

**CITY OF HAM LAKE  
CITY COUNCIL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

The Ham Lake City Council met on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Ham Lake City Hall located at 15544 Central Avenue NE in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Brian Kirkham and Councilmembers Jim Doyle, Gary Kirkeide, Al Parranto and Jesse Wilken

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Engineer, Tom Collins; City Engineer, Dave Krugler; City Attorney, Mark Berglund; City Administrator, Denise Webster; and Deputy City Clerk, Dawnette Shimek

1.0 Call to Order

Mayor Kirkham called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m.

2.0 Discussion with the Anoka County Highway Department regarding Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NE (CSAH 116)

Joe MacPherson, Anoka County Engineer; Jerry Auge, Assistant Anoka County Engineer; Jason Orcutt, Senior Highway Programs Manager; and Julie Braastad, Anoka County Commissioner, were present to discuss the proposed Trunk Highway 65 and Bunker Lake Boulevard NE (County State Aid Highway 116) improvement. Engineer Auge gave a background of the Highway 65 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study that was completed in 2021, which included three sections of Highway 65. Section 1 is from 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE to 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE; Section 2 an area from north of 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE to 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE; and Section 3 is from north of 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to north of Bunker Lake Boulevard NE. Engineer Auge stated that the results of the PEL Study for the Bunker Lake Boulevard NE intersection were either a freeway/interchange or a superstreet similar to Viking Boulevard NE (County State Aid Highway 22). Engineer MacPherson stated that the County has no interest in constructing a superstreet at Bunker Lake Boulevard NE. Engineer Auge stated that the Section 2 improvement, which are scheduled for 2026, are fully funded and will include grade-separated intersections at 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Engineer Auge stated that Anoka County has already submitted a grant fund application for up to 10.8 million dollars from the Minnesota Highway Freight Program and will be applying to the Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation program for grant funding up to 10 million dollars. Engineer Auge handed out a project summary sheet and stated that the preliminary overall cost estimate of 42 million dollars. Senior Highway Programs Manager Orcutt summarized the 2-year minimum timeframe to obtain MnDOT approvals, which includes the completion of preliminary design. Engineer MacPherson requested City contribution into the preliminary design. The Councilmembers discussed the potential for City participation in the preliminary design being eligible for Anoka County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)

funding, and directed Administrator Webster to discuss this with the HRA Executive Director. Mayor Kirkham stated that the City will respond to the County by mid-January as to their funding request and whether City participation in the preliminary design is eligible for HRA funding.

The group discussed the options for the Buchanan Street NE connection at Constance Boulevard NE. **It was the consensus of the City Council that the best alternative for the southerly connection with Constance Boulevard NE is at Buchanan Street NE.**

**Motion by Kirkham, seconded by Kirkeide, to adjourn the workshop meeting at 5:57 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.**

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Dawnette Shimek, Deputy City Clerk