City of Blaine
City Council Workshop

May 20, 2024 | 5:30 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

AGENDA

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING
In accordance with the provisions of Section 3.01 of the Blaine City Charter, a Council Workshop meeting is scheduled for the following purpose:

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. New Business

3.1. 2024-183 Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) - City Manager Performance Review
Sponsors: City Council

3.2. 2024-177 SBM Fire Department SAFER Grant
Sponsors: Dan Retka, Fire Chief

3.3. 2024-151 Trunk Highway 65 West Frontage Road Discussion
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

3.4. 2024-60 Home Occupation Discussion III
Sponsors: Sheila Sellman, City Planner

3.5. 2024-68 Median Safety Ordinance
Sponsors: Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

4. Other Business

5. Adjournment

City of Blaine
Staff Report

File Number: 2024-183

Agenda Date	Status
May 20, 2024	
In Control	**File Type**
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - City Council

Agenda Item # 3.1

Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) - City Manager Performance Review

Background

City Council will continue their annual performance evaluation for City Manager Wolfe. The item was postponed from May 13.

Staff Recommendation

Questions for Council

Attachment List

None

City of Blaine
Staff Report

File Number: 2024-177

Agenda Date	Status
May 20, 2024	
In Control	**File Type**
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - Dan Retka, Fire Chief

Agenda Item # 3.2

SBM Fire Department SAFER Grant

Background

SBM Fire Chief Dan Retka will provide an update on recruitment and staffing and the current status of the department. Information will be provided about the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant and how the fire department plans to use the grant (if awarded). Chief Retka will present the rationale for the grant request, which includes funding for 12 full-time positions.

A follow-up workshop is scheduled to discuss financial impacts in more detail. The grant covers personnel-related expenses for three years. Beginning in year four, SBM Fire (via funding from the three member cities) would be responsible for full funding. During the first three years, there are some related expenses that will need to be covered by SBM.

The Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA) has been awarded $1.4 million in funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program to improve recruitment of volunteer firefighters in Minnesota. The program can assist with marketing and onboarding of new firefighters and possible reimbursement for health screenings for new hires.

Staff Recommendation

Council should ask questions and/or provide feedback.

Questions for Council

Attachment List

None

City of Blaine
Staff Report

File Number: 2024-151

Agenda Date	Status
May 20, 2024	
In Control	**File Type**
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Agenda Item # 3.3

Trunk Highway 65 West Frontage Road Discussion

Background

Prior to the remarkable success last year in securing funding for the full Phase 1 TH65 project, the council, staff, and other partners were working on multiple grants and funding opportunities for the project. Several of those efforts resulted in funding being awarded. Typically, the requests for the grant/funding were specific to one piece of the project, such as a certain intersection. For example, the $4 million in federal funding that was awarded to us that was sponsored by Rep. Emmer, was specifically designated for the intersection of TH65 and 117th. During the 2023 Minnesota legislative session, significant funding was approved that resulted in the ability to construct the entirety of Phase 1. The project coordination has now been turned over to MnDOT and that agency will also manage the funding, including the previous grants that were awarded through state, federal, and regional agencies.

With this progression in securing funding, there has been interest in discussing the West Frontage Road between 99th Avenue and 105th Avenue. At the workshop, the City Engineer will discuss overall project timing including the West Frontage Road construction. The City Council has designated that corridor as a priority area for development, and the frontage road is a significant factor in relation to future development. This is also a strong topic of interest to the property owners in the corridor.

