



**METRO Blue Line Extension
Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Hearing
Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Date & Time	July 23, 2024 10:00 – 12:00 PM
Location	Brooklyn Park Library, 8500 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55445
Attendees/Presenter	Reva Chamblis, Marion Greene, Neha Damle

1. Project History

Reva Chamblis, Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan Council, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Supplement Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Public Hearing and the special meeting of the Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole (COW) to order at 10:04 AM. She welcomed members of the public and invited Hennepin County Commissioners to introduce themselves. Commissioner Marion Greene introduced herself as the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority commissioner.

Vice-Chair Chamblis explained that the public hearing provided an opportunity for verbal testimonies on the SDEIS. Vice-Chair Chamblis noted that because a quorum of the Metropolitan Council might attend, the hearing also served as a special meeting of the Council’s committee, though no business would be transacted.

Before opening the floor for public testimonies, Vice-Chair Chamblis announced that Neha Damle, BLE Environmental Lead, Metropolitan Council would provide an overview of the BLE Project.

2. About the SDEIS

Ms. Damle informed that she would provide an overview of the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) project history, information about the SDEIS, and an overview of the build alternatives.

Ms. Damle reviewed the process for public testimonies for today’s meeting.

3. Build Alternative

Ms. Damle provided an overview of the BLE project history noting that the original BLE has undergone a decade of planning, beginning in 2014 with the publication of the Draft



Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which led to the 2016 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the previous BLE alignment phase.

Ms. Damle reported that in 2020 the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County decided to advance the BLE alignment without using the freight rail right-of-way, which prompted the preparation and publication of the route modification report. Because of the modified route, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was recommended to be prepared. Ms. Damle shared that the BLE route will extend the current Blue Line light rail from downtown Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park, serving the communities of Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park.

Ms. Damle outlined the topics that were studied in the SDEIS and additionally noted that this document also studies topics such as Section 4(f), Section 106, and utilities including Xcel transmission line. Ms. Damle further indicated that this comment period will also serve to accept comments on Section 4(f) study included in the SDEIS.

4. **How to Comment**

Vice-Chair Chamblis thanked Ms. Damle for providing an overview of the BLE project and then invited members of the public to line up and share their comments, each within a three-minute time frame.

5. **Next Step**

Vice-Chair Chamblis concluded the public hearing and adjourned the July 23 SDEIS public hearing and the special meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole at 12:02 PM.

Minutes by: Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead, Jer Yang