

**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)**

**Business Committee Meeting**

**February 25, 2015**

**Southwest Project Office**

**6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500**

**St. Louis Park, MN 55426**

**7:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

**Meeting Summary**

BAC Members: Dan Duffy, Bill Beard, Dave Pelter, Duane Spiegle, Gary Orcutt, Christy Swenson, Stuart Ackerberg, Tony Barranco

Agency Staff and Guests: Craig Lamothe, Sam O’Connell, Sophia Ginis, Dan Pfeiffer, Robin Cauffman, Ryan Kronzer, Katie Walker, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Alysene Nesse, Greg Hunt,

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

BAC Co-Chair Duffy opened the meeting with introductions. Members approved the meeting calendar. On staff recommendation, Co-Chair Duffy proposed that Co-Chair Roach will represent the BAC to the Corridor Management Committee with Co-Chair Duffy as alternate. Co-Chair Duffy asked if any member was interested in representing the BAC on Community Works Steering Committee, no member indicated interest, Co-Chair Duffy proposed he would represent the BAC to Community Works Steering Committee with Co-Chair Roach as alternate. Co-Chair Duffy noted that this could be revisited in the future. Members approved the charter with a correction to the start date of the two year period, Tony Barranco moved the charter and Gary Orcutt seconded.

**2. Community Works Update**

Katie Walker, Hennepin County Community Works, presented a background on Community Works, the Southwest LRT Community Works Vision, and about two aspects of building communities “Beyond the Rails”; Connected Communities and Transit Oriented Places. The goal is to maximize and leverage off the transit project to build economic development. Hennepin County Community Works has resulted in \$883 million in public and private investment, 13 acres of green space, 3 miles of waterways, 50 acres of developable land, and 19.5 miles of sidewalks/trails. Hennepin County Community Works has completed a corridor wide housing strategy and the investment framework which contains the Transitional Station Area Action Plans (TSAAP) for the 17 stations. TSAAP contains information on each individual station and is available on [www.swlrcommunityworks.org](http://www.swlrcommunityworks.org). Katie Walker then shared a marketing video created for Hopkins.

**3. Development Update**

Kathryn Hansen provided an update on development including; highlighting a report from the Government Accountability Office about the factors that influence transit oriented development (TOD), and TOD supportive conditions in Southwest LRT Corridor.

#### **4. Environmental Update**

Craig Lamothe provided an update on the environmental process. The project is still conferring with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on the release of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The SDEIS will evaluate adjustments that may result in significant adverse impact from the proposed project since publication of the DEIS, including; the Eden Prairie alignment, proposed location of the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) and the Kenilworth corridor/freight rail alignment. Craig Lamothe also presented an update on the Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act process and the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act process.

#### **5. Design and Engineering Update**

Jim Alexander provided an update on design and engineering focusing on station design, the four station prototypes, integrated public art, Kenilworth Landscape Design, and Kenilworth Channel bridge design concepts.

Duane Spiegle asked if the project receives feedback from the ADA community. Jim Alexander noted that in addition to public outreach, the project does provide updates and seek feedback from the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Stuart Ackerberg asked if the West Lake Station location has been identified. Jim Alexander noted that the alignment, grade, and station locations were identified and approved through the Municipal Consent process which was completed in August 2014.

Co-Chair Duffy asked about park-and-ride discussions. Jim Alexander noted that the project has 11 park-and-ride locations, 4 are structured.

Co-Chair Duffy noted that he used LRT twice a day for 10 years and that the project should use as much glass as possible on the stations.

#### **6. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum**

None

#### **7. Adjourn**