



## METRO Blue Line Extension Business Advisory Committee (BAC)

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	April 8, 2025	8:00 – 9:30 AM
<b>Location</b>	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	
<b>BAC Members</b>	Dan Doerr, Tara Watson, John Barobs, John Hacker, Michael Wnek, Sabrina Williams, KB Brown, Chris Webley, Rattana Sengsoulichanh	
<b>Project Staff</b>	Alicia Vap, Ryan Kronzer, Kelcie Young, Nkongo Cigolo, Joleen Ketterling, Kaja Vang, Joanna Ocasio-Maisonet, Jer Yang	

### 1. Call to Order and Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Tara Watson, Business Advisory Committee (BAC) Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 8:07am and welcomed members to the meeting.

Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council introduced two new Blue Line Extension (BLE) staff members. Alicia Vap joined the BLE as Project Director and Anna Beth Gunderson as Station and Facilities Design Lead. Mr. Cigolo asked for members to introduce themselves.

### 2. Approval of February 4, 2025, BLRT BAC Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Watson asked for a motion to the February 4, 2025 BAC Meeting minutes.

John Hacker moved to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by John Barobs. The minutes were officially approved.

### 3. Environmental Update

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council provided an environmental update, noting that the BLE project continues to develop the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS). Ms. Young shared that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is currently reviewing the document. In addition, Ms. Young mentioned that the project team is closely monitoring federal policy updates and working with the FTA to ensure alignment under the new administration.

Ms. Young explained that there were some updates that were needed in the SFEIS to align new executive orders. Ms. Young noted that the strategies to address impacts discussed with BAC previously are still part of the proposed mitigation strategies within the SFEIS.

Ms. Young added that the BLE project continues to make progress on the SFEIS, with publication expected this summer, followed by a public comment period and an amended



Record of Decision (ROD) anticipated in August 2025.

Co-Chair Watson asked how these updates would impact project commitments. Ms. Young responded that the BLE team continues to pursue funding for the project, and that strategies to address impacts are part of the project.

Mr. Cigolo added that the Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP) Board continues to make progress and noted that the ACPP Board may be eligible to assist in any fund that is not covered by the project.

#### **4. Design Update**

Ryan Kronzer, Metropolitan Council provided an overview of the BLE 60% Design Deliverable plans and stated that today's meeting members will receive design plans for Brooklyn Park and Crystal, with Brooklyn Park scheduled for release in May and Crystal in June. Release plans for Robbinsdale are expected in July, followed by Minneapolis and Lowry Station in late July to early August.

Mr. Kronzer pointed out that the current designs represent only 60% completion and that many elements are still in development.

Mr. Kronzer began the design deliverable overview at the northern end of Brooklyn Park, starting with the Oak Grove Park & Ride (P&R), then moving south to the 85th Avenue Station and the 63rd Avenue P&R.

Mr. Kronzer also reviewed the design elements for the Bass Lake Road Station along County Road 81 in Crystal, noting there are still more design elements to add.

#### **5. Schedule Update**

Mr. Kronzer reviewed the BLE 2025 project schedule and noted that the SFEIS is anticipated for publication in summer 2025. Mr. Kronzer highlighted ongoing efforts to advance the 60% Design Development Review, along with preparations for the FTA rating submittal, and updates to cost and ridership estimates.

Mr. Cigolo added that the Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meetings have been scaled down to just five meetings this year. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025, and will focus on design updates and the SFEIS. The July meeting will center on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the cost schedule.

#### **6. Engagement Update**

Mr. Cigolo provided an overview of the outreach engagement efforts metrics from August 2020 – March 2025.

- Hosted 933 events
- 80,000 reaches on social media platforms



- Approximately 250,000 postcards mailed
- Over 7,000 emails and phone calls were made

Mr. Cigolo shared that the Outreach Team is committed to ongoing engagement with businesses and property owners along the corridor, aiming to build trust with the community as the project moves forward in its design phase.

**7. Discussion and Members Feedback (Co-Chairs)**

Co-Chair Watson shared her concerns about early fundings from the ACPP Board.

**8. Next Meeting: May 6, 2025**

**9. Adjourn**

Co-Chair Watson concluded the meeting and adjourned it at 9:03 am.

Comments and Chat in Teams Chat:

Cigolo, Nkongo 8:39 AM



[METRO Blue Line Extension Cultural Placekeeping Design Groups Survey](#)



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Sabrina Williams (Unverified) 8:41 AM



Dr. Watson I was thinking the same thing.

CW (Unverified) 9:03 AM



Is there any timeline on when the displacement dollars will start deploying?

Cigolo, Nkongo 9:04 AM



Not yet. That will be made available soon.

Submitted by Recording Secretary: Jer Yang