EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Physical Development

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Golden Valley City Council Work Session

December 13, 2022

Agenda Item

1. Review Downtown Traffic Study

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Summary

Over the past several years, the City has completed several plans and studies that focus on implementing downtown redevelopment. These include the 2040 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the Municipal Facilities Study, and the Downtown Study (Phases I-III). The Downtown Traffic Study evaluated potential future redevelopment sites and how traffic operations on the adjacent street system would be impacted and recommended improvements to accommodate future traffic demands.

The study area includes approximately 160 acres bound by Trunk Highway 55 (TH 55) on the south, 10th Avenue N on the north, Boone Avenue N on the west, and Pennsylvania Avenue N on the east. A small area off the southeast quadrant of TH 55 and Winnetka Avenue was also included in the study. Access points and study intersections were identified to determine how drivers were entering the downtown area and where drivers were going to or from within the downtown area. A crash analysis was performed as part of the study to identify where crashes were occurring and the severity of the crashes. Access points and turning movements were evaluated under existing conditions and forecasted out for future growth and redevelopment. Existing development trips were removed from the downtown area and replaced with future trips based on a 20 year redevelopment build out. Traffic operations were also reviewed at the existing and future redevelopment level.

The results of the study showed that operationally the existing street system is expected to handle the demand of future downtown redevelopment. A mini roundabout at Golden Valley Road and Wisconsin Avenue is proposed to improvement intersection operation. Future access consolidations are recommended to reduce crashes in the downtown area and also improve traffic operations. The additional trips generated from future develop will have a nominal impact on existing traffic delays in the area. The area of of the southeast quadrant of TH 55 and Winnetka was evaluated for future redevelopment and trip generation and it was determined the Harold Avenue and Winnetka Avenue intersection does have capacity for future R-3 residential redevelopment. Lastly, opportunities for pedestrian safety improvements should be evaluated with redevelopment and infrastructure improvements.

Financial or Budget Considerations
None at this time.

Legal Considerations
None at this time.

Equity Considerations
The Downtown Traffic Study evaluated all methods of transportation for all users of the street network including pedestrians, bicyclists, bus riders, and vehicles. Section 8.3 of the study include recommendations for future non-vehicle safety improvement opportunities.

Recommended Action
No action at this time, the Downtown Traffic Study will be received and filed at a future Council Meeting

Supporting Documents
- Final Golden Valley Downtown Traffic Study Report