



Minutes
City of Edina, Minnesota
Transportation Commission
Council Chambers
September 28, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

I. Call To Order

Chair LaForce called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Answering roll call were commissioners Ahler, Iyer, Kane, LaForce, Ma, Miranda, Richman, Olson, and Ruthruff.
Absent: Commissioner Yeager.

III. Approval Of Meeting Agenda

Motion was made by Chair LaForce and seconded by commissioner Ahler to add new items VI.G. Open Streets, and VI.H. W. 44th Small Area Plan to the agenda.

Motion was made by commissioner Richman and seconded by commissioner Olson to approve the amended agenda. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by commissioner Ruthruff and seconded by commissioner Miranda approving the August 17, 2017, minutes. All voted aye. Motion carried.

V. Community Comments

None.

VI. Reports/Recommendations

A. Passenger Rail Community Engagement Report: Draft Recommendations

Ms. Jessica Laabs with Kimley-Horn presented. Ms. Laabs said based on the two questions from City Council, 1) *Should the City request elimination of the "gag rule?"* and, 2) *Should the City dedicate resources to developing a plan to encourage the development of passenger rail service in Edina?*, their answer to both was no. Ms. Laabs said they arrived at this conclusion based on the objection of residents adjacent to the rail line and a high level review of the Grandview area shows the density of household population and employment falls in the bottom 1/3. Ms. Laabs explained further that strong champions are essential to eliminate the gag rule; she said this cannot be done by Edina alone and the gag rule is not currently being discussed by adjacent cities.

Discussion

Ms. Laabs was asked the following questions:

1. Should Edina dedicate resources? No, for the same reasons above; however, overall indicators show that the city could support a corridor in another location and may want to explore this in the future.
2. Was there sufficient involvement? Yes, the goal was to have between 500-1000 participants, and they had over 900.
3. Was there a wide range of people? The more focused ones lived closer to the corridor which has about 200 properties.
4. Did you suggest other corridors? No, but based on certain indicators, transit could be successful in the Grandview area if it grows, but not necessarily a train. Also, based on travel patterns from Edina to downtown Minneapolis, a study could look at rapid bus transit. Approximately 25% of residents travel outside of Edina for work; many travel to Edina for work but it is not known where they are coming from.
5. Is there potential for more freight rail? This is difficult to answer because TC&W does not publicize their plans and attempts to communicate with them were unsuccessful.

Motion was made by commissioner Iyer and seconded by commissioner Ruthruff to adopt the consultant's recommendation to Q1 to not remove the gag rule.

Aye: Ahler, Iyer, Kane, LaForce, Ma, Miranda, Richman, Ruthruff

Nay: Olson

Motion carried.

Motion was made by commissioner Richman and seconded by commissioner Iyer to adopt the consultant's recommendation to Q2 as written.

After discussion, the motion was amended by commissioner Ahler and seconded by commissioner Miranda to adopt the consultant's recommendation as *"No, the City should not dedicate resources to developing a plan to encourage the development of passenger rail service in Edina in the Dan patch Corridor at this time. There are overall indicators that suggest Edina could support additional transit options, such as unique demographic and community patterns. Previous engagement efforts in the city, as captured in the Vision Edina document, have indicated the community's desire for enhanced transit."*
All voted aye. Motion carried.