

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The City of Ramsey Economic Development Authority (EDA) conducted a regular meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson Michael Olson
 Member Chelsee Howell
 Member Rachal Johnson
 Member Chris Riley
 Member Shanna Stewart
 Member Scott Wiyninger (remote attendee)

Members Absent: Member William MacLennan

Also Present: Sean Sullivan, Economic Development Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Olson called the Economic Development Authority meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Johnson, to approve the agenda.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Howell	aye
Member Riley	aye
Member Wiyninger	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Member Stewart	aye

Motion carried.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

3.01: Approve Meeting Minutes Dated May 12, 2022

Motion by Member Riley, seconded by Member Howell, to approve the May 12, 2022 minutes as presented.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Stewart	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye
Member Wiyninger	aye
Member Riley	aye
Member Howell	aye

Motion carried.

4. EDA BUSINESS

4.01: Highway 10 Construction Project Presentation

Economic Development Manager Sullivan introduced the members present to provide presentations.

Kent Barnard, MnDOT, provided an overview of projects in the area and an overview of the Anoka Highway 10 project.

Codie Leseman, MnDOT, reviewed the business and stakeholder engagement that has been completed thus far as well as the engagement that will continue forward. He stated that his focus has been on business engagement while other members of the communications team handle communications with the County, City, and residents.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that information is helpful as the City will need to develop a communications plan for the Ramsey project. He explained that the Anoka project is MnDOT led, with the Ramsey project will be County led.

Member Riley recognized the difference between the lead agencies. He noted that residents have mentioned the end date of 2023/2024, which is true for the Anoka portion of the project but commented that will lead directly into the Ramsey project, therefore that time length is not correct.

Mr. Leseman confirmed that on the overview of projects in the area the other area projects are included but agreed that they could be more specific in that time length. He reviewed a broad overview of 2022 work zone and closures. He provided details on the Thursday meetings they have been holding and other methods where stakeholders can gain updates and information.

Mr. Barnard commented that Mr. Leseman's involvement is more on the business side, and he provided details on the communications plan they are following with residents including the use of social media.

Mr. Leseman provided additional details on the low clearance alerts that will begin in July through November 2023, limiting clearance to less than ten feet. He also reviewed what to expect during

the winter months and through spring of 2024. He stated that the Anoka project will be completed by spring of 2024. He also provided contact information and explained how they follow up to input received from businesses and stakeholders.

Jason Orcutt, project manager for the Ramsey Highway 10 project, noted that he was the lead for the Armstrong interchange project as well and therefore is familiar with completing projects in Ramsey. He reviewed the proposed improvements for the Ramsey Highway 10 project and needed right-of-way. He noted the flexibility of design which has allowed them to downsize the needed right-of-way and impacts to businesses. He stated that this time they are at 60 percent design and reviewed the proposed staging for the project. He stated that there will be a communications person brought on board for the project to ensure that there are good lines of communication. He stated that the next open house will be June 29th, with businesses hosted in the morning and general public in the afternoon/evening.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan referenced the businesses north of Highway 10 that currently have individual access and asked when it would be anticipated to convert that access to a frontage road.

Mr. Orcutt commented that will occur once the frontage road is constructed. He noted that the businesses will always have access during the project.

4.02: Consider Contracting Services for Traffic Count Updates in COR and Surrounding Area

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Chairperson Olson asked if the Highway 10 construction would impact the numbers.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that they could follow up once the project is completed as well, noting that the City was previously collecting this data every two years but was delayed because of COVID and its impacts. He noted the large residential projects and industrial developments that have been completed since the last count was done in 2017.

Member Riley asked if Bunker Lake Boulevard would be counted in this work, as his driving is focused along Bunker rather than Highway 10 at this time.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan highlighted the area that would be included in the counts.

Member Riley commented that sometimes businesses use this information, but others complete the counts themselves. He asked if this information would be used.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan commented that while traffic counts from the County are available, this provides more accurate local numbers. He stated that this type of information is helpful to share with businesses that may be interested in coming to Ramsey and is also helpful information for the City to have.

Motion by Member Wiyninger, seconded by Member Howell, to recommend to City Council to Contract Services to update traffic counts for the COR and surrounding area.

Further discussion: Member Johnson stated that the traffic patterns have changed because of the highway construction and asked if there is a way to isolate the Bunker segment to identify that increase. She commented that the results would most likely be skewed as Bunker is a main access during construction. Economic Development Manager Sullivan confirmed that there would be detailed information at each intersection. He noted that this would provide the City with good data on how people are getting to where they are going.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Stewart	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye
Member Wiyninger	aye
Member Riley	aye
Member Howell	aye

Motion carried.

4.03: Receive 2022 Business Expo Summary and Select 2023 Venue and Date

Economic Development Manager Sullivan presented the staff report.

Member Johnson asked if there are any holidays around the two dates proposed.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that there are not any holidays around those dates and staff is not yet aware of any overlapping events.

Member Howell commended staff for their hard work in running a successful event.

Member Stewart noted the low marketing score and asked if there is a plan to improve that.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan replied that the marketing score was 4.7 out of 5, which is very high.

Member Stewart stated that she would link that result to traffic flow.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan stated that they reduced the scale by a few booths to improve the flow of traffic within the building. He stated that they added Facebook for marketing and believe that helped as the attendance was up this year.

Chairperson Olson asked if the comments are tracked year to year to determine if there have been improvements.

Member Stewart asked for clarification on what traffic flow means.

Economic Development Manager Sullivan recognized that traffic flow can mean different things to vendors and stated that perhaps a better question is developed. He stated that he interpreted it as the number of people getting to a booth.

Chairperson Olson stated that overall, they were great scores and a great event.

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Stewart, to select Adrenaline Sports Center as the home of the 2023 Business Expo and to reserve the venue for April 22 or April 29 and to allocate \$5,000 from the EDA.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Howell	aye
Member Riley	aye
Member Wiyninger	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Member Stewart	aye

Motion carried.

5. MEMBER / STAFF UPDATE

Economic Development Manager Sullivan provided an update on recent and upcoming development activity.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Stewart, to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was performed:

Member Stewart	aye
Member Johnson	aye
Chairperson Olson	aye
Member Wiyninger	aye
Member Riley	aye
Member Howell	aye

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Olson, Members Howell, Johnson, Riley, Stewart, and Wiyninger. Voting No: None. Absent: MacLennan

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean M. Sullivan".

Sean Sullivan
Economic Development Manager

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Schlueter".

Wendy Schlueter
Economic Development Administrative Assistant

Draft by Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.