

Metropolitan Council

City of St. Louis Park Chambers, 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard, St. Louis Park 55416

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
July 11, 2012

Members Present	Susan Haigh, Chair	Jan Callison	Terry Schneider
	Scott McBride	Brian Lamb	Peter Wagenius
	Gail Dorfman	James Hovland	Nancy Tyra-Lukens
	Lisa Weik	Tom Harmening	
Members Absent	Mayor Rybak	Cheryl Youakim	Jeff Jacobs
	Keith Bogut	Bill James	Peter McLaughlin
	Jim Brimeyer		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susan Haigh called the July 11, 2012 meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee to order at 10:02am at the St. Louis Park City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Susan Haigh presented the May 2, 2012, Southwest Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. The motion for approval was granted.

3. DEED APPLICATION

Chair Haigh gave an update on the DEED Application. Chair Haigh gave a “thank you” to all the Mayors, Cities, & County who have supported this application. We recognize there are many other applications that we will be competing with in a limited pot of funds and will see how that turns out in about 6 weeks. It was very important that we apply, as this project really is about job creation and economic development. The application was submitted.

Mayor Terry Schneider indicated that the dollar amount we applied for was very appropriate. Chair Haigh said that we thought very carefully about the dollar amount and discussed what the right amount is for this period. If we are not successful with the grant application, we will move forward again at the next legislative session.

4. ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Jim Alexander gave an update on the Engineering Services Contract Procurement. This is still an ongoing procurement and therefore cannot talk a lot about it. We are following the Federal Brooks Act procurement procedure; where we look at the technical proposals first, identify a qualified proposer, then we open the price proposal associated with that most qualified proposer and begin negotiations. We anticipate a Metropolitan Council decision in July 2012.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Nani Jacobson gave an overview of the Archaeological Survey. We have completed two Phase I Archaeological Surveys. These surveys are being conducted by required federal and state laws, including NEPA and Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act. These laws apply to all major federal actions that have a potential to include any archaeological area. The purpose is to identify and evaluate the historic properties and mitigate any adverse effects to these properties. Areas are identified by means of literature reviews, research, and archaeological evaluation of Area Potential Effect (APE). There have been 44 sites identified within APE and these reports will be included in the DEIS. Consultation was initiated by FTA in November 2009 and is in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Phase Ia was completed in September 2010 and a Supplemental Phase Ia was completed in June 2012, which included the freight rail relocation corridor. In April 2012, we initiated Phase I and will potentially include a Phase II in the Spring of 2013 and ultimately a Section 106 Agreement in the final FEIS.

These surveys are led by the Southwest LRT Project Office and we hired an Archaeological Expert Consultant from SWCA. Dennis Gimmetad of MnDOT is also fully engaged as our Technical Project Manager. The Phase I survey is focused on APE of LPA and Freight Rail Corridors. Phase II survey will evaluate identified sites from Phase I to determine the eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Section 106 Agreement will address effects to historic properties which meet NRHP criteria and will also be included in the final EIS.

Mayor Schneider asked if an Indian burial ground could classify as a historical site. Ms. Jacobson said yes. Brian Lamb asked if there was a rule of thumb as to how far off the alignment that we are surveying. Ms. Jacobson stated that our Area of Potential Effect (APE) was developed in consultation with FTA, SHPO, and MnDOT. They determine what the APE should be for this project, which is roughly 300 feet on either side of the alignment with some extension around the station areas. Scott McBride stated that it could be very different for each project.

6. COMMUNICATIONS and OUTREACH UPDATE

Robin Caufman introduced Sam O'Connell as the new Manager of Public Involvement. Sam O'Connell gave an update on Communications and Outreach. A community notification was sent to about 3,000 property owners in May 2012, which says we are doing our work in terms of Phase I and let some folks know that they will be notified for additional survey work. We did get a few calls and questions about the process and asking how this relates to PE. We sent a follow up letter on June 20 to property owners clarifying that we are looking at both the co-location and re-location of freight rail as part of our process. We are also doing some follow up with property owners to gain the right of entry permits.

