



## METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee

September 10, 2015

Rockford Road Library

6401 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North

Crystal, MN 55427

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Adam Duininck, Lona Schreiber, Meg Forney, Jeffrey Lunde, Jim Adams, Shep Harris, Betsy Hodges, Regan Murphy, Marika Pfefferkorn, Shauen Pearce, Denny Walsh, Chris Berne, Denise Butler, Barbara Johnson

**1. Call to Order: Chair Adam Duininck called the September 10, 2015 meeting to order at 1:05 pm.**

**2. Approval of August 13, 2015 Minutes**

Commissioner Meg Forney made the motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Harris seconded motion. August 13, 2015 minutes approved.

**3. Outreach Update- Sam O'Connell**

Sam O'Connell provided update on recent open houses.

- In July and August, over 260 residents attended open houses. 125 comments were received through a comment card method. Main concerns are traffic, parking, safety and security. All feedback is posted on website.
- Target is mid-October for presenting Environmental issues.
- **Commissioner Harris** thanked Outreach for coordinating Golden Valley meetings. There will be an additional open house in Golden Valley, per Sam O'Connell.
- Today the new CAC and BAC committee members are present and Chair Duininck asked for introductions around the table. Chris Berne, the CAC chair, and Denny Walsh, the BAC chair, were welcomed to the committee.

**4. Robbinsdale Station –TI #6- Alicia Vap**

Alicia Vap provided update on Robbinsdale Station.

- Slide 9 was reviewed. Analyzed potential to grade separate pedestrian crossing at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. Grade separation on south side impacts residential and institutional (Sacred Heart parking lot)
- Continue to advance design and safety measures for at-grade design.
- Slide 14-addressed the issue of visibility into the Downtown area if track is elevated. Recommendation is for center platform/passenger drop-off. Park and Ride with 550 parking spots (4 story design discussed).

- **Mayor Hodges** questioned plan to develop EMI/Asian grocery/Metro Transit properties.
- **Mayor Regan** gave kudos to the consultants design rendering offered in July. He expressed that the tan area on slide 17 should be privately owned.

Traffic improvements at the Robbinsdale Station were reviewed and include:

- Left- turn lanes on West Broadway to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North
- Left-turn phasing on West Broadway and westbound on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
- Retiming the West Broadway and 42<sup>nd</sup> traffic signal to optimize operations
- With these improvements, traffic should run more smoothly.

## 5. West Broadway Crossing-TI #7- Nick Landwer

Nick Landwer reviewed slide 24 regarding the West Broadway crossing in Crystal. Issues to resolve include:

- Medians-not quiet zone ready
  - Proposed cul-de-sac (slide 27) reviewed
  - Provide for safe pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle crossing
  - Maintain access to neighborhoods on east and west sides
  - Maintain continuity of the County Road
  - Limit property impacts
- **Mayor Regan** asked about the crumbling paths and walkways and whether the project is including new sidewalks in plan. This is not part of the plan at this time, per Nick Landwer.
  - **Chris Berne** (CAC Chair) commented that a visually impaired/disabled attendee at the recent CAC spoke of concerns as well.
  - **Mayor Adams** wanted to add that the City of Crystal appreciates all the work done in Crystal. Nick Landwer added that the project will continue coordination with City of Crystal and Hennepin County.

## 6. Oak Grove Parkway-TI #11 Nick Landwer

Nick Landwer reviewed the DEIS plans (slide 29 and 30) and issues and concerns:

- determine the location of LRT station north of TH 610
- determine location of park and ride facility
- determine roadway and utility network necessary for BLRT opening day
- Analyze how BLRT improvement fits within future development scenarios
- Project will continue collaboration with City of Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County, Target, MnDOT.

The station location at Oak Grove Parkway is the last LRT station on the north end of project. The purple and blue lines on slide 32 represent envisioned expansion in area. Studies were done on ramp needs, between 750-800 spots, and 2 access points will be needed to location due to size.

- **Chris Berne** voiced concern over downsizing of parking spots and requests design for growth opportunities.

Nick Landwer provided recommendations for the Oak Grove Parkway that include:

- Construct West Broadway with wide center median
- Account for Xcel transmission lines
- Construct Oak Grove Parkway to from Target Campus to 101<sup>st</sup> west of OMF
- Construct Main Street and intersection to ramp
- Construct road west of Park and Ride from Oak Grove Parkway to Main Street
- Develop cost participation scenario for roadway improvements

## 7. OMF Location-TI #12 -Alicia Vap

Alicia reviewed the DEIS plan (slide 38) which included two OMF locations; one at 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North and one at 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue North/Winnetka. Private development on 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North eliminated this location.

