



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
Richfield, Minnesota

**Joint Planning Commission, City Council, and Community Services Commission Work Session**

**Virtual via WebEx**

**March 28, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Planning Commissioner Kennealy at 6:00 p.m. virtually via WebEx.

Planning Commission Members Present:	Brendan Kennealy; Ben Surma; Brett Stursa; Eddie Holmwig-Johnson
Planning Commission Members Absent:	James Rudolph, Chair; Kathryn Quam
Council Members Present:	Mary Supple; Simon Trautmann; Sean Hayford Oleary; and Ben Whalen
Council Members Absent:	Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor
Community Services Commission Members Present:	Tessa Johanson
Community Services Commission Members Absent:	Kevin Wendt, Chair; David Benson; Stephanie Nwaudu; Ben Marx; Heather MacDonald; Meredith Bruzek; Jessica Johnson-Kreps; and Brooke Nelson
Staff Present:	Melissa Poehlman, Community Development Director; Nellie Jerome, Assistant Planner; and Ben Manibog, Transportation Engineer.
Others Present:	Lisa Austin, Amber Blanchard, and Andrew Lutaya from MnDOT

<b>ITEM #1</b>	<b>MEMBERS OF THE I-494 PROJECT TEAM WILL PRESENT AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE BY THE I-494: AIRPORT TO HIGHWAY 169 PROJECT 1 VISUAL QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VQAC) IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE PROJECT'S VISUAL QUALITY MANUAL (VQM) AND CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS (CSS) GUIDE WHICH WILL GUIDE AESTHETIC QUALITIES OF THE PROJECT AND THE CORRIDOR'S VISUAL ELEMENTS. □</b>
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Lisa Austin, MnDOT’s Visual Quality Project Manager for the 494 Corridor project, presented the Visual Quality Manual and Context Sensitive Solutions Framework for the I-494: Airport to 169 project. Austin described the scope of the project and visual quality advisory committee. The context sensitive solutions framework identifies what aspects of the corridor can be added by the community at a later date, like art or pedestrian infrastructure. Austin reviewed the visual aspects that were reviewed and ultimately selected for I-494 through public engagement with the committee.

Council member Hayford Oleary asked about the city-funded aspects about fencing and bridges, and the MnDOT team clarified that all costs are covered for basic fences and designs. MnDOT also added that landscaping will take up to three years to implement after the infrastructure is done. Council member Hayford Oleary also added that intersection design should be improved for pedestrian safety, especially at 66<sup>th</sup> Street and 35W. MnDOT staff added that they are working to keep all aesthetics within the state budget to avoid asking for any community contributions on top of the basic designs.

City Transportation Engineer Ben Manibog added that the City is working with Bloomington to finalize the lighting plan.


<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:37 p.m.

Date Approved: April 12, 2022

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Nellie Jerome  
Assistant City Planner

  
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 Maria Regan Gonzalez  
 Mayor

  
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 Katie Rodriguez  
 City Manager