



Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Business Advisory Committee Meeting

December 12, 2012

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

**Park Place East, Conference Room 820
5775 Wayzata Blvd, St Louis Park, MN 55426**

BAC Members and Alternates: Brad Bakken, Curt Rahman, Daniel Duffy, Dave Pelner, Duane Peterson, Duane Spiegle, Marc Bogursky, Mark Gustafson, Scott Johnson, Rick Weiblen, Stephanie Peterson, Tim Sullivan and Will Roach.

Staff and other attendees: Chris Weyer, Mark Fuhrmann, Craig Lamothe, Nani Jacobson, Robin Cauffman, Sam O'Connell, Melanie Steinborn, Laura Bannen, Kathryn Hansen, Kerri Pearce Ruch and Greg Hunt.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Approval of the October 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

BAC Chair Will Roach called the meeting to order at 8:08 AM. Chair Roach welcomed BAC members and guests and called for the approval of the October minutes, motion was made to approve minutes. Chair Roach called attention to the December 9, 2012 Star Tribune editorial which highlighted the business case for transit investments. The editorial cites the recent work by the Itasca project concludes the return on investment on transit projects is "robust" should the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan be realized. A copy of the Itasca report summary was handed out at the meeting.

2. Light Rail Transit Funding Overview – Mark Fuhrmann and Craig Lamothe

Mark Fuhrmann provided an overview of LRT funding through a presentation. The presentation covered funding sources and shares, constraints of funding sources, the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program and current projects, federal funding for Hiawatha, Central and Northstar, federal project evaluation and rating, MAP-21 and methods to improve the New Starts rating assigned to SWLRT.

Craig Lamothe provided an overview of SWLRT's project schedule and budget through a presentation. The presentation covered the overall project schedule, current project budget, budget by cost categories, funding commitments, 2013 requested funding commitments and local and federal funding shares from 2012-2021.

Mark Fuhrmann also shared lessons learned to date from working on federal transit projects. In addition, Mark highlighted major activities in 2013 including the up-coming legislative session and the New Starts submittal.

Both presentations are posted on the project's website under the BAC meeting page.

Questions from the BAC regarding the presentation include:

- What interest rate is assumed for financing the project?
 - A. A healthy 4% rate is used for Central Corridor for budgeting purposes; it is anticipated something similar would be employed for SWLRT.
- How does the project move forward when there is no guarantee of the federal funding?

- A. The Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is the commitment from the federal government for financially supporting the project. It is anticipated the FFGA will be signed in 2015. Until then, local funding is used to support the project and demonstrate local support.

3. Topics of Interest/Future Meeting Input Discussion – Sam O’Connell

Sam O’Connell shared with the BAC the CAC topics interests that have been identified. Sam walked through a handout listing topics of interest and asked for feedback. BAC members provided the following feedback:

- Would like to know more about ridership estimate development and how land use can impact ridership numbers.
- Would like to know more about the DEIS comments and how they will influence the project.
- Would like to know more about construction impacts and how mitigation is determined in the process.

An e-mail link to a survey will be sent to members and alternates to indicate topics that are of the most concerned to them and would like to discuss at future meetings. The findings will be reported out at the January meeting.

4. Member and Committee Reports: No reports from members or other committee reports.

5. Public Forum: No comments received from the public.

6. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:27 AM. Next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2012.