

City of St. Anthony
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Minutes
JANUARY 13, 2026

Present:

Mayor & Council:

Mayor Wendy Webster, Councilmembers Lona Doolan, Nadia Elnagdy, Jan Jenson, and Thomas Randle.

Absent: None.

Staff:

City Manager Charlie Yunker, Assistant City Manager Ashley Morello, and Sustainability Coordinator Minette Saulog.

Others: None.

Call to Order:

Mayor Webster called the Work Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of CC WS Meeting Minutes.

A. December 9, 2025, City Council Work Session Minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Doolan, seconded by Councilmember Jenson, to approve the City Council Work Session Minutes of December 9, 2025, as presented.

Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Councilmember Elnagdy, seconded by Councilmember Jenson, to approve the Work Session agenda as amended, adding Item B. Council Discussion on Immigration Concerns.

Motion carried 5-0.

2. Work Session Topics.

A. Active Transportation Plan Draft.

Sustainability Coordinator Minette Saulog reviewed a PowerPoint including Active Transportation Plan Process, Reminders, Draft Review – Active Transportation Plan, Plan Contents, Plan Vision, Active Transportation Network – Recommended Citywide Connections, Priority Infrastructure Projects, Project Actions – High Priority, Project Actions – Medium Priority, Project Actions – Low Priority, Policy Actions, Program Actions, Practice Actions, and Next Steps. Also provided for Council consideration are the Active Transportation Memo, the Active Transportation Plan Presentation, and the Draft Active Transportation Plan. MNDOT provides an active transportation grant and this program to make improvements to walking, biking, and rolling in communities throughout Minnesota. The grant provided the City with consultants. The proposed project was identified through public engagement and working with the local Planning Team throughout the past year.

The Plan Vision is to have a safe, connected, sustainable, and equitable active transportation network that promotes mode choice, improves quality of life and environmental outcomes, and serves people of all ages and abilities.

There are three recommended Citywide Connections to the Active Transportation Network: Off-Road Shared-Use Path, On-Road Separated Bicycle Lane, and On-Road Bicycle Boulevard. The connections were indicated on a map. The Priority Infrastructure Projects include Stinson Blvd, Silver Lake Rd, 36th Avenue at Silver Lake Road, and St. Anthony Blvd at Kenzie Terrace/Silver Lake Road and at New Brighton Blvd/County Road 88. Ms. Saulog reviewed Project Actions for each project. The Final draft of the Active Transportation Plan will be presented to Council for approval and formal adoption at an upcoming City Council Meeting. Planning and executing a temporary demonstration project that is included with planning assistance grant activities (MnDOT budgeted \$10,000 - \$15,000) will occur in the Spring/Summer of 2026. Conversations will be initiated with Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, and other agency partners as indicated in the plan. Ongoing monitoring will occur to research other funding opportunities applicable to projects listed in the AT Plan.

Mayor Webster thanked Ms. Saulog for her presentation.

Councilmember Randle asked if the amount of the grant would cover all the high priorities. Ms. Saulog stated the grant covered the development of the grant and the demonstration process. The funding for the projects is to be determined.

Councilmember Doolan thanked Ashley and Minette for the design sessions. This reflects what we have heard from residents. She asked if time indicates the priority. Ms. Saulog stated that all projects have been prioritized, and a feasible schedule has been indicated. More discussions need to occur. Ms. Morello stated that a lot of the roadways prioritized are not City roads. The plan will give us leverage when having discussions with other agencies.

Councilmember Jenson inquired about safe routes to schools, and crossing Silver Lake Road at 36th Avenue has been a longstanding issue. He asked how high that crossing is in the priorities. Ms. Saulog stated that it was a common theme in the input received. Some jurisdictional things need to be addressed. Ms. Morello stated that the Safe Routes to Schools program has several grant opportunities.

Councilmember Doolan asked about the County's involvement and whether they were involved. Ms. Saulog stated there were representatives from Ramsey County. Conversations have started. Ms. Morello stated that St. Anthony engineers coordinate with the Counties routinely. The plan will be passed on to the engineers for discussion.

Mayor Webster stated this is valuable in goal-setting sessions beginning tomorrow.

B. Council Discussion on Immigration Concerns.

Mayor Webster stated she has a strong value for how people are treated. She invited those residents in attendance stay and meet with the Council for discussions between 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. this evening, and return for Open Forum during the Regular Council Meeting if they desire.

Councilmember Elnagdy recommends the City take a two or three-pronged approach to address the immigration need, including a dedicated resource on the website, a formal statement affirming the Council's commitment to lawful and non-discriminatory practices, and a Town Hall hosted by the City. Council needs to establish a vetted resource hub.

Councilmember Jenson stated Council is in the business of service delivery and information. It is important to have information on our website.

Councilmember Randle stated he has no issues with providing information but asked where the line is drawn. We cannot give training and advice that we are not qualified to provide. The Council is not activists. We need to be careful about how we do this and protect ourselves as well.

Councilmember Doolan stated she agrees something needs to be done to help our neighbors, but asked what that is and how we can help our neighbors. She asked if more focus is being given to our residents. Would a separation ordinance provide the desired result, and how would it affect what our Police Department can do? A separation ordinance would put a lot of stress on our Police Department. Another City had a training session, not sponsored by the City, organized by another group.

Mayor Webster stated she supports a webpage that directs our residents to vetted information and resources at this time. The Police Department's goal is to create trust within the community, and they will not ask about the immigration status of our residents. The current conditions are decreasing our trust in law enforcement.

Councilmember Elnagdy stated the City would be presenting neutral, fact-based information. We will foster an opportunity for our residents to be trained. We would be empowering residents to take lawful action against unlawful actions. The threat is real for everyone. Keeping everyone aware of their rights.

Mayor Webster stated that at this moment, we will be relying on community partners. One of the pastors of our faith community is organizing training for our residents. How do we best connect our community members to those needing assistance? Care needs to be taken not to put too much information on a website that can be used for evil.

Councilmember Randle stated he trusts what he sees and what he views with his own eyes. Who do we trust? He asked how much information should be provided. He sees no harm in putting people in touch with others who can help. We need to be careful. People he has spoken to do not feel safe.

Councilmember Doolan believes we can put statements and information on a website as a City. She can be helpful in sharing information and being an information source. She can do so much more as an individual.

Mayor Webster summarized that there is consensus for having resource information on the City's website.

Councilmember Elnagdy stated that when it comes to information provided, providing links to vetted non-profit organizations would not be overstepping. Information such as what an official warrant looks like, what our police officer uniforms look like, our police vehicles, etc., would be important.

Councilmember Doolan stated she is looking at the most effective actions the City can take to help residents and support each other.

Councilmember Randle asked if there has been any ICE presence in St. Anthony, and Mr. Yunker stated there has been. There are multiple channels passing on information.

Councilmember Doolan mentioned a speech by Chief O'Hara.

Mayor Webster read the statement in full that was provided for Council consideration. She asked for Council input. Councilmember Jenson stated he is in favor of moving forward with the statement. Councilmember Doolan stated it is the least we can do. Councilmember Elnagdy drafted the statement and noted this is a safe version. There is room to be more explicit. Councilmember Jenson suggested getting started with this statement. Councilmember Randle stated that if staff is on board and we can do this, he would have no issues. Mayor Webster stated that City Staff will take care of this website. This Statement will be approved at a Council meeting in two weeks.

Council is comfortable creating the webpage at this time.

Future Agenda Items:

The next Work Session Meeting will be held on January 27, 2026.

Adjournment:

Mayor Webster adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.