- Property at 101<sup>st</sup> Ave North/Winnetka analyzed
  - recommended location considered preserving property for future development, avoiding wetlands, and avoiding park and trail impacts
  - size-initially proposed 14.25 acre site
  - reduced footprint by tightening track radius, realigning internal functions, and eliminating ring road
  - Recommendation –location near 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and new Xylon Avenue North in North/South orientation
  - continue to work with City on design coordination
- **Mayor Lunde** thanked the Project staff, and Hennepin County for the design and consult ideas for what is good for the area. He said he has said no to many things, but appreciates all the work put into the design and planning.

## 8. Freight Rail Update-Ryan Wilson

Ryan Wilson provided an update on BNSF Coordination with the project.

- Continuing dialogue with BNSF regarding use of corridor
  - BPO must propose improvements consistent with BNSF Commuter Principles (details presented on slide 44)
  - Ryan Wilson discussed the Monticello subdivision (36<sup>th</sup> Avenue North) and the conflicts.
  - Standards to meet BNSF requirements are applied across the country. How to apply to this project-no BNSF commitments yet.
- Commissioner Harris** asked if BNSF would install tracks prior to the BLRT project start

and how would that affect the project? Ryan stated that the BNSF is aware of our timeline and understands it.

- **Commissioner Murphy** asked the project would be able to purchase 50 ft of ROW that is in question, or sell the easement. Per Ryan Wilson, there is no discussion at this point.
- Dan Soler added we cannot propose a purchase of the property in question. Federal dollars would not be allowed; he also stated we don't need the 50 ft on the west side of tracks.
- **Commissioner Adams** stated concerns over the plans and track issue in Crystal (36<sup>th</sup> Avenue North).
- **Commissioner Forney** stated the Park Board also has concerns in this area.
- **Chair Duinck** asked how many trains use this track per week and Dan Soler responded with 4-5 trains per week.

Dan Soler presented slides on locations with poor soil suitability.

- Located commonly on BNSF corridor from TH 55 to 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- Geotechnical explorations found peat, organic clay, and soft clay often at significant depth
- Range of soil stabilization techniques necessary to support LRT and freight in some locations
- Conventional bridges discussed; Soil stabilization examples were reviewed (engineered columns and pilings-slides 48-50)
- **Commissioner Harris** questioned the underground utility lines in Golden Valley and if there had been communications with the utilities.
- **Commissioner Johnson** commented on the Golden Valley pond bridge and the range of techniques/structures.

## 9. Environmental Update

Kathryn reviewed the bridge structures and avoiding flood plain impacts.

- Environmental update on Sochacki Park and the potential for temporary impacts during construction were reviewed.
- Kathryn reviewed slide 54 of Sochacki Park and the proposed construction, access and staging that could affect the northern segment of the park, but leaving access to the southern portion of the park.

Next steps for Sochacki Park:

- Continue to engage MnDNR and NPS to complete section 6(f) of process
- Engage park stakeholders and users
- Identify options for construction us (if allowed)

These options include:

- Limitations on type and duration of activities
- Commitments to maintain access for park users

- Provisions to ensure safety of park users/staff
- Commitments for restoration after use
  
- **Mayor Murphy** asked how long the park would be closed during rail construction. Kathryn O'Brien stated the estimate is one construction season.
  
- **Commissioner Harris** asked when the decision would be made. Kathryn O'Brien explained the timeline and procedural process, and plans to meet with the DNR later this fall.
  
- **Mayor Hodges** thanked the staff for the responses to questions submitted at last meeting. She suggested inviting the BNSF staff to attend future meetings. Dan Soler stated that would be highly unlikely that BNSF Railroad would present at a CMC meeting.
  
- **Marika Pfefferkorn** stated she did not feel all questions were answered. Dan Soler invited her to contact our Outreach staff to set up a time to meet and discuss any concerns or questions she may have.

## **10. Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

Chair Duininck stated that there would possibly be additional CMC meetings in October and that once the schedule is confirmed, notice will be sent out.

## **11. Adjourn**

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.**

### **Next meeting:**

**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

**1:00-3:00 pm**

**Location : Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center**

**Gardenview Room**

**5600 85<sup>th</sup> Ave North**

**Brooklyn Park, MN 55443**