



Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee

Minutes of the November 10, 2016 Meeting

Present: Adam Duinick, Lona Schreiber, Mike Opat, Jim Adams, Chris Berne, Andy Snope, Meg Forney, Peter Wagenius, Marika Pfefferkorn, Shauen Pearce-Lassiter, Linda Higgins, Scott McBride, Barbara Johnson, Peter Wagenius.

Not in attendance: Myron Frans, Betsy Hodges, Denny Walsh, Brian Lamb, Regan Murphy, Gary Cunningham, Scott Schulte, Jeffrey Lunde, Tim Willson

1. Call to Order

Chair Duinick welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 1:33 PM.

2. Chair's Update

Chair Duinick stated he had nothing to report for the chair's update today. He congratulated committee members Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat and Mayor Adams that were re-elected this week.

3. Station Design: Design Team

Alicia Vap introduced herself and provided an overview of the form and function of the proposed LRT stations. Ms. Vap reviewed the station designs and the options available to make each design specialized. The updated platform designs were reviewed, along with specific details on where the trains would stop in conjunction with the shelters and canopies. The canopies will be strategically placed to prevent rain and inclement weather affecting passengers boarding trains. The five areas of opportunities for variability include the roof edge, the underside, standard glass panel sizes, column paint color and concrete platform surface treatments. Ms. Vap discussed funding for art along the project and that the project team is open to working with community partners interested in funding the public art.

Brooklyn Park stations

Alicia Vap presented on the **Oak Grove Parkway** station in Brooklyn Park. The station plan concept integrates phrases that were developed from context and character workshops that better define the station design, with phrases "huburb", green, urban, modern and Grand Boulevard reflecting the vision and concept.

Council Member Schreiber asked how many parking spaces were planned and how did it compare to others. Ms. Vap responded that this park and ride would be one of the largest on the project.



93rd Avenue Station-Alicia Vap reviewed the station plans for 93rd Avenue in Brooklyn Park. She noted that this is the first station traveling south along the West Broadway segment in Brooklyn Park. The slides were presented and it was noted that a church had been built since the photo was taken. The majority of the land surrounding this station is industrial and could attract lifestyle choice riders. Phrases received from community workshops describing this station concept include innovation, employment destination, distance, connections needed and lifestyle. Slides were presented that outlined designs for the station including crossings and center running platforms, and along with the Oak Grove station there will be ample bike parking available.

85th Avenue Station-Alicia Vap stated the 85th Avenue station will be located by the new Hennepin County library and North Hennepin Community College. Phrases reflecting concepts for the area included pedestrian facilities, entrance to the future, campus, corridor, learning and destination. Ms. Vap reviewed slides of conditions at the proposed station site and potential designs were presented.

Brooklyn Boulevard Station-Alicia Vap continued with her presentation of the proposed plans for the stations along West Broadway. This station reflects community diversity and a busy commercial area with large and small businesses. Context and character phrases chosen to describe this community include commercial hub, diversity, visibility, vibrant, wayfinding and transit connections. Ms. Vap shared the potential designs with the committee and stated the design will be modern and provide a distinct look.

63rd Avenue Station-Alicia Vap provided updated designs for the current 63rd Avenue park and ride that originally had been built for rapid bus transit. Modifications will include an LRT platform along Hwy. 81. Context and character phrases collected from community workshops include transit need, need for plaza, create place, neighborhood, connections and clearing. Ms. Vap explained that there would be only one accessible connection to the platform, due to shared rail space with BNSF, with plans for a covered platform and stair tower. Requests for a plaza have been brought forth at previous community outreach events.

Crystal-Bass Lake Road Station-Jim Toulouse presented on updates on the design plans for the Bass Lake Road station and proposed park and ride in Crystal. The park and ride design will accommodate 150 parking spaces. Context and character phrases reflecting the community are seeking identity, Main Street, entryway, greenery, downtown, and connection to Becker Park. Mr. Toulouse stated Becker Park was influential in the design as well as feedback from the City of Crystal and their desire to make this site identifiable. There are plans for pedestrian improvements on Hwy. 81 and the asymmetrical roof design of the station will reflect the design of the nearby Crystal airport.

