

METRO Blue Line Extension Project Decision Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	August 21, 2024 9:00 – 10:30 am
Location	Blue Line Extension Project Office, North Conference Room, 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 600, St Louis Park, MN 55426
Members	Irene Fernando, Lisa Cerney, Reva Chamblis, Ben Schweigert, Lisa Carney, Marion Greene
Project Staff	Shahin Khazrajafari, Nick Landwer, Cathy Gold, Kelcie Young, Nkongo Cigolo, Jer Yang

1. Call To Order

Irene Fernando, Vice-Chair, Hennepin County, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decision Board (PDB) meeting to order at 9:07 am, and welcomed members and members of the public to the meeting. Vice-Chair Fernando allowed members to introduced themselves.

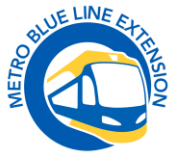
2. Minutes from July 17 Meeting

Vice-Chair Fernando asked for a motion to approve the July 17, 2024 PDB minutes. Reva Chamblis, Council Member (CM), Metropolitan Council (MetC), motioned to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Marion Greene, Commissioner, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA). The minutes were officially approved.

3. Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS)

Kelcie Young, MetC, reported that the comment period for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) has closed, and the Environmental team is now working on the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS).

Ms. Young provided an update on the mitigation workplan, explaining that it will be a two-page handout outlining the steps to develop the BLE Project’s SFEIS mitigation measures. Ms. Young noted that the workplan is process-driven and focused on finalizing the SFEIS. Ms. Young mentioned that the workplan will be released in a few weeks and shared with corridor cities, the Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program Board (ADCPPB), other organizations, and on the BLE Project’s website.



Commissioner Greene asked when there would be an update on feedback received from the SDEIS. Ms. Young responded that sharing this information will be an ongoing process, with plans to provide updates through Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meetings or at upcoming PDB meetings as needed.

Vice-Chair Fernando followed up, seeking clarification on whether the mitigation measures would be included within the SFEIS. Ms. Young explained that the mitigation workplan is part of the process to inform the project's next steps, so the mitigation measures can be committed to in the SFEIS.

Commissioner Greene expressed interest in knowing when policymakers would be informed if any major concerns arise from public hearings or feedback. Ms. Young acknowledged that while there has been a lot of positive feedback, some comments from agencies do require follow-up coordination.

4. Municipal Consent

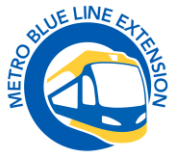
Shahin Khazrajafari, Hennepin County reported that the BLE Project is currently in the Municipal Consent phase, with design plans shared with the corridor cities on July 26, 2024. He mentioned that a joint public hearing, hosted by MetC, Hennepin County, and HCRRA, is scheduled for August 26, 2024. This public hearing will also be part of the PDB and Hennepin County Board quorum.

Mr. Khazrajafari reviewed the public hearing and voting consent dates provided by each corridor city. He noted that the City of Crystal held its public hearing and open house yesterday, August 20, 2024.

Mr. Khazrajafari explained that the goal is to receive municipal consent votes by October 10, 2024.

5. Procurement Strategy

Mr. Khazrajafari reported that during the April 2024 PDB meeting, the BLE Project shared its ongoing activities and discussed the Best Value strategy in comparison to the low-price design bid build approach. At the April meeting, the BLE Project also introduced recommendations for considering the Best Value approach. Since then, a series of workshops has been conducted with MetC Procurement and the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (OEEO), Hennepin County, MnDOT, and construction subject matter experts. Mr. Khazrajafari noted that these workshops focused on contract packaging and reviewing the overall alignment, narrowing down the options to three contract packaging strategies. The BLE Project is now in the phase of seeking industry feedback on these three strategies.



Mr. Khazrajafari explained that the purpose of the contract packaging strategies is to reduce industry risk and barriers. He highlighted that the contract packaging was advertised on the MetC Procurement website on August 19, 2024, and noted that it will be advertised nationally to attract more interest.

Mr. Khazrajafari added that the Request for Industries Feedback (RFIF) process will continue for the next three months. He shared that the BLE Project will hold a pre-brief conference on August 29, 2024, with the goal of receiving feedback from subject matter experts by September 27, 2024. Additionally, an in-person session is planned for October 2024 after the Municipal Consent process ends. Mr. Khazrajafari mentioned that the BLE Project will offer opportunities for one-on-one sessions and aims to finalize the contract packaging strategy by November 2024, with a presentation to the PDB following its completion.

Vice-Chair Fernando asked whether this strategy is necessary for a project of this size. Mr. Khazrajafari responded that while this process has not been done at MetC before, it has been used by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and is intended to improve the delivery method and reduce risk. He clarified that this strategy is tailored to the scope of the project.

Vice-Chair Fernando suggested that clearly naming the intended outcome would be helpful for the review. Nick Landwer, MetC added that the purpose is to engage the contractor early in the design process and incorporate their feedback into the design.

Lisa Carney, Hennepin County noted that this approach directly aligns with the goals of the Anti-Displacement workforce efforts.

6. Next Meeting: September 18, 2024

7. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Fernando the meeting and adjourned it at 9:38am.

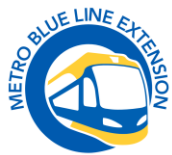
Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda, August 21, 2024

Meeting Minutes, July 17, 2024

PDB PowerPoint Presentation

Respectfully Submitted,
Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead



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