

RESOLUTION NO. 19-24

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE RELOCATION OF THE NORTHTOWN
TRANSIT CENTER**

WHEREAS, the cities of Spring Lake Park and Blaine share a common boundary at the centerline of Sanburnol Drive; and

WHEREAS, since the Mall's construction in 1972, the residential neighborhood along Sanburnol Drive and Northtown Mall have co-existed; and

WHEREAS, Metro Transit established a transit center at Northtown Mall, located along Minnesota Trunk Highway 47 between 85th Avenue and Anoka County State Aid Highway 3 to serve as a hub for transit serving the north metro; and

WHEREAS, over 300 busses per day stop at the Northtown Transit Center, with bus stops beginning before 5am in the morning and routes ending after midnight; and

WHEREAS, the current Transit Center is located on both Mall property and Metro Transit property; and

WHEREAS, Washington Prime Group has terminated its lease with Metro Transit and is seeking the relocation of the Northtown Transit Center to an overflow parking lot abutting Sanburnol Drive, allowing them to add additional retail pads along University Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of the Northtown Transit Center to Sanburnol Drive would be detrimental to the citizens of Spring Lake Park, increasing traffic volumes, creating offensive odors, fumes, noise and vibration from the idling busses, and diminishing property values; all of which will negatively impact the quality of life of the Spring Lake Park residents living along Sanburnol Drive; and

WHEREAS, there are other alternative sites on the Northtown Mall property along Northtown Drive that would be more suitable for the relocation of the Northtown Transit Center without the negative impacts created at the Sanburnol site.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK, MINNESOTA THAT THE CITY COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE RELOCATION OF THE NORTHTOWN TRANSIT CENTER TO SANBURNOL DRIVE AND ENCOURAGES METRO TRANSIT AND WASHINGTON PRIME GROUP TO IDENTIFY AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION FOR THE TRANSIT CENTER.

The foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember .

Upon roll call, the following voted aye:

And the following voted nay: . .

Whereupon the Mayor declared said resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of August, 2019.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Robinson, Patricia

From: James Nash <JamesNash08@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 7:42 AM
To: Robinson, Patricia
Subject: Case: 19-0035

I am emailing you about the case to move the bus line at Northtown mall over to the lot across the road from my house. This is a terrible idea as it would be way to close to the residential houses in this area. The bus stop has drug users who just site at the bus stop asking people for money and know one needs that right across from their house. Also this would create unnecessary noise and congestion in a spot that already has very high congestion.

Signed
James Nash of 358

Robinson, Patricia

From: Tamara Erickson (US - IFS) <tamara.d.erickson@pwc.com>
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Robinson, Patricia
Cc: rnelson@slpmn.org; rep.erin.koegel@house.mn
Subject: Case 19-0035, Northtown Mall Land Transfer

Dear Pat - I'm writing to you in response to Case 19-0035, the petition to subdivide Northtown Mall parcels in preparation for relocating the transit facility currently located between Northtown Mall and University Avenue. I strongly oppose this initial plat subdivide, as it will only lead to the construction of a transit facility across the street from my house at 466 Sanburnol Drive in Spring Lake Park.

I commute to/from the Northtown transit facility on weekdays and enjoy the convenience. Having said that, transit centers are noisy and feel unsafe. I've noticed the Northtown "bus stop" attracts people who engage in less than desirable behaviour. I've seen people sleeping on the benches in the morning and apparent homeless people in the shelters with shopping carts filled with their possessions in the afternoons. I've seen arguments and physical fights. Fellow commuters have had their cars broken into while they were parked there. I realize this likely happens at many transit centers in the Minneapolis metro, and I haven't yet been the victim of a crime while waiting for a bus or using the park and ride facility. I think the transit facility is exactly where it should be now (bordered by public roads and the mall and no homes) and I DO NOT want the transit center and the noise and the traffic and everything it's likely to attract right across the street from where I live. Would you? Would anybody?

When I bought my house in Spring Lake Park nearly twenty years ago, Northtown Mall was already there and I chose to move there anyways. I would not choose to live across the street from a transit

center and this preliminary subdivide petition, if approved, will almost certainly lead to the transit center's construction/relocation across the street from my house. I believe it would have a negative impact on our neighborhood for the above-stated reasons and I strongly oppose it.

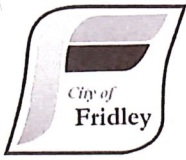
Thank you for your time. If you have questions, please contact me at tamara.d.erickson@pwc.com (work email), terickson466@gmail.com (personal email) or by telephone at 763-229-7731.

Sincerely,

Tamara Erickson
466 Sanburnol Drive NE
Minneapolis MN 55432

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Tamara D Erickson
PwC | Administrative
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September 6, 2019

Honorable Mayor Ryan
City of Blaine
10801 Town Square Dr NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Subject: Northtown Transit Center

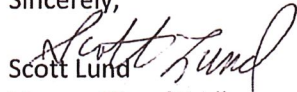
Dear Mayor Ryan,

A recent ABC newspaper article brought the proposed change in location of the Northtown Transit Center to our attention. While the City of Spring Lake Park is opposed to this change, locating the transit center on the southern end of the Northtown Mall property would be beneficial to many transit users living in the City of Fridley. Therefore, the City of Fridley asks that the City of Blaine place priority in your decision making on the people that this transit center serves.

While the current location of the Northtown Transit Center provides a convenient access to shopping at the Mall for bus riders, its central location exacerbates congestion in this part of the mall. In addition, there is no safe walking or biking access to the current location for residents of the 470 apartment units located across the highway from the Mall. When the City of Fridley had grant funding many years ago for trail improvements along 85th Avenue, efforts were made to get a paved path on the east side of University Avenue to connect to the trail on the Fridley side of the intersection. Legal counsel for the owner of Northtown Mall at the time, however, refused to allow construction of a sidewalk or trail in the southeast corner of the 85th Avenue/University Avenue intersection for liability reasons. It is unfortunate that a trail connection does not exist around the storm water pond in that corner, as it would provide safe pedestrian access to the proposed location to move the transit center to the south end of Northtown's property. If the Transit Center move occurs as proposed, the City of Fridley requests that pedestrian connections be provided from the 85th/University intersection.

Fridley's most pressing concern about the future access of the Northtown Transit Center is it is a critical component in Columbia Heights and Fridley receiving a Bus Rapid Transit line on University Avenue. The proposed route for the Central BRT line is designed to terminate at the Northtown Transit Center. This connection will be key to alleviating traffic on University Avenue, which is projected to worsen significantly as the region grows. Please consider the concerns of Fridley representatives as you move forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Scott Lund
Mayor, City of Fridley

CC: George Serumgard, Senior Project Manager, Metro Transit
Daniel Buchholtz, City of Spring Lake Park