Staff Recommendation

N/A

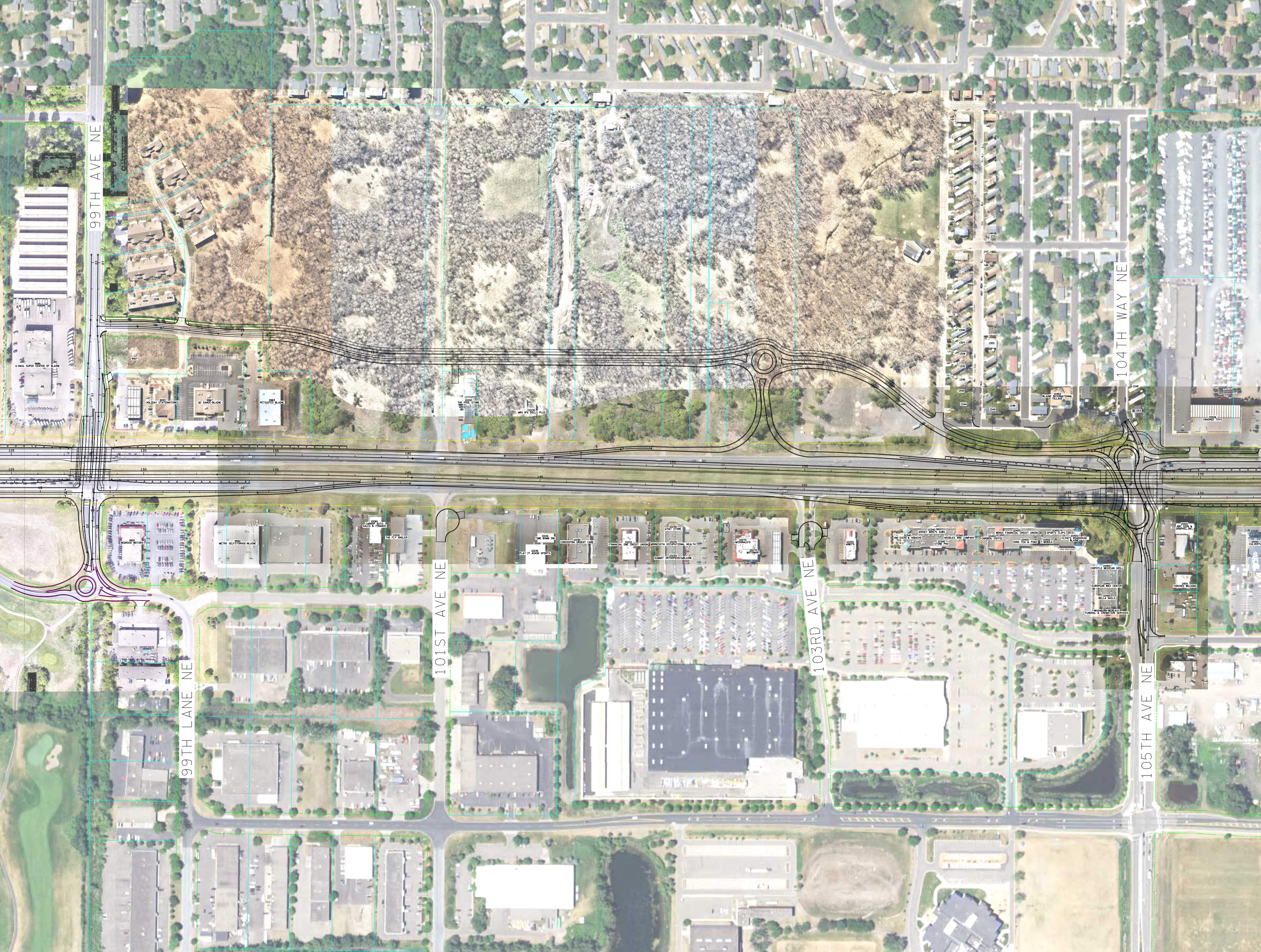
Questions for Council

This is a general discussion and an opportunity to answer questions and provide updates regarding the west frontage road and the TH65 project.

