



# CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## City Council Work Session

### September 23, 2025

<b>ITEM #1</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
----------------	----------------------

Mayor Supple called the work session to order at 5:45 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

*Council Present:* Mary Supple, Mayor; Sharon Christensen; Walter Burk, Sean Hayford Oleary, Rori A. Coleman-Woods

*Staff Present:* Katie Rodriguez, City Manager; Matt Hardegger, Transportation Engineer; Joe Powers, City Engineer; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director, and Michelle Friedrich, City Clerk. Jay Henthorne, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police arrived at 6:15 pm

*Others Present:* Tim Brackett

<b>ITEM #2</b>	<b>ITEM DISCUSSION</b>
----------------	------------------------

- a. Presentation on updated Safe Routes to School Plan for Richfield Public Schools.

City Manager Rodriguez welcomed Tim Brackett and shared that he has been working on this presentation. Public Works Director Asher provided a summary of the first item.

Transportation Engineer Hardegger provided a summary of the Safe Routes to School program. He shared the history of the comprehensive and supplemental plans for Safe Routes to School and provided details regarding grants that have been received. Tim Brackett shared some of the school district successes they have seen for Safe Routes to School.

Transportation Engineer Hardegger provided details on the plan update process. He reviewed the feedback received from different engagement activities and noted the items needing City action. Transportation Engineer Hardegger reviewed a total of 44 opportunities that were identified, and noted 5 were in progress, and 7 were programmed by other agencies. He provided details on the remaining 32 items that will need City action and proposed implementation of remaining items.

Mr. Brackett shared some school district projects and referenced short and medium-term projects. Transportation Engineer Hardegger summarized the next steps for these projects. Mr. Brackett provided further details on the street closure at school arrival and dismissal times.

Council shared appreciation for the work they have done in providing safer ways for students to get to school.

b. Hennepin County Cost Share Discussion.

Public Works Director Asher presented the item. Public Works Director Asher reviewed the cost share, cost participation, and cost maintenance policies. Public Works Director Asher reviewed the upcoming maintenance costs for the City and presented a graph displaying the City's past 20 years of MSA expenditures. She discussed project examples and included a financial breakdown of what the City would be responsible for. Public Works Director Asher reviewed the City's bonding history over the past 10 years and provided details on the estimated cost share for the Nicollet Avenue reconstruction. City Manager Rodriguez stated that the Utility Fund has been paying for local projects. She noted staff have been reviewing the source of funding for this project.

Public Works Director Asher stated that the City's utility costs for the project are expected to be lower than initially estimated and presented the proposed cost share. In response to Council's question about collaborating with other cities to renegotiate with the County, she noted that 19 cities have already sent letters to Hennepin County. City Manager Rodriguez added that while other cities are affected, Richfield is particularly impacted due to the high number of State and County roads in and around the City.

c. Discussion on legislative advocacy supporting stronger protections against gun violence.

City Manager Rodriguez provided a summary of the item. She stated that the City and State have seen an increase in gun violence this year. She noted that she, along with Chief Henthorne and Mayor Supple, put together a statement regarding the issue. City Manager Rodriguez asked the Council for any feedback on the statement. Council shared its support for the statement.

Mayor Supple summarized the current climate regarding cities and gun safety laws and noted the authority of the State regarding gun safety law decisions. Council and staff discussed options available to cities regarding gun safety laws, actions that can be taken, and applicable enforcement of gun laws. Council shared feedback regarding the topic.

City Manager Rodriguez summarized the discussion on protections against gun violence.

<b>ITEM #3</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
----------------	--------------------

Mayor Supple adjourned the work session at 6:50 p.m.

Date Approved: October 14, 2025

*Mary B. Supple*

Mary B. Supple  
Mayor

*Michelle R. Friedrich*

Michelle Friedrich  
City Clerk

*Katie Roary*

Katie Rodriguez  
City Manager