



**WORK SESSION
RICHFIELD MUNICIPAL CENTER, BARTHOLOMEW ROOM
MARCH 26, 2024
5:45 PM**

Call to order

1. Local Sales Tax Communications Update
2. A discussion about potential impacts from the city's reduction in speed limits on the bussing operations and daily schedule of Richfield Public School District schools.

Adjournment

Auxiliary aids for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Requests must be made at least 96 hours in advance to the City Clerk at 612-861-9739.



STAFF REPORT NO. 09
WORK SESSION
3/26/2024

REPORT PREPARED BY: Kate Aitchison, Communications and Engagement Manager

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REVIEW:

OTHER DEPARTMENT REVIEW: Karl Huemiller, Recreation Services Director

CITY MANAGER REVIEW: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager
3/20/2024

ITEM FOR WORK SESSION:

Local Sales Tax Communications Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

City staff will provide an update to the Mayor and the City Council on the current communications plan around the local sales tax (LST) referendum scheduled for this fall.

During the work session, staff will provide updates on the LST communication plan, background on the city's consultant, Rapp Strategies, Inc., an overview of marketing material and a timeline of next steps for council, staff and the public.

DIRECTION NEEDED:

Staff wanted to provide an update to the council on the LST work and to gather any insights around input from community, outstanding questions or areas of communication still needed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

As background, the city has an immediate need to continue making investments to ensure certain community amenities are available for residents in the future. In 2022, a local-option sales tax (LST) was identified as a potential funding source for three major projects, including the new Wood Lake Nature Center, projects at the Veterans Park Complex and the Richfield Community Center project.

On January 24, 2023, the City Council approved Resolution No. 12067, directing staff to submit a request to the Minnesota Legislature to propose a one-half of one percent (0.5%) LST on the gross receipts from retail sales in Richfield. That comes out to roughly a 5-cent tax on a \$10 purchase. The city estimates a LST of 0.5% would generate approximately \$3.5-6.7M million annually over 20 years for estimated total sales tax revenues of approximately \$98 million. Based on these estimates, each Richfield resident would have paid, on average, an additional \$30.77 in sales tax in 2019.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature approved Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 64, Article 10, Section 44, as introduced by the Legislature. This law gives Richfield, with approval from the voters, the authority to impose a

LST under the special law. The proceeds of this LST must be used to pay the capital and associated interest and financing costs for Wood Lake Nature Center; Veterans Park Complex; and the Richfield Community Center project. Based on direction from legislative staff and the City Attorney, the City plans to bring the proposed tax to the voters for approval at the November 2024 general election.

If approved by the voters, the authorized LST will expire either 20 years after the tax is first imposed or when the City Council determines that the amount received from the tax is sufficient to pay for the projected costs on the three projects. At the August 25, 2023 city council meeting, the City Council approved the 2023 State Legislation for a Local Option Sales Tax in Richfield.

B. EQUITABLE OR STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPACTS

Strategic Considerations:

If approved, the LST will go to support city infrastructure which would fall under the Sustainable Infrastructure priority.

Equity Considerations:

The LST would fund improvements to make these recreation buildings, amenities and parks more accessible for all members of our community.

C. POLICIES (resolutions, ordinances, regulations, statutes, exc):

none

D. CRITICAL TIMING ISSUES:

none

E. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

none

F. LEGAL CONSIDERATION:

none

ALTERNATIVE(S):

PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:



STAFF REPORT NO. 08
WORK SESSION
3/26/2024

REPORT PREPARED BY: Matt Hardegger, Transportation Engineer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REVIEW: Kristin Asher, Public Works Director
3/19/2024

OTHER DEPARTMENT REVIEW:

CITY MANAGER REVIEW: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager
3/20/2024

ITEM FOR WORK SESSION:

A discussion about potential impacts from the city's reduction in speed limits on the bussing operations and daily schedule of Richfield Public School District schools.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

School district staff have raised concerns about the impact of the upcoming citywide speed limit reduction on their daily schedule and their school bussing operations.

Mayor Supple and city staff met with Chair Cole and school district representatives on February 16, 2024 to discuss anticipated impacts to bussing operations and school start times following implementation of reduced speed limits throughout much of Richfield. The school district shared that they are estimating a three to five minute impact to bus schedules due to lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on local roads, and a ten minute impact to bus schedules due to additionally lowering 76th/77th St to 30 mph. Based on current scheduling, the district believes this would result in a need to change school start times.

Following this meeting, city staff contacted both Edina and St Louis Park to inquire whether lowering speed limits had resulted in similar impacts to their school districts' bussing operations or start times. Edina responded that there had been no impacts to bussing or school start times. St Louis Park consulted with the private bus company for their district and learned that routes did need to be re-timed, but that was done with their annual determination of bus routing and the biggest impact to this operation was the need to assign new speed limits within their scheduling software; they did not indicate that there were any impacts to school start times.

DIRECTION NEEDED:

Staff is recommending that we pause any changes on 76/77th Streets and proceed with the lower 25mph speed limit on all other local roads, including Lyndale, expected to be effective June 25, 2024. This will give district staff time to further review the impacts this summer, which they have requested.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In December of 2023 the City Council passed an ordinance delegating the setting of speed limits on municipal

roadways to the City Engineer, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.14. A resolution was also passed to declare 76th Street from Xerxes Ave to 77th Street, and 77th Street from 76th Street to Highway 77, to be an urban district under Section 169.14.

The current planned change is to set the speed limit on all city streets to 25 miles per hour, including Lyndale Avenue. The exception to this would be the stretch of 76th and 77th Streets that has been declared an urban district, which would be 30 miles per hour.

The City Council also directed staff to request that Hennepin County lower the speed limits on county-owned roadways in coordination with the city's project. This coordination is ongoing, but the city does not plan to make a formal request to the county until discussions with the school district have been completed.

B. EQUITABLE OR STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPACTS

Equity Consideration: Lowering speed limits city-wide is an important step in improving safety for all roadway users, but specifically for those not using single occupancy vehicles. Council and staff discussions throughout this process have focused on ensuring that speed limits throughout the city are set in an equitable manner, with specific consideration to areas and populations in the city that have been historically marginalized, excluded, and/or underrepresented.

Strategic Outcome Consideration: Lowering speed limits city-wide, and especially lowering the speed limit on 76th/77th Street, works towards "reducing racial inequalities and barriers for traditionally excluded groups".

C. POLICIES (resolutions, ordinances, regulations, statutes, exc):

Speed Limits are governed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.14, and Richfield City Code, Section 1305.41.

D. CRITICAL TIMING ISSUES:

The speed limit changes are scheduled to take effect on June 25th, 2024. City staff are preparing materials for a public education campaign in order to meet the statutory requirement to "*effectively communicate the change to the public*" in Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.14. The public education campaign was originally planned to roll out in February/March 2024, but is on hold in order to discuss school district impacts.

E. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

F. LEGAL CONSIDERATION:

ALTERNATIVE(S):

PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:

The following school district representatives have been invited to attend the work session: Kirk Spencer - Richfield Public Schools Board Member, Steve Unowsky - Richfield Public Schools Superintendent, and Craig Holje - Richfield Public Schools Chief Human Resources and Administrative Officer.