

AGENDA

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
2. MICROPHONE CHECK
3. ROLL CALL: Blackledge, Greenberg, Sutton, Caceres Aranda, President Parisian
4. CONSENT AGENDA: Pursuant to REDA policy, one motion, non-debatable, will approve the recommendation noted. Any member of the REDA Board may ask for an item to be taken from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate action. Such items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be considered immediately following approval of the balance of the Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approve Minutes from February 10, 2026
5. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. None
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. None
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Resolution of Support for REDA Application to 2026 Hennepin County Planning Grant Program for Downtown District
8. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement
9. INFORMATION ONLY
 - A. Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) Update
10. REDA GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
11. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

MEETING CALL TO ORDER**MICROPHONE CHECK****ROLL CALL**

Present: Parisian, Greenberg, Aranda, Sutton, Blackledge
Absent: None
Staff: Tim Sandvik, Executive Director

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by President Parisian, seconded by Commissioner Blackledge, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approve REDA Minutes from January 13, 2026

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. None

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Motion by Commissioner Sutton to approve voucher requests pending disbursement. Motion carried unanimously

INFORMATION ONLY

None

REDA GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Blackledge, seconded by Commissioner Sutton, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned at: 7:03 PM



TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Heather Rand, Community Development Director
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: March 10, 2026
RE: Resolution of Support for REDA Application to 2026 Hennepin County Planning Grant Program for Downtown District

Background:

In 2023, the city received Hennepin County Grant Funds to complete an updated Downtown Robbinsdale BLE Station Area Plan. That plan was facilitated and drafted with the assistance of professional planning consultant firm Bolton & Menk, with input from city councilors, city staff, Hennepin County staff, the Met Transit BLE Project planning office staff, and members of the public. The plan was completed on November 26, 2023. The plan identified goals for downtown land use and recommendations for managing opportunities and threats that would likely present themselves and impact downtown as advancements in new transportation-orientated development occur in the coming years. Redevelopment opportunities blocks were identified in the plan, and recommendations were supported that called for investing city resources to improve connectivity, public parking and adding outdoor public meeting spaces in Downtown.

At a recent Robbinsdale City Council strategic planning session, taking the next steps toward planning for downtown revitalization was embraced as a priority for the city.

As such, it seems timely for the city and REDA, with some financial and technical assistance from the county, to undertake a downtown revitalization study in Summer 2026 that would build upon the work of the 2023 Downtown Robbinsdale Station Area Plan, updating it, and then advancing the work on action steps, budgets and timelines to advance short and long term progress.

Robbinsdale staff have been in communication with Hennepin County Business & Community Development staff to gain buy in from the county for a planning grant to complete such work. As such, the county staff encourage REDA to make application for such by no later than April 2, 2026, their annual planning grant application deadline.

Analysis:

Staff suggest the downtown revitalization planning grant application to the county include the following study objectives:

Review of Zoning Code

With development pressures likely to mount as the Blue Line LRT project begins, the city should review and revise its zoning code to ensure new development supports the overall goals and vision of the Station Area Plan and of a next generation Downtown. This can include provisions for minimum floor area ratios (FAR), max parking requirements, building siting, required building frontages, and other provisions that contribute to a compact and walkable Downtown.

Parking Study and Strategy

Ideally, parking is easy to find, has appropriate turnover, and is not detrimental to the overall experience of downtown. It needs to be well located, designed, and managed without overwhelming the downtown. An overall parking strategy that takes a comprehensive approach to managing the public parking supply can help attract urban scaled developments that add density while improving the overall pedestrian experience in the downtown.

Leveraging Downtown Properties to Highest and Best Use

The city and county own and control some parcels of land downtown, and their land use could be holistically reviewed with an eye to highest and best use. The Downtown Station Area Plan offers initial recommendations for how they can be used to advance goals in the Downtown District. Land use and implementation strategies could be developed to ensure the city is utilizing the redevelopment of these parcels as catalysts for positive change in Downtown.

Alignment of Downtown Investments with the CIP

The Downtown Station Area Plan includes several public improvements. Initial work was done to begin including them in the City's CIP. Additional work can be completed to determine if updates should be made to the plan, get more accurate cost estimates, and to insure coordination with other public projects that are anticipated short and long term in the downtown area.