Robbinsdale Station-Colin Evenson presented the proposed design for the Robbinsdale station and Park and Ride. The proposed parking will accommodate 640 spaces, with 550 dedicated to transit riders and the remainder of spots replacing parking affected by the project. Context and character phrases from the community include quaint, historic, downtown feel, old commercial center, water tower, Birdtown and Main Street. Mr. Evenson reviewed drafts of the



ramp and platform design and also a pedestrian plaza across from the existing Hubbard building. This site will also have bike rack access.

Golden Valley Road Station-Kathryn O'Brien presented design proposals for the Golden Valley station site and highlighted design challenges that are a work in progress. Ms. O'Brien explained mitigation with the Park Board land and explained how the trailhead will be adjacent to a trail linked to the park and ride, continuing under the Golden Valley Road Bridge. Context and character phrases submitted by the community include crossroads, trailhead, connections, visibility, access to grand rounds, nature, gateway to Golden Valley, and neighborhood station. The design plans are influenced by historic Wirth Park Chalet.

Councilmember Snope offered a suggestion for changing the name of the station from "Plymouth Avenue" to "Theodore Wirth" station. Commissioner Forney noted that the term "Trailhead" is being used by the Loppet planning committee, Commissioner Forney asked if a bike tunnel was part of the plan for the station, and Ms. O'Brien verified that a bike tunnel is in the design proposal.

Penn Avenue Station-Shelly Miller presented on the Minneapolis stations starting with the Penn Avenue station. Ms. Miller stated the Penn Avenue station and Van White station are considered "sister stations" and will share design similarities. In reviewing the proposed design, Ms. Miller pointed out the white areas at each canopy that have the capability to light up and glow at night, providing visual interest and assistance in wayfinding. Context and character phrases reflecting this community include green, major transit corridor, neighborhoods, inviting, connectivity and community corridor.

Peter Wagenius asked if green alternatives could be added to the shadow areas along the tracks in the center median. Mr. Wagenius voiced his concerns over the removal of trees and the loss of green space. Alicia Vap responded to his questions clarifying the final plans are in the development stage and that textured pavers and water treatments were being considered. It is not known if green elements would survive in those spaces.

Councilmember Shauen Pearce-Lassiter agreed with Mr. Wagenius and said the community feedback reflects a desire to have plans that hold together the community fabric and not set barriers.

Commissioner Higgins agreed and suggested low maintenance shrubs or bushes that would prevent pedestrians from walking in those shadow spaces. Commissioner Higgins discussed the Floyd B. Olson statue and the need to provide adequate green space around it. Kathryn O'Brien responded stating that part of the mitigation plan included the land around the statue.

Councilmember Pearce-Lassiter added that it is important to design this area that will create an environment for businesses to thrive in and for the community to see it as a destination. She suggested wood materials for the canopy tops instead of metals to provide a warmer more inviting environment. She also inquired about bike lockers at the Van White station. Shelley Miller responded that Metro Transit was currently in the process of phasing out bike lockers.



Peter Wagenius stated that the City of Minneapolis believes the South side of Olson Hwy is more apt for redevelopment based on the north side of the highway being residentially owned properties. He also expressed concerns on how the plans were going to keep pedestrians from crossing at unsafe locations to reach the platform. Project staff responded that intertrack fencing was being considered to prevent this from happening.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 13, 2016

Chair Duininck apologize for missing the approval of the last meeting minutes. He asked the committee to review the meeting minutes from the October 13 meeting and asked if there were any edits or comments. Committee member Adams made the motion to approve the minutes; Council member Snope seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

5. Community Open Houses

Sam O'Connell provided an update on the schedule of community open houses and the feedback her department has received, through the open houses and through the CAC and BAC committee process. Comment forms are provided at the open houses and can also be submitted online at the project website. Ms. O'Connell discussed the next steps towards the 60% design plans and future.

6. Adjournment

Chair Duininck asked if there were any further questions or comments from the committee today. There were none. The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Next CMC Meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2016
Brookdale Library
6125 Shingle Creek Parkway
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430