Attachment List

1. 06092023 TH65 Layout

SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200
90
95
100
105
110
115
120
5
1373
1366
1373
1372
9664
BLAINE QUALITY AUTOMOTIVE
9720
SPEEDWAY
1355
TWIN CITIES HARLEY-DAVIDSON BLAINE


99TH AVE NE
104TH WAY NE
101ST AVE NE
103RD AVE NE
105TH AVE NE
99TH LANE NE
1299
1297
1295
1293
9886
U-HAUL SUPER CENTER OF BLAINE
9927
9933
HOLIDAY STATIONSTORES
9967
QC DANCE-BLAINE
9983
PETSUITES BLAINE
10100
THE POOL STORE
10130
MRS B'S DOLLS PLUS
1348
1324
1328
1332
1336
1340
1344
1349
1348
1353
10454
BLAINE INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE
1349
1353
10506
CRASHED TOYS
9901
BEDROCK MOTORS
9992
METRO SELFSTORAGE-BLAINE
10061
CARHOP AUTO SALES & FINANCE
10091
THE FLY ANGLER
10141
TIME BOMB INK
10135
PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS
10190
CONCENTRA URGENT CARE
10210
FINANCIAL ONE CREDIT UNION
10230
AT&T STORE
10230
MINNESOTA OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
10230
SUMMIT ORTHOPEDICS-BLAINE
10270
MCDONALD'S
10270
MOTOMART
10320
ARBY'S
10340
UMI SUCHI & HIBACHI
10340
JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS
10340
NOODLES AND COMPANY
10340
STONE PHO
10400
CARIBOU COFFEE
10400
WINGS FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION
10400
SONG TEA & POKE
10400
T-MOBILE
