

Charter of the METRO Blue Line Extension Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

OVERVIEW

The METRO Blue Line Extension (BLRT) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is established to provide guidance to the BLRT Corridor Management Committee (CMC) on community issues during the project development phases of BLRT. Appointments to the CAC will serve commencing early in 2021 until a community supported alignment is identified for environmental review and engineering advancement, taking approximately a year.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the CAC is to serve as a voice for the community and advise the Metropolitan Council's BLRT Corridor Management and the Hennepin County Community Works Steering Committees:

1. Provide input on project development as staff works to mitigate the use of freight railroad property.
2. Advise on communications and outreach strategies related to BLRT.
3. Provide input on possible routing solutions, including opportunities and impacts.
4. Identify opportunities to improve community benefits from the BLRT project and to improve project planning and design to maximize positive community impacts.
5. Identify potential issues and review strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of project development on residences and businesses.
6. Provide input on Community Works initiatives, as requested.
7. Serve as an information resource and liaison to the greater corridor community and their appointing organization.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Each member of the BLRT CAC agrees to:

1. Attend a majority of CAC meetings and actively participate in discussions by sharing ideas and expertise.
2. Actively participate in discussions; be a voice to advance the broader interests of community.
3. Routinely report back to their organization on the activities and discussions of the CAC.
4. Serve as a conduit of information to the broader community.
5. Identify opportunities to improve the project and maximize community benefits.
6. Identify negative community impacts and assist in developing strategies for minimizing those impacts.
7. Listen to and respect the viewpoints of others.

MEMBERSHIP

Appointments to the CAC will serve commencing early in 2021 until a community supported alignment is identified for environmental review and engineering advancement, which will be in approximately a year.

Members need to be residents of the city or county region of the appointing organization. Members cannot be employees or elected officials from the appointing body.

Membership is intended to represent the diverse interests and stakeholders in the Blue Line Extension project study area. Specifically, membership will be appointed as follows:

Appointing Agency	Details	Members
City of Brooklyn Park	City resident living within the study area	3
City of Crystal	City resident living within the study area	2
City of Robbinsdale	City resident living within the study area	2
City of Golden Valley	City resident living within the study area	2
City of Minneapolis	City resident living within the study area	3
Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board	City resident living within the study area	1
Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee	Committee member	1
Hennepin County	Appoints targeted individuals to increase representation: at large	3
Metropolitan Council	Appoints targeted individuals to increase representation: at large	3

If an appointed member is no longer able to participate actively in the CAC, the organization that appointed that person will be notified and allowed to name a replacement.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

One CAC Co-Chair will serve as a member of the CMC and provide updates of CAC activities at CMC meetings. The other Co-Chair will act as alternate to the CMC.

As an advisory body that deliberates on consensus, the Co-Chairs will bring the majority viewpoint as well as dissenting viewpoints and corresponding issues to the CMC. As an advisory body representing multiple interests and viewpoints the role of the committee Co-Chairs will be to facilitate collaboration and represent the variety of opinions, desires and concerns.

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

The CAC membership appoints the Co-Chairs and the method in which to appoint them. The Co-Chairs are charged with ensuring corridor-wide perspectives are present when offering guidance to steering committees; lead committees through their tasks and ensure charter compliance; identify topics/issues of committee concern; and develop meeting agendas with Blue Line Extension Project Management Team.

Co-Chairs should be willing to respectfully and with merit represent views that are not their own when they report to the CMC. They will also focus discussion facilitation on ensuring full participation from all members, such as encouraging those that have not contributed to do so and working through disagreements to reach the best possible outcome.

MEETINGS

The CAC will schedule monthly meetings on the first Wednesday before Corridor Management Committee (second Thursday of month) from 6:00-8:00 PM. Agendas and meeting summaries will be distributed to all members before the meeting and posted on the project's website at BlueLineExt.org. Post meeting, meeting materials/presentations and approved meeting summaries will be posted on the project's website: BlueLineExt.org.

Due to the timeliness of topics, additional meetings, subcommittees meetings and focus groups may be scheduled as needed.

To facilitate communication and a sharing of ideas and information, the CAC will meet jointly at least once each year with the Business Advisory Committee (BAC). This meeting will replace a regularly scheduled CAC meeting.