

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITIES OF MINNETONKA AND HOPKINS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
PAGE 1**

Hopkins

Council: Kristi Halverson, Rick Brausen, Bruce Rowan, Cheryl Youakim, and Mayor Gene Maxwell

Planning Board: Molly Cummings, Tom Jenny, and Patrick Beddor

Staff: Rick Getschow, Steve Stadler, Kersten Elverum, Nancy Anderson, and Tara Beard

Minnetonka

Council: Dick Allendorf, Amber Greves, James Hiller, Tony Wagner, Bob Ellingson, and Mayor Terry Schneider. Brad Wiersum was excused.

Planning

Commission: John Cheleen and Steve Adams

Staff: John Gunyou, Geralyn Barone, Julie Wischnack, and Elise Durbin
County Commissioner Jan Callison was also present.

1. Shady Oak Light Rail Transit Station

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

The purpose of the joint meeting is to have a discussion about issues and to determine the next step in the process, specific to Shady Oak Light Rail station.

The locally preferred alternative for the southwest light rail alignment, 3A, was adopted by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority in November of 2009. It now moves to the Metropolitan Council for a final decision. After the decision, the “new starts” application will be made to the Federal Transit Administration. The significance of the particular alignment for the Shady Oak station is that the line will turn and head south, instead of being located within existing right of way.

The environmental review is also close to completion. This will come in the form of the DEIS, or draft environmental impact statement. This is expected to occur in 2010. The final environmental impact statement will be completed during preliminary engineering, which is expected to begin after the New Starts application is made to the Federal Transit Administration. Actual construction of the line is expected to occur in 2013/14 and the line could potentially be operational in 2015.

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITIES OF MINNETONKA AND HOPKINS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
PAGE 2**

There are two stations in Minnetonka, one of which is shared with the City of Hopkins, the Shady Oak Station. The other station is located within the Opus Business Park. Hopkins has two stations in addition to the Shady Oak Station.

The Minnetonka side of the Shady Oak station area has 17 parcels of land, which are owned by approximately 12 property owners. The area size is 31.3 acres and the value is approximately \$15.5 million. The Hopkins side includes 5 parcels, owned by 4 property owners. The current property value is \$20.7 million.

Financial Issues

In regards to financing issues Minnetonka stated that LRT improvements have been added into the CIP, but that \$5,000,000 is unfunded. Hopkins stated that station area infrastructure for LRT is not yet identified in CIP because they are uncertain of cost. They will attempt to partner with Metropolitan Council.

Hennepin Community Works Process

The SWLRT project was recently approved as a Hennepin County Community Works Project. Community Works Process is a comprehensive tool to assist with coordination, planning, and use of multi-jurisdictional infrastructure and economic investments. The scope of the work should be developed within 90 days.

Callison said that Resolution No. 09-0596 regarding Southwest LRT Community Works project was approved by the board. She stated that Hennepin County does have an interest and recommends working in a very positive way but there is limited staff and limited money available. She suggested that the cities look at the Hiawatha and Central corridors to see what worked and how to make that complimentary to our cities. She also said that entities cannot be sold along the line. Callison said that she will look at Urban Land Grants.

General Discussions

There were discussions on:

1. Shady Oak Rd Improvement project between Excelsior Boulevard and Highway 7.
2. The Hay Dobbs station area plan.
3. Redevelopment issues and the need for additional information regarding market potential, infrastructure needs, and shared vision.
4. The location of the park and ride.

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITIES OF MINNETONKA AND HOPKINS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
PAGE 3**

Maxwell and Schneider asked to go around the room and state what were some of the ideas/concerns. They were:

1. Plan how businesses adapt and how we will help those that have been located in the cities a long time.
2. Concern with traffic pattern, thru streets, and how are people and traffic going to circulate?
3. Publicize what is going on ahead of time, do the outreach right and discuss our long term goal.
4. Transit and access on 17th Ave extension, consider improving street north of 17th.
5. Keep the character of the community, look at Hiawatha and Bloomington.
6. Look at policy issues and overall issues. Need a concept plan. We have potential tenants to offer to developers. Pull in apartments, offices and mixed use developers.
7. Bring expectations down a little. Less wishful thinking and more reality. The numbers in the station area plan are unrealistic. How many jobs are being displaced? Find users for buildings. Create jobs other than just office jobs.
8. Don't have piece meal developers.
9. Get roads in place, show routes for streets and build up.
10. How do we ensure a 1, 2 3 process? Plan ordinance before infrastructure. We need to determine what compliments each other.
11. Be clear on flow of traffic, pedestrian flow, parking (may not be enough), coordinate with business owners, think about buildings in human scale, affordability for housing, meet the Met Council's goals, have a detail discussion about funding.
12. Worried about infrastructure, phasing overall vision, financing, re-use industrial buildings, look at how good Alliant Tech worked out.
13. Don't become pathway to somewhere else.
14. Concern about developer running over existing businesses.
15. Think big picture, the developer will help with everything.
16. Research grants

The next step is for both cities to meet and to think about a plan and a process in agreement with both cities and to create a plan of action and present that to both Councils.

2. Adjournment

The joint study session adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**STAFF SUMMARY
CITIES OF MINNETONKA AND HOPKINS
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL JOINT STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
PAGE 4**

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Maeda
City Clerk