10400
SPORTS CLIPS
10400
CLIVE'S ROADHOUSE BLAINE
10450
CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL
10450
EUROPEAN WAX CENTER
10450
BELLA NAILS
10450
WASHBURN-MCREAVY FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
10501
ABC SIGN & GRAPHIC, INC.
1409
TORCHED WELDING
10550
CULVER'S
125
130
135
140
145
150
155
160
165
170
5
10
15
20
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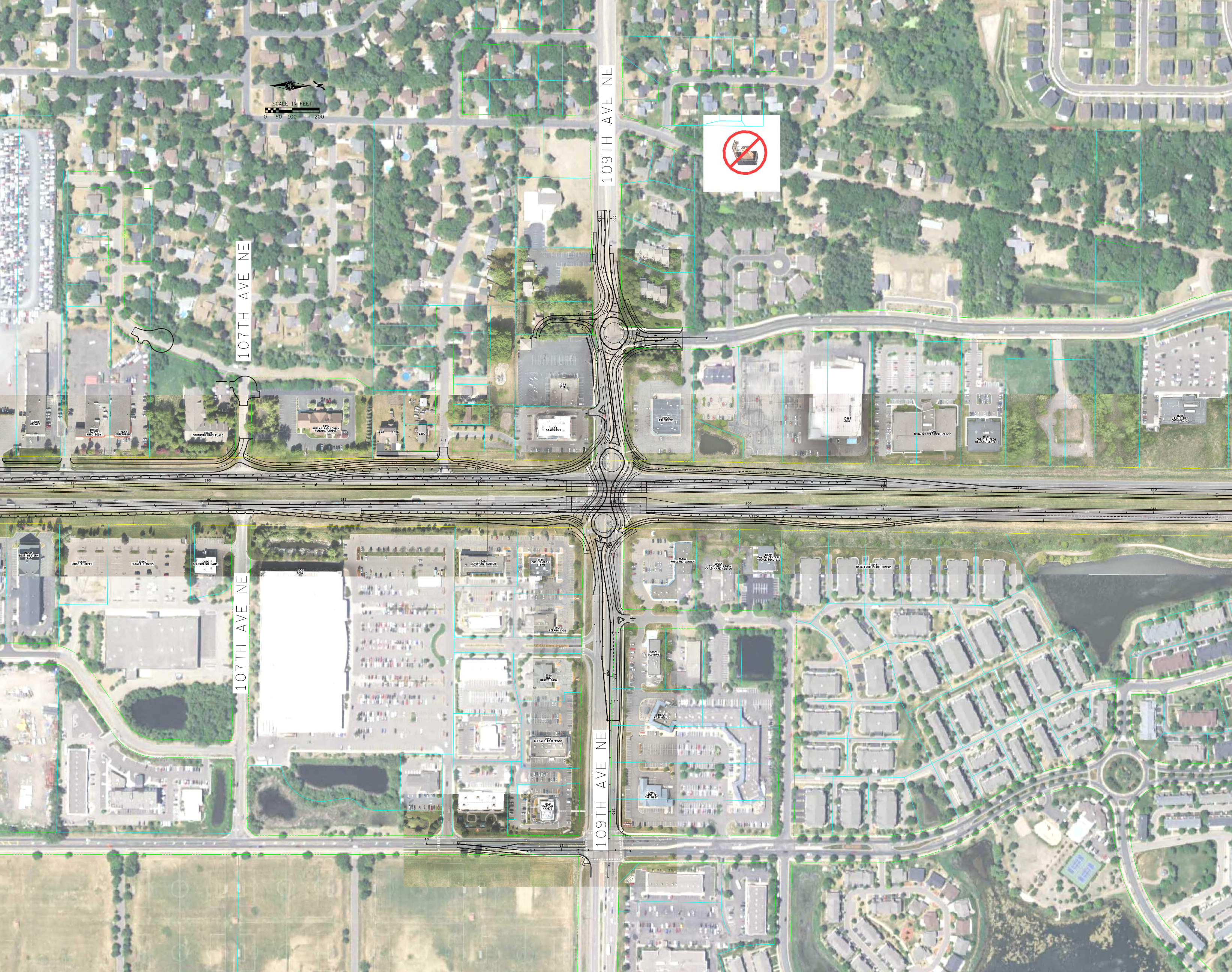
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200
109TH AVE NE
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107TH AVE NE
109TH AVE NE
1374 VFW
1384 STARBUCKS
10588 COPART
10600 GALE'S AUTO BODY
10600 ENTERPRISE
10669 SOUTHERN OAKS PLACE
1385 KOZLAK RADULOVICH FUNERAL CHAPEL
1392
1396
1390
10905 WALGREENS
10985 ALDI
11091 NORA NEUROLOGICAL CLINIC
11107 CHILD & TEEN MEDICAL CENTER
11225 TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS
10580 BEST WESTERN PLUS
10620 CRISP & GREEN
10650 PLANET FITNESS
10690 SHERWIN-WILLIAMS
1500 TARGET
1420 SHOPPING CENTER
1430 CHILI'S GRILL & BAR
1450 LEEANN CHIN
1520 BMO HARRIS BANK
1540 BUFFALO WILD WINGS
1560 RAISING CANE'S
10904 ROSELAND CENTER
10964 LITTLE RED WAGON CHILD CARE CENTER
10994 DAVITA CENTRAL AVENUE DIALYSIS
WATERFORD PLACE CONDOS
10901 OLIVER'S
10950 WILD BILL'S
10930 BANK OF THE WEST

