

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, May 11, 2021
ROBBINSDALE CITY HALL
6:00 P.M.

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Kline at 6:03 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Kline, Webb, Selman, Backen, Mayor Blonigan
3. Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager; Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator.
4. Hennepin County Staff: Jeff Lunde, Commissioner; Anna Schmiel; Vicky Soukaseum

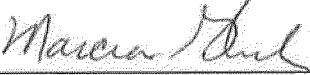
Discussion with County Commissioner Lunde and Staff

5. Commissioner Lunde introduced his team. Anna Schmiel's focus is BlueLine and Small Business. Vicky Soukaseum's focus is Housing, Health & Human Services, and Delivery.
6. Commissioner Lunde outlined some of the current focus areas: strategies to prevent eviction & foreclosure via rent assistance and forbearance, mental health, distribution of federal funds. He shared information on the Joint Community Police Partnership – a collaborative effort between the county and several cities which focuses on enhancing communication between law enforcement and multicultural residents. It is funded on a 70% county/30% each partner city split. He shared that during Operation Safety Net there should have been people working with neighbors and those impacted by trauma of events on the front end. He reported on the county's anti-racism efforts suggesting city council look at LAVsHate.org a campaign in Los Angeles to unite against, report and resist hate. He also noted interest in expanding the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance – a youth lead campaign – to expand further into the Robbinsdale School District area. He also shared an effort "Youth on Board" assigning youth to various advisory commissions.
7. Commissioner Lunde and his team noted that they are working on outreach to assure that the community is engaged on the proposed light rail alignment. They are working with a crime analyst to work on crime concerns- noting that when there are more riders, there is less crime. Pop-up "driveway discussions" are planned for June through the fall. The alignment is to be finalized by the end of 2021. Working on displacement awareness – trying to keep rents affordable and units available for renters and businesses. He suggested that Robbinsdale look at the ordinance Brooklyn Park had adopted regarding the required street scape look related to the LRT design for section on West Broadway.
8. Further discussion included:
 - Importance of keeping the current vehicle traffic on CR81 and not diverting into neighborhoods or thru traffic using West Broadway;
 - Keeping LRT movement synchronous with traffic;
 - Assuring that pedestrians get walk signals and importance of median refuge areas;
 - Concern that there are more impacts to than benefits of LRT on the proposed realignment;
 - Possibility of keeping the Robbinsdale section on the rail corridor;
 - Noise concern – potentially requiring the quiet zone readiness previously planned for railroad crossings as offset to new noise from LRT signals;
 - Impact of 3-years of disruptive construction in an already congested traffic corridor and impacts on businesses and residents.
 - Impact of a large park & ride transit infrastructure sufficient to meet expected demand.
9. Webb indicated that the aesthetic impact on the beautified boulevard with new plantings being converted to industrial look of green-line on University Avenue would be unacceptable.

10. Kline shared his observation of pedestrian behavior with centerline running LRT by capital and conflicts with vehicle traffic being dangerous.
11. Selman indicated frustration with BNSF refusal to negotiate. How could the project office proceed with the previous study for over 14 years without having a previous agreement with BNSF? Lunde indicated his understanding that this is normal practice per FTA on prior LRT co-locations.
12. Backen noted that County Road 81 is bad enough in its dividing impacts. Having recently looked at the bridges being constructed for southwest that are 25 feet wide and visibly horrible.

ADJOURNMENT

13. Mayor Pro Tem Kline adjourned the work session at 7:18 p.m.



Marcia Glick, Recorder



Tyler Kline, Mayor Pro Tem