

Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday January 18, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
City Hall - Training Room 2nd Floor
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Members Present: Brandon Cash, Jesse Cashman, Glen Castore, Galen Malecha, Mayor Pownell, Jim Purfeerst, Tony Rowan, Chair Will Schroer, Jenelle Teppen (for Glenn Switzer)

Members/Staff/Others Absent: Jane Bartho, Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce; Betsey Buckheit, Dennis Luebke, Rice County Hwy Engineer; Ben Martig, City Administrator; Jessica Peterson White, Mike Slavik, Ron Sommers

Staff/Others Present: Dave Bennett, PW Director/City Engineer; Mark Elliott, Chief of Police; Kayli Robinson, Rice County Social Services; Peter Schepers, Hiawathaland Transit; Sean Simonson, Engineering Manager; Cindy Stock, Administrative Associate

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- New members (5 minutes)

Chair Schroer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Welcomed new committee members, and introductions were made by all in attendance.

- II. Review of minutes from October 19, 2022 (3 minutes)

Motion by Brandon Cash, seconded by Jesse Cashman, to approve the October 19, 2022 Minutes. Committee passed by unanimous vote.

Old business

- III. City Transportation Priorities for Rice & Dakota County highways in and around Northfield (15 minutes)
- Motion to recommend Resolution for Rice County
 - Motion to recommend Resolution for Dakota County

Motion by Glen Castore, seconded by Brandon Cash, that NTAC Committee recommend to City Council in February to approve the Transportation Planning/Needs resolution for Rice and Dakota County. Committee passed by unanimous vote.

IV. MnDOT TH19 Mill and Overlay (15 Minutes)

- Review of Hwy 19 Stakeholder charrette w/MnDOT October 26, 2022
- Discuss next steps

Much discussion pertaining to pedestrians on TH19. Committee requested the Post crossing improvement plans that are being worked on with MnDOT be brought back to committee. NTAC to create a recommendation letter to Post and MnDOT.

Discussed what is upcoming related to the project. MnDOT meets with Rice County at the end of January. MnDOT to share concepts and recommendation at a summer Open House TBD.

V. Highway 246 turnback study (10 minutes)

- Update on project
- Rice County Oct. 25 Transportation Committee Discussion
- Next steps

Committee discussed the Northfield Township letter that was sent to Rice County about roadway maintenance concerns relating to snow plowing and other concerns. Bridgewater also to send letter of concerns to Rice County and also concerns with intersections CR 2/82/246. Consultant is planning to attend the April NTAC meeting to share study.

VI. Local Speed Limits (10 minutes)

- Review of state law giving flexibility
- Reasons for reviewing
- Next steps

Northfield speed limits discussed. Cities have the authority thru state law to set local speed limits. There are concerns of continuity between cities, and also the location of crashes (bicycles) are not on residential roadways where reduction of speed would take place.

Would need a robust policy to be in place.

Concerns of tourists traveling between cities/states to have consistent speed across – want to keep traffic flowing smoothly/less confusing to tourists. Police department have not seen a huge need for speed limit change. “Driver behavior” not speed signs.

Chief states majority of pedestrian injuries have occurred at intersections so 25 mph speed limit did not apply. Chief to supply committee with crash reports. What problem is City trying to fix?

There are studies underway with the Local Road Research Board (LRRB) regarding lowering speed limit effectiveness. This will be brought back to committee later in the year.

Staff to have on April Agenda for committee to bring more questions, data or goals back for discussion.

New business

- VII. Transportation Safety: 2022 in review, and looking forward (10 minutes)
- Crashes, injuries, and deaths
 - Responses

Once the 2022 crash data is in the state system, staff will rerun city safety review. Chair Schroeer to work with Simonson and Bennett. This item will be brought back to the committee at a later date.

- VIII. Transportation Connections to the Twin Cities (10 minutes)
- Transportation options to and from the MSP metro area for the Northfield community
 - o Northfield Lines status: schedule, fares, other arrangements
 - o Other options
 - Status/next steps for the proposed Northfield transportation depot

Great need for transportation to the Twin Cities (2 colleges in middle of city. Colleges promise transportation to the cities to students). No ubers/other services available in Northfield. Agreement reached with Northfield Lines for bus service but cost for service can be up to \$40,000 for 8 weeks. How can NTAC help to solve this so colleges are not on their own with this student transportation problem? Lobby MN Valley? Transit Hub construction late 2023/online 2024. Chair Schroeer recommended to Cash and Cashman to form a group to discuss this item and start process.

Rice County Social Services (Kayli Robinson) – desperately needing transportation – majority of clients in Northfield cannot get to appointments etc. Not enough staff. Hiawathaland helping somewhat. Malecha stated address committee again at April meeting for the needs especially of the elderly.

- IX. Report to Northfield City Council (5 minutes)
- Council Resolution establishing NTAC says that NTAC “shall provide regular updates.”

- NTAC members have suggested that a report on NTAC work would be useful to Council and to new members.
- Establish subcommittee to draft?

The committee is in support of giving updates at a City Council meeting during the public comment period in the beginning of the meeting. Contact Chair Schroeer if you are able to do this.

X. Grant Applications (5 minutes)

- Corridors of Commerce Grant application
The City of Northfield has applied for \$3 million dollars of the available \$250 million dollars for the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of TH 19 and Armstrong Road, which was identified in the TH 19 Scoping Study.
- Local Partnership Program Grant application
The City of Northfield has applied for \$630,000 in grant funding for the TH 246 Trail Extension (Attachment 2) from the TH 246 Roundabout at Jefferson Parkway north to the new High School Pedestrian crossing.
- Transportation Alternative Grant application
The City of Northfield will use this grant monies if awarded to install a trail along TH 19 from Armstrong Road to Decker Avenue (Attachment 1) in conjunction with the MnDOT Project.

Chair Schroeer thanked staff for progressing the supportive letter for the trail from NTAC.

XI. Items from NTAC members

XII. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- a. April 19, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm
- b. July 19, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm

XIII. Adjourn

Motion by Jesse Cashman, seconded by Galen Malecha, to adjourn the meeting at 2:29 p.m. Committee passed by unanimous vote.