113TH AVE NE
117TH AVE NE
114TH AVE NE
CLOUD DRIVE NE
11290
NORTH COUNTRY TIRE SERVICE
1351
BLAINE KIDDS PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY
11351
BOWLERO BLAINE
11421
PUBLIC STORAGE
11485
MEGA-STAR CONDOMONIUM ASSOCIATION
11505
WALMART SUPERCENTER
11633
PETCO
11633
ULTA BEAUTY
11665
TACO BELL
11679
AUTOZONE AUTO PARTS
11724
TACO JOHNS
11712
VERTEX NAILS SALON
11701
GOODWILL
11727
HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS
11749
KFC
11855
BLAINE MEDICAL CENTER
11800
ACKERMAN ACUPUNCTURE & MASSAGE
11806
TRADEMARK TITLE
11806
CONTINENTAL PROFESSIONAL CENTER
11806
RE/MAX ADVANTAGE PLUS
11800
ABERDEEN DENTAL ASSOCIATES
11822
BROADWAY BAR & PIZZA
11850
BLUEPEARL PET HOSPITAL
1412
1432
1442
11378
11436
11514
11536
220
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230
235
240
245
250
255
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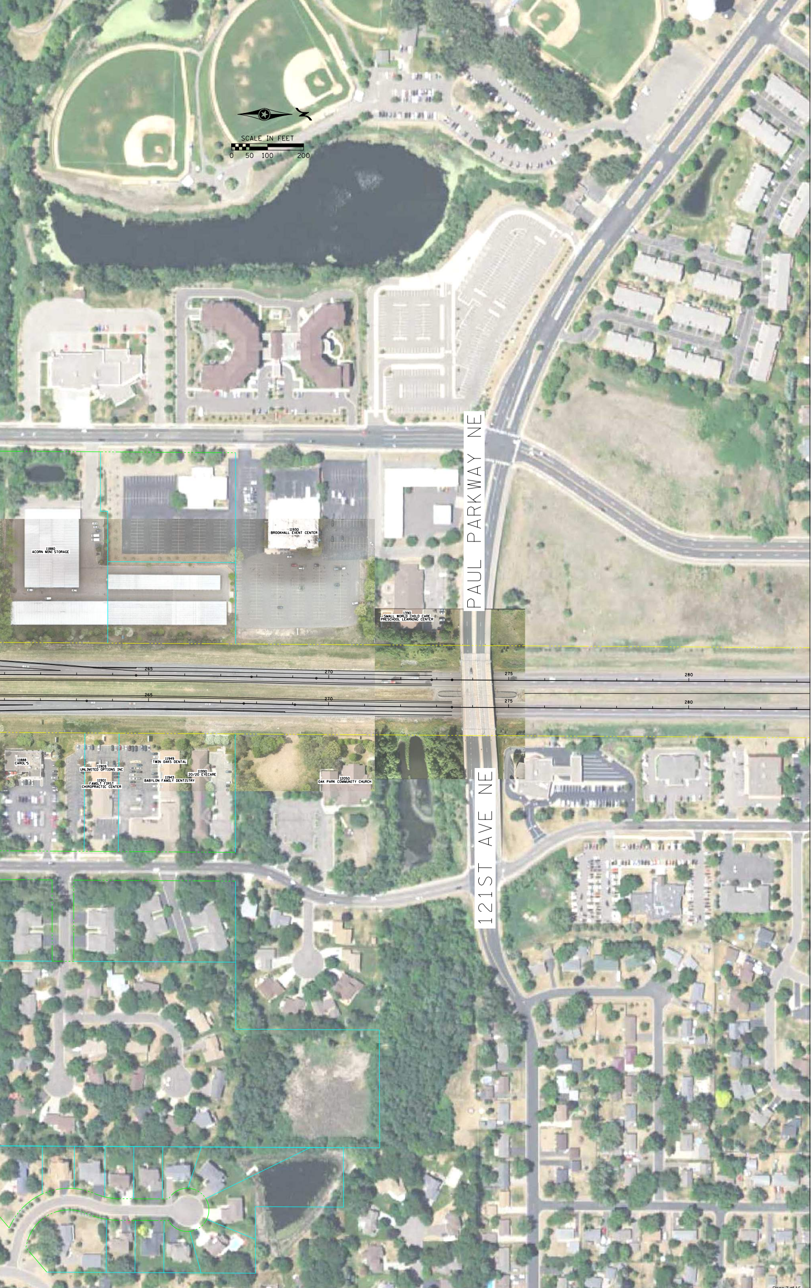
75
80


