

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2024-078

SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING THE TURNBACK OF TRUNK HIGHWAY 246 FROM
COUNTY ROAD 1 TO TRUNK HIGHWAY 3 FROM MNDOT TO CITY OF NORTHFIELD

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield desires “to provide a safe, convenient, multi-modal, and environmentally responsible transportation system for Northfield and the surrounding region” as expressed in Chapter 7 Transportation Chapter of the City of Northfield Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Northfield City Council (Nov. 13, 2018), in response to MnDOT and Rice County exploration of a turnback Trunk Highway 246, established the scope and focus area of the Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee to include “Highway 246 Turnback (including additional review of improvements to the road including, but not limited to, a pedestrian underpass or overpass crossing for Jefferson Parkway);” and

WHEREAS, the section of Highway 246 through Northfield has several urgent needs, including

1. pavement maintenance and improvement; and
2. safety improvements for people traveling to Northfield Public Schools ISD #659 including Northfield Middle School, Bridgewater Elementary and Northfield High School;
3. safety improvements for people walking along and across Woodley Street; and

WHEREAS, the section of Highway 246 from Northfield Middle School to Highway 3 is critical for completing several parts of the City’s street network; and

WHEREAS, MnDOT has identified TH 246 as a low priority trunk highway that is eligible for a turnback; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has completed a corridor study on TH 246 from County Road 1 to TH 3 to understand the improvements needed on the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the corridor study explored ways to improve safety and mobility in the TH 246 corridor and to ensure the proposed pedestrian and bicycle facilities meet the needs of the area, nearby schools, and regional network; and

WHEREAS, the corridor study integrated past planning efforts and planning for future growth along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the corridor study explored multiple options for improvements and through engagement with the public and stakeholders arrived at a preferred improvement concept for the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the corridor study identified safety improvements along the corridor that would not be eligible to be built if under the MnDOT’s jurisdictional control; and

WHEREAS, Northfield Transportation Advisory Committee on June 26, 2024 recommended to City Council after the Committees thorough review of the TH 246 Corridor Study that the City pursue a turnback of TH 246 from TH 3 to County Road 1 from MnDot to the City of Northfield;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

- 1. the City seek immediate action to resolve the identified urgent needs in collaboration with MnDOT and Rice County; and
- 2. the City work with MnDOT to pursue turnback of TH 246 from TH 3 to County Road 1 from MnDOT to the City; and
- 3. the segment of TH 246 south of CSAH 1/CR 81 remain under the jurisdiction of MnDOT; and
- 4. the City endorses the Preferred Concept “in principle,” meaning that based on current information available the conceptual design is supported and warranted;
- 5. the City to work with MnDOT and Rice County to develop more information about the timing and financial implications of pursuing turnback; and
- 6. the City urges MnDOT and Rice County to plan for the ongoing maintenance and replacement costs of TH 246 as a local municipal roadway.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST

City Clerk

Mayor

VOTE: ___ POWNELL ___ HOLMES ___ NESS ___ PETERSON WHITE
 ___ REISTER ___ SOKUP ___ ZUCCOLOTTO