted benefits of LRT for easy public transit to destinations on the full breadth of the blue and green lines as well as the ability for a broad segment of the community to walk/bike to an LRT station.
17. Council members will review the staff draft, identify edits, and start compiling the report/response to be on the January 18th council agenda. Member Backen noted that he has time in his schedule to help format and edit the document.
18. Council members also need to identify a new BAC member.
19. Council suggested that City staff should test traffic theories at CR9 and CR81 in the spring including counts at access driveways.

ADJOURNMENT

20. Mayor Pro Tem Webb adjourned the work session at 9:32 p.m.



Richard McCoy, Recorder



Sheila Webb, Mayor Pro Tem