



METRO Blue Line Extension Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

December 14, 2021

8:00 AM

WebEx

BAC Members: Candace Oathout, Felicia Perry, Ian Alexander, Jennifer Cutter, Jimmy Loyd, John Hacker, KB Brown, Mike Steinhauser, Chris Webley

Agency Staff and Guests: Sophia Ginis, Sam O'Connell, Jason Tintes, Amber Turnquest, Andrew Gillett, C Terrence Anderson, Cathy Gold, David Davies, Jim Voll, Joan Vanhala, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Kristine Stehly, Kyle Mianulli, Nick Landwer, Trevor Roy, Emilee Roschen

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

2. Adopt Meeting Minutes from October

Felicia Perry, West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, motioned to move the minutes. Mike Steinhauser, City of Robbinsdale, seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were passed.

3. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update

C Terrence Anderson, CURA, provided an update of the ADWG. C Terrence talked through the core principles of the ADWG. This group will have a large research agenda, fully represented of the community.

Mike Steinhauser, City of Robbinsdale, asked about an example of current existing tensions. C Terrence Anderson responded that when community comes together, different policies and investment ideas come out of this. There needs to be a design process around this. Business or non-business may be a tension. There has to be shared analysis around what the problems are.

C Terrence shared that CURA explained that group can help be translators of the research findings and ultimately making recommendations to address displacement within the Blue Line Extension Corridor.

Felicia Perry asked about the promise around the move for policy changes or system changes. She is wanting to hear Met Council and Hennepin County in support or not in that area. Felicia expressed it would be problematic having this conversation of changes to policy. Don't want to make empty promises. Felicia asked if members of the BAC could have conversations to keep moving this forward. C Terrence responded that none of the governments have a legal responsibility to follow these recommendations. C Terrence said he feels that's been communicated and that governments have been supportive for the creation of this group.



C Terrence Anderson, CURA, provided an overview of the membership of the ADWG. There will be a total of 21 members; 6 government, 6 community members affiliated with organizations/businesses, 6 non-affiliated community members, and 3 philanthropic organization representatives. C Terrence shared that each government body would have one person from Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park as a member of the group. These members would have a role to give real-time feedback to the ADWG, provide data to the research team. The affiliated community representatives could be made up of 3 small businesses owned and operated by people of color that have been around for a while and are struggling to stay open. The other 3 members would be from non-profits – housing and/or anti-displacement centered organizations. The non-affiliated community representatives would be made up of 6 members - youth, someone who has experienced displacement, is at risk of displacement, or a resident from the jurisdictions within the Blue Line Extension Corridor. Three members would be made up of philanthropic representatives. Felicia Perry asked to define “youth”. C Terrence responded they would be looking for someone around the age of 21 or 22.

C Terrence shared that there would be a total of 9 required meetings over the span of 18 months. The 9 meetings would be four full day Saturday Meetings, four 1.5-2-hour weekday meetings, and one 2-hour final meeting, in person. Four themes from these meetings would include learnings from existing Blue/Green Lines and previous Blue Line Extension Work, housing/cultural displacement, business displacement, and finalizing recommendations.

The application process goes live on December 20, 2021 through January 14, 2022. This will be hosted on the CURA website. CURA will lead the interview process. One BAC and CAC member will join the interview process. The first meeting will be held in early February. Sophia Ginis shared that if anyone on the BAC has interest in serving on the review committee for the interviews, they contact her.

4. Draft Report Overview

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, reviewed the Draft Report and the 6 goals of the project and the evaluation findings of each goal. The first goal is, improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations. Goal 1 evaluation findings of Area 1 ranked Excellent. Existing stations provides important connections to jobs and business areas. The Lowry route ranked Excellent as it serves neighborhoods with limited or no access to personal vehicles, lower income households and a high portion of residents of color. This route would also provide access to community destinations. This route is longer than West Broadway but would have more access points. The West Broadway route ranked Excellent. This route serves the commercial and cultural heart of North Minneapolis and serves neighborhoods with limited or no access to personal vehicles, lower income households and a high portion of residents of color.

Goal 2 is to improve the frequency and reliability of transit service to communities of color. Goal 2 evaluation findings ranked Area 2 as Excellent. The Lowry route ranked Good as there are traffic changes due to lane reductions on Washington Avenue and unsignalized intersections along Lowry. The West Broadway route ranked Good but would experience increased delays with the proposed lane reductions along West Broadway Avenue, particularly at intersections east of Irving Avenue North.



Goal 3 is to provide transit improvements that maximize transit benefits, while being cost competitive and economically viable. Goal 3 evaluation findings of are 2 ranked Good. This project is primarily proposed at-grade, minimizing the need for Right-of-Way acquisition and construction costs. As well as considers long-term maintenance cost for structures. The Lowry and West Broadway routes ranked Good for the same reasons as Area 2.

Goal 4 is to support communities' development goals. Goal 4 evaluation findings in Area 2 ranked Excellent. There would be opportunity to advance previously completed transit-oriented development work at 63rd, Bass Lake Road and Downtown Robbinsdale stations. The Lowry route ranked Good as it provides connections to various economic development opportunities, but this is a heavier residential area. The West Broadway route ranked Excellent. This route would serve the heart of the West Broadway business district and North Minneapolis, meets the community goals of revitalization and there's opportunity for development and redevelopment.