SCALE IN FEET
0
50
100
200
PAUL PARKWAY NE
11880
ACORN MINI STORAGE
11930
BROOKHALL EVENT CENTER
1390
SMALL WORLD CHILD CARE
PRESCHOOL LEARNING CENTER
265
270
275
280
265
270
275
280
11888
CAROL'S
11909
UNLIMITED OPTIONS INC
11901
FAMILY FIRST
CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
11949
TWIN OAKS DENTAL
11943
BABYLON FAMILY DENTISTRY
11990
20/20 EYECARE
12050
OAK PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH
121ST AVE NE

City of Blaine
Staff Report

File Number: 2024-60

Agenda Date	Status
May 20, 2024	
In Control	**File Type**
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - Sheila Sellman, City Planner

Agenda Item # 3.4

Home Occupation Discussion III

Background

At the April 15, 2024, workshop, council discussed different home occupation scenarios to determine what should be allowed and prohibited and possibly creating different standards in the Farm Residential (FR) zoning district. At the meeting there was general council consensus on the following:

1. To allow a home occupation in an accessory building with limitations.
2. To continue to allow vehicles parked in the driveway up to 12,000 GVW.
3. Prohibit food trucks or trailers parking in driveways, regardless of size.
4. To allow a gunsmithing type of business in all residential zones.
5. To allow equipment rental, with some possible parameters.
6. No outdoor storage of equipment, except for FR zoning districts.
7. Light manufacturing allowed.
8. Heavy manufacturing allowed in Farm Residential zoning districts.

Staff is suggesting adding a list of prohibited uses for all districts and permitted uses in FR for properties greater than or equal to three acres.

Prohibited uses in all zoning districts:

1. Auto repair/body shop
2. Auto Sales
3. Heavy manufacturing (except in FR districts on a property greater than or equal to 3 acres).

Permitted uses in FR for properties greater than or equal to 3 acres in size and prohibited in all other districts:

1. Heavy manufacturing.
2. Heavy equipment rental that includes, but is not limited to, skidloaders, excavators, trailers or lifts.
3. Landscaping and lawn maintenance.
4. Small engine repair.

Council should discuss if it would be appropriate to allow outdoor storage of the equipment items listed above.

Staff Recommendation

Provide feedback and recommendations on proposed changes.

Questions for Council

1. Do you agree with the list of permitted and prohibited uses?
2. Do you want to allow outdoor storage of equipment in Farm Residential?

Attachment List

None

City of Blaine
Staff Report

File Number: 2024-68

Agenda Date	Status
May 20, 2024	
In Control	**File Type**
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - Brian Podany, Safety Services Manager/Police Chief

Agenda Item # 3.5

Median Safety Ordinance

Background

The median safety ordinance is being proposed due to concerns of pedestrians standing for long periods of time in the median of high traffic intersections within the City. The ordinance still allows for safe crossing of roadways but prohibits standing in the median for multiple light cycles. This ordinance was previously presented to Council at the Workshop on March 1, 2021.

The attached median safety draft ordinance arose out of police and resident concerns about pedestrians standing for long periods of time in the median of certain high-traffic intersections in the City of Blaine. There are several high-traffic, high-speed arterial roadways within the City that have been identified as potentially dangerous for pedestrians. Both residents and police have identified multiple intersections where this has been a problem and there have been repeated incidents at those locations. Pedestrians standing in high traffic roadway medians present an increased risk of being struck by a vehicle and impeding traffic flow. Feedback from officers who have responded to complaints about this problem note that those who partake in the action that have been requested to move to a position of greater safety have refused to do so as it is not prohibited by law.

The attached proposed median safety ordinance prohibits pedestrians from standing within the intersections identified in the ordinance for a duration longer than two crosswalk signals. It does not prohibit crossing as directed by traffic signals. It additionally prohibits motorists from stopping or standing in their vehicles to address pedestrians who are standing in medians. This helps to ensure safety in preventing crashes and promoting efficient traffic movement. Enforcement of the ordinance will begin with education and requests for movement from the prohibited activity. For continued or repeated violations, enforcement action will be an option.

