



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## Concurrent Richfield and Bloomington City Council Meeting

**April 21, 2021**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
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The work session was called to order by Richfield Mayor Regan Gonzalez and Bloomington Mayor Tim Busse at 6:00 p.m. via Webex.

Council Members Present: Maria Regan Gonzalez, Mayor; Mary Supple; Ben Whalen; and Sean Hayford Oleary

Council Members Absent: Simon Trautmann

Bloomington Council Present: Tim Busse, Mayor; Patrick Martin, Jenna Carter, Nathan Coulter

Bloomington Council Absent: Dwayne Lowman, Shawn Nelson, Jack Baloga

Staff Present: Katie Rodriguez, Richfield City Manager; John Stark, Richfield Community Development Director; Melissa Poehlman, Richfield Assistant Community Development Director; Karl Keel, Bloomington Public Works Director; Julie Farnham, Bloomington Senior Planner; Julie Long Bloomington Engineer

Others Present: Sarah McColley, TSW; Tom Walsh, TSW; Ian Lockwood, Toole Design

Item #1	PRESENTATION
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Bloomington and Richfield staff Julie Farnham and Melissa Poehlman introduced the Center for New Urbanism Legacy Project - providing relevant background information and reminding the Councils of the challenges that the pandemic imposed on the project and the timeline. Staff introduced the consultants assigned to the project: Sarah McColley and Tom Walsh of TSW and Ian Lockwood of Toole Design.

Sarah McColley provided an overview of the group’s original and revised plans for exploration of the area and existing regulations; outreach to area business, residents, and property owners; and key themes that arose from those meetings. The ability to safely travel through the area without a car, improvements to the public realm, and the preservation of existing businesses were consistent themes.

Tom Walsh presented examples of projects in other areas of the country where freeway crossings have addressed both vehicle and non-motorized travel successfully, creating a safe and welcoming area. He also discussed examples of redevelopment opportunities in freeway-adjacent areas, highlighting the importance of a grid street system, reasonable crossing distances, pedestrian and bike enhancements.

Ian Lockwood presented an alternative concept for the I-494/Portland interchange. The conceptual illustration presented a possible option to more evenly distribute traffic in the area and thereby limit the size of the Portland Avenue right-of-way.

Sarah McColley concluded the presentation with recommended Goals and Principals for development/redevelopment in the area. McColley highlighted the balance between community benefits and financial feasibility, presenting a series of action items and design standards for the communities to consider.

Council Members from both communities asked several questions about the alternative interchange design.

Council Member Hayford O'Leary expressed a desire for additional density along the 7600 block of Portland Avenue given the proximity to transit. The group asked for potential "harm reduction" ideas given the extent of the proposed road design.

Council Member Supple expressed support for opening up Roosevelt Park by removing a portion of the 77<sup>th</sup> Street wall.

Council Member Whalen liked the idea of focusing the land bridge type ideas on the bridges at Nicollet and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues, as well as new proposed pedestrian bridge at Chicago Avenue.

City staff discussed next steps for each City.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The work session was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:02 p.m.

Date Approved:



Maria Regan Gonzalez  
Mayor



Melissa Poehlman  
Assistant Community Development Director



Katie Rodriguez  
City Manager