Jimmy Loyd had a question in the chat about who to talk to regarding goal 4. Sophia Ginis responded that the project team would like to discuss with individual businesses and would like to connect with Jimmy Loyd specifically.

Goal 5 is to provide healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change. Goal 5 evaluation findings of Area 2 ranked Good. Locating LRT in an existing Hennepin County transportation facility could minimize overall environmental impacts and provide opportunities to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Advances the Climate Action Plan and reducing VMT. This route would provide access to grocery stores and the regional park system but sensitive areas around parks and North Memorial will entail further review. The Lowry and West Broadway both ranked Good with similar evaluation findings as Area 2. West Broadway does reduce vehicle miles traveled to greater extent than the Lowry route.

Chris Webley had a question in the chat about what the criteria are for making these recommendations? Or what's driving the recommendations? Dan Soler, Hennepin County responded that each of these goals use quantitative and qualitative measures to arrive at some of these recommendations. There's some subjectivity. Chris responded that it would be good to have transparency to identify where qualitative and quantitative data are being used. Where subjectivity is used, too. Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, highlighting that the intentionality of not having a recommendation in the Draft Report was to give opportunity to verify with the community nothing is missing in the project staff's interpretation of the data.

Goal 6 is to advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities. Goal 6 evaluation findings of Area 2 ranked Good. Locating LRT in an existing Hennepin County transportation facility minimizing Right-of-Way acquisition and supports cohesion. This route would improve accessibility and connectivity to the broader regional transit system and further regional equity by providing METRO access to environmental justice communities. The Lowry route ranked Good. It has potential to support community wealth-building but would require solutions for parking impacts on Lowry and Washington Avenues. The West Broadway route ranked Excellent by providing access to the commercial district and can support community wealth-building. There are several route design options that will help limit property impacts.



Sophia shared that there's a comment form available and project staff are officially taking comments through email. There are multiple ways to give feedback.

Mike Steinhauser, City of Robbinsdale, asked if all the cities signed off on the Summary Matrix and if addressed any hurdles if any. Sophia responded, yes, the project team is working with all the corridor cities in developing this Report. The team didn't necessarily ask for official sign-off.

KB Brown asked who's choosing the ADWG. Sophia responded that applications are going to CURA and their staff will be reviewing the applications to form the committee. CURA would like for one representative from the BAC to review the applications with them.

Sophia shared that in January, there will be upcoming in-person and virtual community meetings for feedback from the communities on the Draft Report. The comment period runs from December 13 to January 26. Next step would be the release of the Final Route Modification Report that will recommend a community supported route, come Spring 2022.

5. **Engagement Overview**

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, shared that the project team had about 270 events, resulting in over 9,000 points of contact with the public. Sophia shared that the conversations had with community members helps to contribute important analysis through this process. From these events, major themes emerged. A couple outreach tactics staff participated in was door knocking and stakeholder check-ins. Common feedback revolved around concern about impacts during construction to businesses and properties.

6. **Next Meeting**

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, shared that the next meeting is January 4, but recommending cancelling the January meeting because it will be the middle of the comment period for the Draft Report and the middle of the process for selecting the ADWG. At that point, project staff wouldn't have any updates.

Felicia Perry, West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, asked about the opportunity to stay engaged if the January meeting is cancelled. Felicia expressed that engagement activities are a great space to learn. Felicia would like updates on the schedule of things that are happening. Sophia Ginis shared that January will be a heavy month for engagement. There are pre-programmed events in January.

7. **Adjourn**

Mike Steinhauser, City of Robbinsdale, adjourned the meeting at 9:28 AM.

Chat

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 8:22 AM

That was very helpful, C Terrence. Are you looking for recommendations from the BAC and other committees?



from Felicia Perry to everyone: 8:26 AM

I really appreciate that space is reserved for youth representatives! Please connect with Engagement Cohort for recommendations on youth reps. There is some great work done by and with youth in that space.

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 8:26 AM

Can you define "youth"? What is the age range for that rep?

from C Terrence Anderson to everyone: 8:33 AM

Thanks for letting me be with y'all! I'm sure there's more questions, so lets talk!

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 8:53 AM

Who did you talk to?

from kb to everyone: 8:55 AM

I would like to be part of the conversation to because I've only had one conversation with someone on the Corredor

from CW to everyone: 8:56 AM

i guess im wondering as follow up what are the metrics to access? west broadway has the most opprotunities for people who do not look like most people in North. Is there methedology around the reccomendations or is this just staffs interpretation ?

from kb to everyone: 8:58 AM

I second that question

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 9:06 AM

Thank you Dan

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 9:06 AM

You should come to us first. You've had us here for months as contributory members. This is why there's a friction rub and lack of trust.

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 9:13 AM

I'm wondering what the biggest challenges are for Area 3 in determining which route is community supported? Looking forward to updates on engagement activities and insights.

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 9:14 AM

I'm jumping off. I'll circle back

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 9:14 AM

The comments are submitted thru the interactive map and Engagement Cohort reports, correct?

from CW to everyone: 9:15 AM

were the comments from the interactive map extracted and included in these recommendations?

from Mike Steinhauser to everyone: 9:15 AM

Have all the cities signed off on your Summary Matrix?



from Felicia Perry to everyone: 9:28 AM
Thank you Sophia!