This item has come before the City Council previously and attached is summary information from our City Attorney from the previous time in 2021 the item was up for consideration. At that time research was done into legal considerations of a median safety ordinance prior to passage of the ordinance.

Staff Recommendation

Staff is asking council to consider the proposed ordinance being implemented into the City of Blaine Ordinances. Time is provided for council input and questions. If the Council is interested in considering the ordinance, it can be placed on the agenda for an upcoming regular meeting.

Questions for Council

Attachment List

1. Proposed Median Ordinance
2. City Attorney Memo

I. MEDIAN SAFETY

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

a. The City has four high-capacity arterial roadways that are heavily travelled thruways with traffic counts on County Road 10 of 19,100 to 34,400 vehicles per day, on University Avenue of 15,000 to 46,600 vehicles per day, on Highway 65 of 41,000 to 51,000 vehicles per day, and on Lexington Avenue of 28,700 to 41,000 vehicles per day. These arterial roadways have posted speed limits that range from 35 m.p.h. to 60 m.p.h., contain numerous high-traffic intersections, and have relatively narrow or obstructed medians.

b. The medians on these roadways are traffic separation structures that were not designed, and are not maintained, to accommodate either any pedestrians, or only those who are temporarily crossing through the designated crosswalk. Most of the medians also contain landscaping, traffic control devices, and other obstructions which are inconsistent with use by pedestrians.

c. The City has experienced an increase in the number of pedestrians remaining on medians at high-traffic intersections for extended periods. This creates a public safety risk for both pedestrians as well as drivers. Due to the large volume of traffic traveling through these intersections at high speeds, pedestrians remaining on the median are put at risk of being struck. Additionally, pedestrian presence on the medians distracts drivers whose focus becomes fragmented between not striking the pedestrians so close to the roadway and navigating through these high-traffic intersections.

d. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a narrowly tailored regulation intended to protect public safety, health, and welfare related to pedestrians in roadways and drivers passing through high-traffic intersections. This chapter and the prohibitions herein are specific to identified arterial roadways within the City. This chapter is designed to decrease safety hazards by restricting unsanctioned activity in the medians.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meaning given to them in this section.

a. “Arterial roadway” means the following roadways within the City:

1. County Road 10;
2. University Avenue;
3. Highway 65; and
4. Lexington Avenue.

b. “High-traffic intersection” means the following intersections on arterial roadways controlled by traffic signals:

1. County Road 10 and Washington Street;
2. County Road 10 and 7th Street;

3. County Road 10 and Jefferson Street;
4. University Avenue and 89th Avenue;
5. University Avenue and County Road 10;
6. University Avenue and 109th Avenue;
7. University Avenue and 101st Avenue;
8. University Avenue and 89th Avenue;
9. University Avenue and County Road 10;
10. University Avenue and 86th Lane;
11. University Avenue and Highway 47;
12. University Avenue and 85th Avenue;
13. Highway 65 and 89th Avenue;
14. Highway 65 and Highway 10;
15. Highway 65 and 99th Avenue;
16. Highway 65 and 105th Avenue;
17. Highway 65 and 109th Avenue;
18. Highway 65 and 117th Avenue;
19. Highway 65 and 125th Avenue;
20. Lexington Avenue and 109th Avenue;
21. Lexington Avenue and Pheasant Ridge Drive;
22. Lexington Avenue and Ball Road;

c. "Median" means a paved or unpaved area dividing a street or highway that separates lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions, or, in the case of separated turn lanes, vehicles traveling in the same direction.

d. "Roadway" means both the travelled portion and median of a street or highway.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITION.

a. No person shall be on a median within 300 feet of a high-traffic intersection unless the person is in the process of legally crossing the roadway through a safety zone or crosswalk. This prohibition applies to both the median on the arterial roadway and the median on the intersecting roadway. A person shall not be considered in the process of legally crossing a roadway, and it shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section, if a person stays on a median through two consecutive opportunities to cross the roadway in accordance with the crossing signal and state law. This may include a change in the traffic control signal or lack of traffic, as applicable.

b. No operator of a motor vehicle shall park, stop, or leave standing a vehicle at any high traffic intersection where prohibited or suddenly decrease the speed of said vehicle or deviate from a traffic lane for the purpose of responding to a person violating subdivision (a).

