

Southwest LRT DBE and Workforce Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 19, 2020

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Meeting Summary

Meeting attendees: Tracey Jackson (Co-Chair), Salima Khakoo (Co-Chair), Barry Davies, Gilbert Odonkor, Barb Lau, Shelia Olson, Julie Brekke, Mel Reeves, John O'Phelan, Mary Schmidt, Sheila Kauppi, Lynn Pingol, Maura Brown, Melanie Williams, Aaron Koski, Elaine Valadez, Yolanda McIntosh, San Nying Vang, Dale Even, Cody Ferguson, Katy Maus, Sam O'Connell, Brian Runzel

1. Call to Order: Co-Chairs Salima Khakoo and Tracey Jackson opened the meeting at 2:06 PM.
2. SWLRT Project Update: Sam O'Connell provided a project update and explained the project continues to work during the stay at home order. Project office staff have effectively transitioned to working remotely. Essential Met Council staff continues to monitor and review construction activities and conditions through our field inspectors and their on-site reporting. The civil contractor is practicing working environment protocols (asking employees to stay home if they are sick, social distancing, etc.) as outlined by public health agencies. During the stay at home order, Community Outreach Coordinators are available by email or phone and our construction hotline is still answered 24-hours a day/7 days a week. Our outreach team continues to connect with property owners to discuss upcoming construction activities and receive feedback.
3. DBE Achievement Reporting: Jon Tao presented the January 2020 report; DBE participation is 19.86%, an increase from December 2019. The systems contractor is starting to report their initial numbers. Barb L. asked if a similar listing of DBE contractors working on the project can be shared. Systems contractor will be joining the committee in May to start reporting their activities.
 - a. LMJV DBE Activities: Dale Even reported on approved changes orders thru Feb 15 totaling \$4.1 million. DBE change order participation is \$382K; representing 9.3% and bringing the total to 20.80%. John O. asked if the committee could get a listing of trucking companies; Elaine Valdez replied she can provide the report.
4. Workforce Participation Reporting: Elaine Valadez provided the January 2020 report. Workforce hours for women is 6.19% and for people of color is 17.52%. MDHR is meeting monthly with LMJV and working with subcontractors on areas of improvement. MDHR is pulling together an achievement report and will be able to share with the committee.

- a. LMJV Workforce Activities: San Nying Vang shared workforce activities undertaken in February and March 2020; events were promoted through social media with many likes and comments. Due to COVID-19, the LMJV Construction Career Fair was cancelled until further notice. An update on new hires was shared with a total of 15 new hires with two women and five people of color. Eleven of the 15 are transfers from other projects to SWLRT. Salima K. asked due to COVID-19 and some events being cancelled, could there be alternative ways of sharing information and conducting interviews. Katy M. mentioned some drug screening facilities have closed and may hamper on-boarding new workers. A discussion about counting new hires occurred; workers are counted when they are on the SWLRT project payroll. This could include existing employees from Lunda or McCrossan brought to the joint venture project. Mel R. asked when will workforce numbers go up with more construction activities? A discussion regarding regional, union and contractor baselines occurred. Elaine V. shared that contractors can contact the unions for more information about skilled workers to support workforce goals. Tracey J. asked Barry D. to help pull together information about opportunities with the trades and share with the committee. Kent R. asked if COVID-19 has impacted construction crews. Dale E. replied too early to tell at this point.
5. Adjourn: Co-chairs adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.