

MEMORANDUM

Memo: Ben Martig, Mayor Rhonda Pownell
From: Suzie Nakasian
Date: 10/5/21
Re: Reimbursement Request

Request

I write to request the Council's consideration of a retroactive reimbursement of expenses related to my participation in last week's the AASHTO (American Assn of State Highway and Transportation Officials) Rail Transportation meeting, September 27 - 30 at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee.

As anticipated, the Conference was extremely informative and timely in addressing the monumental shifts in infrastructure investment and federal guidelines that are now underway, and for providing examples of state of the art projects from across the country with relevance for Northfield initiatives related to local and/or regional transit and transportation, namely:

1. Quiet Zones: Addressing noise and improving safety relating to Rail Crossing in Northfield's Downtown Highway Corridor(Fremouw to Sechler)
2. Regional Passenger Rail
3. Local Transit including enhancements related to shift to clean energy, and
4. Transit Oriented Development

The Conference also provided helpful information on

1. Anticipated shifts in commercial freight transportation Multi-modal transportation planning resulting from the Pandemic
2. Detailed information on FRA and State mandates re Climate Action
3. The revision of Federal Transportation Policies that are underway to accord with the President's 3 overarching Executive Orders (the 3 E's): Economic Development, Equity and Environment/Climate Action
4. Funding available for economic development initiatives related to commercial freight and transmodal facilities, and importantly and a review of the
5. National Planning underway re: State and regional rail planning, and the need to augment the anticipated FRA Regional Map of the Upper Midwest to include the Phase One rail Corridors outlined in the revised 2010 Minnesota Statewide Rail Plan

I regret that I learned of this Conference too late to submit a formal request for the underwriting of my participation, and I chose to attend knowing that retroactive reimbursement of my expenses was not guaranteed. I took the risk because of the significance of this particular Conference as a way of connecting Northfield with the monumental shift in federal infrastructure investment that has since been approved and which opens new opportunities for our community.

I have attached an extensive report to Council on each of the above topics, and have asked for an opportunity to lead the Council in a "deeper dive" related to this information when the Council's schedule allows in the New Year.