



METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee

Meeting Summary

Virtual Meeting
June 10, 2021 | 1:30 PM

Present: Charlie Zelle, Reva Chamblis, Irene Fernando, Jeff Lunde, Tonja West-Hafner, Jim Adams, Bill Blonigan, George Selman, Shep Harris, Gillian Rosenquist, Undrea Patterson, Mike Elliott, Dani Hans, Felicia Perry, Mike Opatz, Chris Meyer, Jason Greenberg, Tim Baylor, Felicia Perry, Bridget Rief, Mike Barnes, Kathi Hemken, Alicia Vickerman, Chris Meyer, Ricardo Perez, Bridget Rief, Carl Crimmins, Denise Butler, Mike Barnes, Wes Kooistra, Nichole Buehler

1. Call to Order

Chair Charlie Zelle, Met Council, welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 1:30 PM.

2. Approval of May 13, 2021 BLRT CMC Meeting Summary

Chair Charlie Zelle, Metropolitan Council, asked the committee to review the meeting minutes from the May 8th, 2021 meeting. Mayor Bill Blonigan, City of Robbinsdale, made the motion to approve the minutes; Councilmember Tonja West-Hafner, City of Brooklyn Park, seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

Chair Zelle shared a report of the FTA rating. The project remained in the new starts/CIG funding engineering phase despite the route modifications. They made a new category for the project, which was “under review.” This is a good sign for the project. Commissioner Fernando emphasized the importance of the local support shown for this project and expressed gratitude to staff and leaders at the meeting.

3. Committee Reports

Jason Greenberg, CAC, shared an update about the CAC. They discussed the request for proposal (RFP) for Anti-Displacement. They chose a representative on the selection committee for the RFP. There is a lot to cover, especially in terms of topics like Anti-Displacement. Across the board there was a desire for the consultant to be a local resource. From a timing perspective, ensuring there were resources for anti-displacement as soon as possible. They want to be sure to have the work complement both the design and community engagement happening locally. They would like to see compensation for the leadership of this group, as well as the local communities that are part of the work.

Felicia Perry, BAC, said they had a discussion in regarding the RFP as well. There were concerns around it not including local organizations working on this. There was a strong desire for local



organizations being involved as opposed to an outside entity. They also reviewed feedback from community engagement, and station placement. There was concern raised about having specific data to make more informed decisions about the routes and the impacts. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update

4. Draft Request for Proposal Overview

Sam O'Connell, Metropolitan Council, shared an update on the plan for the Anti-Displacement Working Group. They are planning to hire a third-party consultant to facilitate this work and be a subject matter expert. They will be working with the project team and with the advisory committees. That is one area of feedback to understand more clearly how these groups will intersect. This could be an individual or a small team. They are looking for someone who has experience working in housing, economic development, racial equity and/or cultural competency. Their role covers seven main tasks including project management, working group facilitation, market analysis and vulnerability assessment, policy audit and case study review, community consultation, recommendations and implementation and materials. The CAC and BAC were asked to be on a selection committee, and they selected Kathy Fraser from Brooklyn Park for the CAC and Felicia Perry from the West Broadway Business and Area Coalition for the BAC. Cathy Gold, Hennepin County, shared a timeline for the RFP. They are looking for feedback until June 24. They are sharing the RFP June 28. The proposals are due July 27. The board will be voting on the proposal August 17. The contract will begin in early September. Mayor Elliott, Brooklyn Park, hopes that this work on displacement leads this to being a more inclusive project. He thanked the chair and team for this work and highlighted it showed opportunity to have a new narrative on equity and inclusion.

5. Summary of March- May Engagement Feedback

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, shared an update on engagement. She reviewed the main areas of feedback solicited, which included additional route options, opportunities and challenges of the route, feedback on the goals of the project and station areas. The survey had over 2,000 responses, 500 map comments and many emails and conversations. She reviewed the events that happened in May. She reviewed the feedback from the map comments. There were a few other comments about other routes including suggestions for North 21st Street and Third Street or Lyndale Avenue to Lowry Avenue.

Mayor Blonigan, City of Robbinsdale, shared that the City of Robbinsdale is hearing much more negative feedback. Three city council members are not in favor, and it seems likely that Robbinsdale will not grant municipal consent. The city was in favor in the rail corridor. They are not in favor of it going through the city and dividing the city in half.

Dan Soler, Hennepin County, shared that there was a lot of feedback virtually due to Covid. The project team looks forward to more engagement in Robbinsdale and the other cities. The project



team is working hard to get this information about the design and benefits and getting more feedback from these cities.

Councilmember Selman shared he has gone back and forth over time, but he is adamantly against the light rail going down Bottineau Boulevard. Councilmember West-Hafner clarified that when Sophia Ginis shared the engagement feedback, she meant the other side of the freeway not the river. Sophia confirmed that was correct. Councilmember West-Hafner shared an experience in North Memorial as a patient where staff shared their desire for a stop and how beneficial that could be. She said she understands their concern in Robbinsdale but hoped they could look at more benefits and options. Gillian Rosenquist shared some needs in Golden Valley and how they are looking to serve those needs with transit connections to rail.

6. LRT Station Placement Discussion

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared background on the stations for the former alignment. They are recommending continuing stops at 63rd and Bass Lake Road. They are considering two Robbinsdale locations at Downtown and North Memorial, and new stations in Minneapolis. They continue to review community feedback and options for stations. Nick shared feedback regarding station locations from the comment maps. Nick shared considerations for station placement including the balance between distance between stations and travel time. He showed the general areas of station planning including the area, site, and platform. Nick shared station site elements such as bike and ped access and facilities, wayfinding, landscaping, bus facilities, drop-off areas, park-and-rides, and stormwater infrastructure. Nick highlighted the features of an example station in Brooklyn Park.

7. Corridor Management Committee Membership

Chair Charlie Zelle, Metropolitan Council, shared an update on thoughts around voting membership. He identified that this group is open to discussion and feedback from all members, regardless of voting status.

8. Next Meeting

Chair Charlie Zelle, Metropolitan Council, reminded the group that the next Meeting would be July 15, 2021 (changed from the regular schedule due to the 4th of July holiday).

9. Closing

Chair Charlie Zelle, Metropolitan Council, adjourned the meeting at 3:06 PM

Next CMC Meeting: July 15, 2021, 1:30 PM

WebEx