



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL OPEN FORUM MEETING
November 19, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Mayor: Tim Hultmann; Council: Kurt Kaminski, Tom Skjaret, Donny Chillstrom, and Liz Olson

Staff Present: Fire Chief: James Van Eyll; Public Works Director: Marv Wurzer; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

Absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN FORUM

Discuss CSAH 112 Turnback Project Proposal and Solicit Public Comment

Mayor Hultmann recognized the members of the CSAH 112 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) – Bob Erickson, Cary Bacall, Will Haack, Jim Gulbranson, Frank Kulacki, Jahn Dyvik, and Cliff Otten - who volunteered their time during the past 26 months working with Hennepin County and their roadway design consultant, SRF Consulting. The Mayor indicated that neither Hennepin County Engineer Jim Grube nor representatives of SRF Consulting would be appearing at the meeting; and that the purpose of the Open Forum was to invite open public input regarding the current CSAH 112 Turnback Project proposal. The Council welcomes guidance from the community regarding the project plans, as taxpayer dollars will contribute to the project expense. Hennepin County originally stated that the project would begin in 2015, but has since revised their statement to anticipate the project starting in 2017.

Mayor Hultmann invited the CSAH 112 PAC members in attendance to speak, and the following comments were received:

- **Jahn Dyvik, 1780 Martha Lane** – As a newer resident to the community, Mr. Dyvik stated he had found his participation in the CSAH 112 PAC group to be a great experience. His primary interests related to the downtown and lake areas. His main focus during a lot of the meetings was the issue of decreasing speed limits and for making the downtown more pedestrian friendly. Also, he indicated a priority in his opinion should be burying the power lines along the lakeshore stretch, recognizing that the trees will be removed for erosion control purposes thereby leaving utility lines exposed. Utility lines should be buried to maintain the lakeshore portion of the roadway as a signature spot along the corridor. He further commented on speed limit changes proposed along the corridor.
- **Bob Erickson, 2435 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Mr. Erickson thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to serve as a CSAH 112 PAC member, and offered thanks to Jim Grube and

SRF Consultants for their work with the committee and for their attention to the group's priorities. He reflected that their function as a committee was to be planners and visionaries for the future road project, understanding that as the project moves forward, elements are likely to change based on costs and affordability. Mr. Erickson highlighted his personal points of interest, including realigning the Willow Drive/CSAH 112 north and south intersections for consistency, downlighting and trail signage emphasizing the Luce Line Trail bridge to recognize it as a recreational asset, and burying of utility lines where financially possible but especially along the lakeshore area of roadway.

- **Cary Bacall, 310 Russell Lane** - indicated it was a pleasure to serve on the CSAH 112 PAC task force, and appreciated the spirited give and take interactions that occurred throughout the group's planning efforts. He expressed concern about the bike trail included in segment 4A1, stating that the additional trail may be an unnecessary extravagance considering the existing trail infrastructure and the Luce Line Trail already in close proximity. He added that before committing to extensive utility line burial, it should be noted that power poles along the corridor are already intended to be replaced with new less unattractive poles at the time roadway construction is taking place. He also commented that roadway changes will not change the fact that speed enforcement and lane violations are an issue on the east end of town, and those issues should not wait to be addressed with regularity.

Council members also received feedback from residents as follows:

- **Dale Lemmerman, 1117 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Mr. Lemmerman stated that he is against adding a trail so close to the Luce Line Trail resource. He noted he would not be in favor of so many differing speed limit zones, and wondered who would be available to conduct enforcement activities from block to block. Lastly, he would be against attempting installation of a crosswalk in the vicinity of Greenhill Lane.
- **Dan MacDonald, 335 Russell Lane** – Mr. MacDonald's main concern is that he does not believe the County is sincere in its expressed goals for improving the safety of the roadway. He indicated that the Wayzata Boulevard intersection with CSAH 112 and the speed of traffic traveling the off-ramp from Highway 12 into Long Lake should be a primary concern. Also, the height of the berm in the off-ramp area impairs traffic visibility significantly. If the County is sincere about improving safety, the off-ramp area must be addressed. He further would not be in favor of an additional trail at that end of town.
- **Janet Schaefer, 1176 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Ms. Schaefer is a resident along the CSAH 112 corridor and is not supportive of the plans for segments 3 and 4 in the project area. She does not support an additional trail by Russell Lane; she noted that a crosswalk in the Greenhill Lane area would be a very dangerous idea; and she indicated she would not be in favor of removing all the trees along the lakeshore area of roadway. She also felt like although she had attended the County's open houses regarding the project, the County did not seem to be listening to resident comments and concerns that were expressed.
- **Earl Swanson, 1145 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Mr. Swanson indicated he would be against the trail in the Russell Lane area, and against turn lane changes at Greenhill Lane. He encouraged the Council to pursue lowering speed limits, improving the off-ramp area, and to better highlight the Luce Line Trail.
- **Eric Jones, 231 Lindawood Lane** – Representing himself and some of his neighbors, Mr. Jones stated they are concerned about the speed of traffic coming off of Highway 12 creating dangerous situations at intersections along the east end of town. Mr. Jones asked the Council to

remind the Police Department to continue traffic enforcement activities in that area.

- **Patrick Brickley, 1806 Symes Street** – Mr. Brickley stated he would be against adding a trail in the downtown area in the vicinity of his home, as there is already a sidewalk in place that is underutilized. He also noted that the trail proposal may create a safety issue between users and traffic.
- **Marty Schneider, 1176 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Mr. Schneider stated that he and neighbors were considering preparing a petition regarding the project, and sought Council input on the most effective format and timing for a petition submittal. He also noted that MnDOT traffic studies are typically procedure after a project to evaluate traffic speeds for determining speed limits, and encouraged immediate and ongoing enforcement of speed limits in the area to try and bring speeds down within the corridor in advance of a traffic study. He also questioned whether improvements can be made to the off-ramp area to address safety and visibility issues.
- **Pat Norman, 1828 Symes Street** - Ms. Norman stated she is not approving of the bike trail proposed across Symes Street, and also stated that she has real issues with the area coming on and off of Highway 12. The lane changes and setup of the ramp area need to be addressed. She further added that she feels the only safe place to cross CSAH 112 is at a stoplight, both now and for the future. Lastly, she indicated she would love to see some trees be replanted along the lakeshore following erosion control improvements.
- **Carl Tomasko, 1828 Symes Street** – Mr. Tomasko stated he would be against the trail proposed across Symes Street. He also expressed concern about the proposed pedestrian crossing at Martha Lane.
- **Roger Adams, 1130 Underhill Circle** – Mr. Adams reflected upon his family's history in Long Lake and the ongoing safety issues that have been present over time. He noted that in general he supports bike trails, but when in appropriate locations. He would not be in agreement with installing two bike paths on two sides of the same stretch of road. He would approve a signaled crosswalk at Martha Lane. He also commented on the lakeshore area, stating that while erosion correction is great, it would be nice to see some trees replanted; and noted that while lights along the trail would be good, there would be no need to install lights along the lake to "light up the water" as well.
- **Mary Shearer, 1555 W Wayzata Boulevard** – Ms. Shearer questioned whether the curvature of the road around the turn for Lindawood Lane would be reduced, and also asked if there would be any significant grade changes to the dip in the road by the former Billy's Lighthouse property.

Council, staff and residents held continued discussion about project elements highlighted in their comments. Council was in favor of continuing to seek public input regarding the project, and perhaps holding another public meeting in the future to solicit additional comments. City Clerk Moeller stated that a portion of the next City newsletter could be dedicated to informing the public about the project as well.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Chillstrom, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: all. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller
City Clerk