

City Council Meeting

October 17, 2017

Study Purpose

- Answer two questions:
 - Should the City of Edina request elimination of the gag rule?
 - Should the City dedicate resources to developing a plan to encourage the development of passenger rail service in Edina?

Study Basis

- Summary of previous studies
- High-level review of existing conditions
- Public engagement

Public and Stakeholder Input

Activity	Number of Touches	Method of Notification
Online survey responses	515	City Facebook page, neighborhood NextDoor pages (city-wide), mention at community conversation #1
Attendance at Community Conversation #1	183	Press release, city Facebook page, postings to neighborhood NextDoor pages city-wide, fliers posted at businesses in the corridor
Attendance at Community Conversation #2	97	
Comment sheets	104	Available at community conversations
Comments submitted by email or U.S. mail	40	City contact information available on project fact sheet and website
Phone conversations and/or attendance at stakeholder or business meetings	10	Invitation calls to Bloomington, St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, MnDOT, Metropolitan Council Postcards sent to 26 businesses adjacent to the corridor, follow-up emails sent to 8 businesses for which specific email contacts were available
Total Touches	949	

Should the City of Edina request elimination of the gag rule?

- **No**, the City should **not** request elimination of the gag rule **at this time**.
 - High level evaluation and previous studies of the Grandview area indicate it could be served well by some type of transit service in the future, but currently it falls in the bottom 1/3 in household, population, and employment densities when compared to existing and planned transit station areas in the Twin Cities.
 - Adjacent residents and some businesses have expressed strong opposition to passenger rail in the Dan Patch Corridor.
 - Opposition is likely to remain, unless a stronger case can be made for transit.
 - Eliminating the gag rule cannot be done by Edina alone. With the legislative challenges of the gag rule, strong champions are essential.
 - While conditions are not yet fully ripe for a higher transit investment in the Dan Patch Corridor *at this time*, if the City continues to invest in new types of development and higher densities in the Dan Patch corridor, it may be worth evaluating in the future as an option alongside other transit corridors.

Should the City dedicate resources to developing a plan to encourage the development of passenger rail service in Edina?

- **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.
 - For reasons listed for the first question, at this time the City should not dedicate resources to developing a plan to encourage the development of passenger rail service in the Dan Patch Corridor.
 - There are overall indicators that suggest Edina could support additional transit options. Previous engagement efforts in the city (i.e. *Vision Edina*) have indicated the community's desire for enhanced transit.
 - **The City should invest time and resources into looking at other corridors as possible transit corridors.** This may also include consideration of other modes of transit in addition to passenger rail.

Limitations of this study

- Did not study specific demand for passenger rail, or for other transit options
- Did not study viability of other transit routes
- Lack of comprehensive input from business community
- Represents a faction of Edina residents, and not all Edina residents