Lastly, staff suggest that a 2026 Downtown Revitalization District Planning Initiative if funded, be led by a city council appointed task force that includes members from a few of the following (city councilors, planning commissioners, downtown property owners and business representatives, chamber of commerce members) in addition to receiving support and participation by key city and county staff. The task force would then bring the plan back to city council for public comment and intended adoption by the end of the year.

The county planning grant funding may be utilized to compensate a professional planning firm to facilitate the development and completion of a scope of services to be negotiated between the county, REDA, and a planning consulting firm such as Bolton & Menk. The maximum amount the county will award for such a grant is \$50,000, and that must be matched with \$17,500 in funds from REDA.

The planning grant application is due to the county on or before April 2nd, and they anticipate funds will be awarded and contracts finalized in May, so that work may commence in June and be completed by December 31, 2026.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend REDA approve a resolution of support for submitting an application to Hennepin County for a planning grant of \$50,000, which will require, if awarded, match funds from REDA of \$17,500. The funds would be utilized to pay a county approved, professional planning consultant team to lead the city in the proposed downtown revitalization planning work that is to be completed by December 31, 2026.

Attachments:

1. REDA Resolution of Support for Applying for Hennepin Planning Grant 2026

Member _____ moved and Member _____ seconded a motion that the following resolution be read and adopted this 10th day of March, 2026

REDA RESOLUTION NO. 2026-__

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE SUBMITTAL OF A HENNEPIN COUNTY
PLANNING GRANT FOR FUNDING A DOWNTOWN ROBBINSDALE
REVITALIZATION PLANNING INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the city received funding from Hennepin County in 2023 to complete an updated Robbinsdale Downtown Station Area Plan, and that work was completed in November of 2023; and

WHEREAS, that downtown plan provided goals and recommendations for land use changes and redevelopment in downtown Robbinsdale, but the refinement of the recommendations with some updating including the development of action steps with preliminary budgeting, and short and long term timelines must still be planned for; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County have invited the city of Robbinsdale and its REDA to submit an application for a 2026 planning grant of up to \$50,000 in funding from the county, to advance the planning work already completed with further updates and refinements, and such planning grant will require a match of \$17,500 in REDA funds; and

WHEREAS, REDA's mission is to lead and support the advancement of smart business, housing and community development activity within the city.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority that support is given for the submittal of a Hennepin Planning Grant Application for planning work that will build upon the work of the 2023 updated Downtown Station Area Plan with the goal of Revitalizing Downtown.

The question was on adoption of the resolution and upon a vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

WHEREUPON SAID RESOLUTION WAS DECLARED DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 10TH DAY OF MARCH 2026.

ATTEST:

Mia Parisian, President

Tim Sandvik
Executive Director



TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Chase Peterson-Etem, Assistant City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: March 10, 2026
RE: Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Background:

None

Analysis:

None

Recommendation:

Motion to approve Disbursement Requests for the period ending March 10, 2026.

Attachments:

None



TO: Mayor and City Council
PREPARED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
APPROVED BY: Tim Sandvik, City Manager
DATE: March 10, 2026
RE: Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) Update

Background:

At a recent City Council meeting, Council Members asked about funding that may be directed towards housing. Specifically, the chair of the Human Rights Commission asked that a reduction in Police Department fleet vehicles be considered, and funding be diverted to an emergency eviction fund similar to that of the City of St Paul. While unrelated funding and budgeting processes, staff thought a good opportunity to remind REDA Commissioners about current programs and discussion held in recent history.

Analysis:

The Minnesota Department of Revenue certifies preliminary distribution factors for eligible counties and cities by August 1 of each year - certification is based on statute. Aid amounts are payable twice annually, and may be used for qualifying projects. Based on capacity of the Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority (and City of Robbinsdale), many projects or opportunities would require partnering with non-profits who specialize in certain areas (REDA/City would essentially serve as a pass-through).

With that, in recent months, staff have suggested utilizing funding to meeting Council/REDA goals that may work towards a reduction in disparities in homeownership, reduce housing cost burden, create accessible housing, and/or create more energy/water efficient homes. Note, funds must be spent by December 31st of the fourth year after the aid was received - in 2024 and 2025 the City of Robbinsdale has received \$363,419.34.

Recommendation:

This is not an actionable item; rather, staff is happy to briefly present the item and take any Commissioner feedback.

Attachments:

None