SECTION 3. EXCEPTIONS. The prohibitions in Section 2 shall not apply to any of the following:

a. Any person engaged in law enforcement or rescue activities, including aiding an injured or disabled vehicle or person;

b. Any person engaged in the emergency repair of their vehicle;

c. Any public works staff or public contractor engaged in the maintenance, repair or improvement of a roadway or related to public facilities, or public utility workers installing, maintaining, repairing, or removing public utilities; or

d. Streets or portions thereof that have been closed pursuant to a street use permit or other express authorization from the City.

SECTION 4. PENALTY. Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

ECKBERG LAMMERS MEMO

To:	City Council and City Manager
From:	Chris Nelson and Anneliese McCahery, City Attorney's Office
Date:	February 23, 2021
Re:	Background on Median Safety Ordinance

Background on the Median Safety Ordinance

At the upcoming City Council Workshop on March 1, 2021, the Council will discuss a draft Median Safety Ordinance. The City Attorney's Office worked with the Blaine Police Department to produce the draft Ordinance before the Council for consideration.

The draft Median Safety Ordinance arose out of Police and resident concerns about pedestrians standing for long periods within certain high-traffic intersections in the City. As noted in the draft Ordinance, there are several high-traffic, high-speed arterial roadways in the City. Blaine Police have identified certain intersections of high-traffic, high-speed arterial roadways and other roads as potentially dangerous for pedestrians. Blaine Police and residents have noted pedestrians stand at these particular intersections, including within the medians that divide the roadways, creating a high-risk of collisions. Pedestrians standing in roadway medians are at a high risk of being struck by a vehicle, which could result in severe injury to the pedestrian, the motorist, and any passengers, along with property damage.

Blaine Police have identified 22 specific intersections within the City that pose a particularly high-risk of pedestrian/vehicle collision. In an effort to reduce this risk and keep pedestrians, motorists, and passengers safe, the Median Safety Ordinance prohibits pedestrians from standing within the 22 identified high-risk intersections in the City. The Ordinance prohibits a pedestrian from standing in medians at these intersections. A pedestrian is not prohibited from crossing the street as directed by traffic signals, but if a pedestrian stands in the medians for a duration longer than two crosswalk signals, then the pedestrian violates the Median Safety Ordinance. Additionally, the Ordinance prohibits motorists from stopping their vehicles to address pedestrians who are standing in medians.

The purpose of this ordinance is pedestrian, motorist, passenger, and vehicle safety. The City Attorney's Office and the Blaine Police Department consider the draft Median Safety Ordinance specifically designed to promote public safety at 22 identified high-risk intersections. The ordinance is not intended to prohibit any other lawful activity and is not designed to prohibit so-called panhandling in the City. Rather, the draft Ordinance states that pedestrians cannot stand within these 22 specifically identified medians, in an effort to reduce the high risk of collision that exists in the identified intersections.

In discussions with the Blaine Police Department, any enforcement of the Median Safety Ordinance will begin with education. Police will inform any pedestrian standing in a high-risk intersection that the Median Safety Ordinance prohibits such activity and instruct the pedestrian to move. For persons repeatedly violating the Ordinance and fostering an ongoing traffic risk, the Police have the option to cite the pedestrian with a misdemeanor violation. The City Attorney's Office and Police Department propose adding a violation of the Median Safety Ordinance to the local payable fines list, with a minimal corresponding fine.