Councilmember Jennifer Munt, the CAC Co-Chair, gave a CAC Report. Councilmember Munt will be reporting in partnership with Bill James from St. Louis Park. Councilmember Munt represents the Metropolitan Council's District 3, which includes nine of the SWLRT stations from Hopkins to Eden Prairie. The CAC is newly constructed and we have met three times. The committee has evaluated our charter in order to be clear about what our role is and to whom we are reporting. We have taken inventory about the issues that matter most to people and have asked our committee members to vote on those issues. Katie Walker from Hennepin County has done a phenomenal job. We asked the committee to do a survey and rate those issues. Moving forward, we will give those issues to the Preliminary Engineering Consultant, so we can map those issues out in terms of when people can weigh in, to influence decisions before the deal is already done. What you will find at the community level, is that there is nothing more frustrating than weighing in on issues after the decision has been made or weighing in on issues too soon, before you have all the information you need to make an informed decision. There are issues like freight rail relocation, which are most tense right now and could consume every meeting. We want to make sure the meetings allow for every voice and every issue that matters most to people. The partnership of the construction office, and the operations issues with the county and community works, gives us a good balance. When we are able to pair that with the opportunities for job

creation for economic development you are talking about maximizing opportunity and not construction mitigation. We had an extensive discussion at our last meeting about how we want to advise you. The committee chose to advise by consensus, rather than by votes. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2012.

Commissioner Gail Dorfman stated that the RFP for a Stationary Planning Consultant went out and closed. There are five really good firms that have responded. We expect to have the Consultant onboard to do Stationary Planning at the end of summer or early fall at the latest. It's really important for the CAC to be integrated with that process and to know the work that the Consultant is doing on the stations as that occurs.

Sam O'Connell gave a BAC Update. We are looking to hold our first meeting on August 8, 2012. We have identified one business representative per station from the City of Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie. The Minneapolis, TwinWest, Edina, and Eden Prairie Chambers have each appointed one representative. We have asked Bruce Nustad from TwinWest Chamber to serve as the Chair and we will also ask Will Roach from the Minneapolis Chamber to serve as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Dorfman questioned how with one business rep per station and there being at least one station with no businesses, how are we doing that? Ms. O'Connell said the Chambers have a rep as well. Commissioner Dorfman said there probably won't be a business rep from the 21st Street station in Minneapolis, but there may be a couple representing Lake Street, which has numerous businesses and interests that differ, correct? Robin Cauffman said she will check into who the Minneapolis representatives were and how they were allocated. Commissioner Dorfman asked if they have all been identified and Ms. Cauffman said yes.

7. UPDATED VISUALIZATION

Sam O'Connell gave an update on the SWLRT Alignment Video. The visualization was viewed by over 4,300 people online since May 2012. The visualization has been updated based on SWCMC feedback and also includes the Interchange project. An action item from the SWCMC is that we are creating individual Station Profiles that we will be working with city staff on and will post them on the website. Ongoing, we will also be updating the Station Profiles as development occurs. Ms. O'Connell showed the updated video to the SWCMC.

Commissioner Dorfman said there are two buildings that will be impacted, one in Minnetonka and one in Hopkins. Does anyone know what those businesses are? Chris Weyer said he does not know who the property owners are, but will get that information. Peter Wagenius added that he wrote down Bren Rd and Smetana Rd.

Peter Wagenius said, "Wow, I thought that was great." It was really nice to see the committee's input from the last meeting integrated. Mr. Wagenius noted the sense of how this is connected in a multi-mobile way, to a growing and expanding system is so much better from beginning to end. References to BRT, Midtown Greenway, and the transfer to Hiawatha, but also stay on the line, was really crisp. He is going to make sure people see this, because it is very helpful for both the Southwest line and for seeing the system as a whole. Sam O'Connell provided a CD copy to each of the SWCMC members. Ms. O'Connell said we will be working with city staff to provide the website link.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47am.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Hahne