

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof Mayor Jake Mathison called to order the work session of the Mora City Council at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 in the City Hall council chambers.

- 2. Roll Call:** Present: Mayor Mathison, Councilmembers Anderson, Shepard and Youngquist
Absent: Councilmember Broekemeier
Staff Present: City Administrator Glenn Anderson, Administrative Services Director Natasha Segelstrom, Public Works Director Joe Kohlgraf, Community Development Director Kirsten Faurie.

3. Special Business:

Minnesota Department of Transportation Corridor Study Update:

MnDOT Staff Tom Crookshank, Zach Whitely, Steve Voss and Jake Bongard of Bolton & Menk presented to the City Council and provided an update on the Highway 65 -23 Corridor Study and the construction planned for 2030. The study comprised of MnDOT in partnership with the City of Mora, Kanabec County and East Central Regional Development Commission to identify the needs of the Highway 65-23 Corridor. The study was described as a Generational Project that would impact the future of the corridor and looked at the long-term impact of the state highway through the city.

The study explained the guiding values to describe the vision and future for Hwy 65 and Hwy 23 which included: develop a safe and equitable multimodal transportation system, provide improvements that are compatible and sustainable with the environment and support local business community. The existing condition overview was reviewed and looked at existing traffic conditions and delays during normal conditions and summer peak conditions; freight traffic at the regional junctions of Hwy 23 between Central Minnesota and Ports of Duluth and Superior, Hwy 65 a major route from industrial centers in the Twin Cities to Central Minnesota and Hwy 65 and Hwy 23 in which 1,800 heavy trucks per day travel through Mora and 4/5 do not stop. The existing trail/sidewalk network and non-motorized travel was discussed along with the needed crossings and connections to ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Access management and how vehicles access and exit the roadway, location, spacing, design and operation of driveways, street connection to roadways and median openings was discussed and its relationship to mobility, reducing delay, minimize crashes and reduce conflict points. A summary of the existing conditions engagement from citizen engagement which noted 2,150+ postcards mailed to residents and businesses, notification to businesses and neighborhood associates, two focus groups with over 30 attendees and three targeted stakeholder interviews. The online survey had 351 survey responses, Let's Talk Transportation website had over 8,500 interactions and the interactive map had 76 pins.

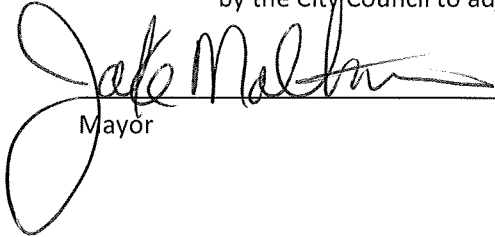
The project goals and objectives were reviewed and the concept development elements for subarea review from TH 23/65 from Snake River Bridge to Mora Lake, the traffic signal corridor, roundabout corridor, Clark Street to Forest Avenue and the Greater corridor Concept development. The Council discussed pedestrian safety, the impact to businesses on frontage roads and concerns with roundabouts.

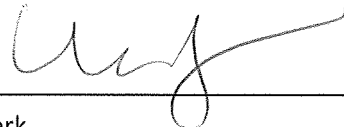
It was noted that the study timeline was in Phase 2: Develop, evaluate, and establish a recommended design alternative. The Public Engagement would occur December 7, 2023.

City Council Work Session Minutes
October 17, 2023

A follow-up meeting was scheduled for December 19, 2023 at 4:15PM.

4. **Adjournment:** MOTION made by Shepard, seconded by Anderson, and unanimously carried by the City Council to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.



Mayor

City Clerk