

ROBBINSDALE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
ROBBINSDALE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. The work session was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Backen at 6:44 p.m.
2. Councilmembers Present: Blonigan, Rogan, Selman, Backen, Mayor Murphy
Staff Present: Marcia Glick, City Manager

Response to BLRT Principles for Alignment

3. Council members expressed frustration that the BLRT extension discussion was moving away from the BNSF alignment.
4. Council members discussed and recommended edits to the Draft Principles for Alignment document listing the corridor cities rather than vague reverence to “the community;” adding commercial impacts and potential criminal impacts to those that impacts should be mitigated; and expanding upon what it is meant to “honor” previous community engagement. Reference attachment.
5. Discussion included that CR81 already divides the community with only a few crossings that all provide critical traffic and pedestrian connections; impacts to existing traffic and pedestrian crossings should be minimized both during and after construction, as well as an expectation that the end project would enhance not impede the vital connections; that adding LRT at that a Bottineau Boulevard alignment would be difficult without negative aesthetic impacts given the water table and important utility connections across the CR81 right-of-way that would make tunneling difficult as well as new residential developments highlighting views of Crystal Lake that would potentially be impacted by elevated elements.
6. It was noted that the utility connections across 81 have been recently replaced and upgraded including the critical water connection to Crystal and New Hope following CR9 and in no way should the cities bear any costs related to construction and that utilities should be placed in casings to reduce future replacement expenses.
7. Any proposed LRT stop at North Memorial Health should be discussed in depth with North Memorial before assumptions are made about health care operations that may be impacted.
8. That municipal consent for any LRT alignment through Robbinsdale will require a downtown Robbinsdale area station that would be compatible with Robbinsdale’s TOD overlay district requirements and downtown redevelopment plans.

ADJOURNMENT

9. Mayor Pro Tem Backen adjourned the work session at 7:31 p.m.

Marcia Glick, Recorder

Pat Backen, Mayor Pro Tem