



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Draft Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

1:00 PM

2nd Floor Training Room

1:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Also Present: Dave Bennett, PW Director/City Engineer; Dianne Ford, Three Rivers Community Action/Hiawathaland Transit; Mathias Hughey, Associate City Planner; Emery John, Community Development Program Associate; Ben Martig, City Administrator; Brad Ness, City Council Member at Large; Jeff Schroepfer, Chief of Police; Cindy Stock, Administrative Associate; Erica Zweifel, Mayor

Chair Schroeer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and took Roll Call.

- Present:** 9 - Committee Member Brandon Cash, Committee Member Jesse Cashman, Committee Member Kathy Kopseng, Committee Member Galen Malecha, Committee Member Jessica Peterson White, Chair William Schroeer, Committee Member Mike Slavik, Committee Member Jennelle Teppen and Committee Member Foster Transburg
- Absent:** 3 - Committee Member Jane Bartho, Committee Member Jim Purfeerst and Committee Member Ashton Macklin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Committee Member Cashman, seconded by Committee Member Cash, to approve the Meeting Agenda for January 21, 2026. The Motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 9 - Committee Member Cash, Committee Member Cashman, Committee Member Kopseng, Committee Member Malacha, Committee Member Peterson White, Chair Schroeer, Committee Member Slavik, Committee Member Teppen and Committee Member Transburg

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Committee Member Cashman, seconded by Committee Member Kopseng, to approve the Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2025. The Motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 9 - Committee Member Cash, Committee Member Cashman, Committee Member Kopseng, Committee Member Malacha, Committee Member Peterson White, Chair Schroeer, Committee Member Slavik, Committee Member Teppen and Committee Member Transburg

1. [26-054](#) Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2025 NTAC Meeting.

Attachments: [1- July 16 2025 Minutes DRAFT](#)

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [26-055](#) Consider Input on MnDOT Trunk Highway 19 Improvement Project.

Attachments: [1 - OH1 Hwy 19 Reconstruction v3-38941748-v1](#)
[2 - 20250813_p660328_OpenHouse-38941749-v1](#)

MnDOT is in final design, and the August 13, 2025 Open House they held was fairly well attended, where MnDOT shared final project recommendations. MnDOT is scheduling meetings with shareholders & businesses to review the final layout for along the corridor. 2026 - overlay TH19 from I35 to Decker Avenue; 2028 - TH19 regrade between Decker and TH3. For student safety, MnDOT has proposed a marked crosswalk in the St. Olaf Natural Lands Crossing area. NTAC members should follow-up with MnDOT for timing of implementation.

MnDOT received Federal Grant; City to pay for repairs to utilities along corridor.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

NTAC ACTION:

- (1) Members share with MnDOT any feedback related to the realignment of the Garrett/Decker intersection.*
- (2) Members send MnDOT letter to include the identified areas stated during public engagement of the living fence/snow fence for the blowing snow/icing issues, with the 2028 project or the 2030 TH19 project (I35 to Lonsdale).*

STAFF ACTION:

- (1) City & Post support interim temporary delineators in prevention of vehicles bypassing in shoulders at the employee crossing. Post sending MnDOT approval.*
- (2) Bennett to get MnDOT construction summer 2026 schedule for Committee Member Cash (St. Olaf) for purposes of high traffic volume during college campus orientations, classes, etc. Most likely 1 lane closed/other lane open with flaggers.*

3. [26-095](#) Consider motion for City Council to approve Resolution Supporting Further Exploration of Southeast Minnesota Transit Management Organization Feasibility Study.

Attachments: [1 - Res SE MN TMO Support](#)
[2 - 260121 SE MN TMO Presentation](#)
[3 - SE MN TMO Feasibility Study Presentation Final](#)
[4 - SE MN TMO Feasibility Study](#)
[5 - RFQ with Dates](#)

Motion by Committee Member Peterson White, seconded by Committee Member Cashman, to approve motion for City Council to approve Resolution Supporting Further Exploration of SE MN Transit Management Organization Feasibility Study. The Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Committee Member Cash, Committee Member Cashman, Committee Member Kopseng, Committee Member Malacha, Committee Member Peterson White, Chair Schroeer, Committee Member Slavik, Committee Member Teppen and Committee Member Transburg

4. [26-096](#) Consider motion recommending City Council approval of Resolution requesting MnDOT provide safety solutions for Walking and Biking at grade and below the upcoming 2032 Trunk Highway (TH) 3 Bridge Replacement over the Cannon River and 2033 TH-3 Bridge Replacement over the Railroad.

Attachments: [1 - Res Th-3 Bridge Replacement Safety Solutions](#)
[2 - SP 6612-105 6612-107 TH 3 Northfield TAC Meeting 7-16-25](#)
[3 - TIGER Trail Alignment](#)
[4 - Hwy 3 Trail underpass](#)

Motion by Committee Member Malecha, seconded by Committee Member Cashman, to approve motion for City Council to approve Resolution requesting MnDOT provide safety solutions for Walking and Biking at grade and below the upcoming 2032 TH3 Bridge Replacement over the Cannon River and 2033 TH3 Bridge Replacement over the Railroad. The Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Committee Member Cash, Committee Member Cashman, Committee Member Kopseng, Committee Member Malacha, Committee Member Peterson White, Chair Schroeer, Committee Member Slavik, Committee Member Teppen and Committee Member Transburg

5. [26-056](#) Discuss Next Steps Related to Turnback of Trunk Highway 246 from County Road 1 to Trunk Highway 3 from MnDOT to the City of Northfield.

City of Northfield received authorization from the State Legislature in May, 2025 on the turn back of TH246 from CR1 to TH3 from MnDOT, with the draft Agreement to be completed in late January, 2026 and City Council to potentially approve in March, 2026.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Have active grant for roundabout; will hear timing, phasing and \$'s in next few months
- Improvements & plans need to be coordinated with high school's construction project especially with worst area of concern being north to TH3
- Bennett to take in consideration the safety of agricultural vehicles in this corridor not just pedestrians
- Why more mini-roundabouts when increase in crashes?; suggested frontage road vs roundabout - ultimately internal roads still will need to connect to highway/main road
- Chair Schroeer acknowledged the committees' & city's time, hard work & progress that has been made in the last year to put this into action and with the state thus far; and at some point, due to many high traffic concerns on this street, would like to share with the public as well, that this is coming

NTAC ACTION:

- (1) Members forward input/needs to Bennett regarding improvements by high school
- (2) Resolution in near future per Chair Schroeer

STAFF ACTION:

- (1) Next meeting, Bennett look at roundabout elevations; bring back discussion on more roundabouts vs. increase in crashes

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Committee Member Malecha shared Rice County had meeting at county level looking at adding a bike trail from TH3 to Faribault along CR 20 route. This is being put off for awhile as they have future discussions on doing a larger plan on non motorized transportation within the county roadway system. Malecha suggested this board either do a resolution today encouraging the county to do a for motorized transportation study along the county roadway system, or write letters to County Engineer, Dennis Luebbe and the Commissioners.

Motion by Committee Member Peterson White, seconded by Committee Member Transburg, to approve motion that the Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee send a letter of support to the Rice County Board of Commissioners encouraging them to study, create and adopt a non-motorized transportation plan for the county road system connecting the communities.

- Yes:** 9 - Committee Member Cash, Committee Member Cashman, Committee Member Kopseng, Committee Member Malacha, Committee Member Peterson White, Chair Schroeer, Committee Member Slavik, Committee Member Teppen and Committee Member Transburg

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m. by Chair Schroeer.