



**METRO Blue Line Extension  
Business Advisory Committee Meeting  
May 10, 2016  
Blue Line Project Office  
5514 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 200  
Crystal, MN 55428  
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**

**Meeting Summary**

**BAC Members:** Randy Boushek, Ben Colglazier, Alison Pence, Mark Steinhauser, Denny Walsh, Jeff Washburne, Jim White

**Agency Staff:** Mary Sue Abel, David Davies, Andrew Gillett, Sophia Ginis, Jessica Laabs, Nick Landwer, Kathryn O'Brien, Dan Pfeiffer, Juan Rangel, Jim Toulouse, Alicia Vap

**Guests:** Mike Johnson, Metro Transit Police Department

**1. Metro Transit Police Department Presentation: Mike Johnson**

Established by MN Legislature in 1983. Approximately 200 officers, 109 full time. Their jurisdiction overlaps many cities and counties. Divided into east and west (Mississippi River being the general dividing line) commands. Minimum of 1,500 hours of riding on vehicles per year, per officer.

Duties:

- Squad assignments
- Foot beats
- Dedicated teams on the vehicles – bus, LRT, Northstar
- Substations – 7<sup>th</sup>St/Nicollet, Alliance Bank, MOA
- Counter Threat Unit (street-level crimes)
- Special events – Vikings, Twins, Saints, Gophers (over 150 events last year)
- Fare inspections on arterial BRT
- Crash drills, active shooter drills

Other resources – 4 canines, scene reconstruction. Partner a lot with other agencies/departments. Example – TSA, Federal Air Marshalls travel on transit vehicles to observe people and identify potential threats. MTPD: deploy buses to house fires for firemen to cool off, residents to have somewhere to go.

Security system:

- Digital Camera System
- Security cameras
- PA systems
- Emergency telephones
- Variable message signs

Challenges – people walking and driving on tracks. There are many instances of having to retrieve vehicles that get stuck on LRT tracks.

**Walsh:** What are the policing powers?

**Johnson:** We have full policing power.

**Walsh:** Who has jurisdiction?

**Johnson:** There will be a Memorandum of Understanding with each jurisdiction before BLRT opens. If there is an incident with a Metro Transit vehicle, the Metro Transit Police Department takes over.

**Walsh:** Brooklyn Center Transit Center is right across from some of my property. What is going on up there? I see police cars every day.

**Johnson:** That transit center is in our patrol area, we're constantly up there checking it out. Have improved the camera system. We don't have a substation there, but MTPD is there as much as we can.

**Walsh:** I've heard that's one of the biggest crime spots in the cities.

**Johnson:** It's definitely on our radar, we've identified lots of issues there and addressed them.

**Colglazier:** How are you funded?

**Johnson:** Federally and through fare collection. Funding is allocated based on ridership. We try to do fare inspections on 10% of rides.

**Pense:** When Green Line opened, did you see an increase in crime?

**Johnson:** Basically LRT replaced buses, so I wouldn't say crime increased, it's just occurring on trains vs. buses.

**Walsh:** What happens if fare is not paid?

**Johnson:** Fare evasion does not require a warning and a ticket is issued (about \$200 in St. Paul and Minneapolis).

## **2. Hwy 81 Ped Crossings at Bass Lake Road and 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave: Nick Landwer**

Nick reported on what staff has done since the Corridor Management Committee directive to study pedestrian crossings at these locations.

### Bass Lake Road

- Hennepin County is implementing improvements in 2016 (late summer/early fall)
- Wider median, add pedestrian push button in median
- Pedestrian crosswalks
  - Widen from 6-8' to 12' and add black paint for contrast
  - Raise crosswalks in free right turn lanes
  - Add stop bars (white painted bar before crosswalks)

### 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave Pedestrian Bridge

April 26, there was a tour of other local pedestrian bridges with Brooklyn Park staff and committee members. In Columbia Heights over 65, the bridge has posted signs for no crossing at-grade. Did pedestrian counts and found that about 50% illegally crossed at-grade and 50% crossed on the pedestrian bridge. Many of the pedestrians are school children due to proximity of a school.

66<sup>th</sup>/France intersection improvements were also reviewed. Includes widened medians and decorative lighting. Narrowed lanes, wider crosswalks. Illustrates proposed black painted base of crosswalks to make them stand out.

### Next steps:

- For June 2 CMC meeting – construction costs estimate, operations and maintenance plan
- Site analysis underway
- Researching maintenance responsibilities in other jurisdictions

**Steinhauser:** How often to the crosswalks have to be painted?

**Landwer:** Depends, but could be yearly maintenance.

### **3. Noise Walls: Kathryn O'Brien**

Noise walls have been acknowledged as a potential mitigation measure for light rail vehicle (LRV)-related noise, and have been identified at locations in Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, and Crystal.

About half of noise walls will be built upon structures that need to be built anyway, i.e. retaining walls. Sometimes the retaining walls themselves will act as a noise barrier. 10 feet is the highest height for LRT noise walls.

Locations of noise walls:

- Golden Valley – Kewanee Way
- Robbinsdale – Indiana Avenue, and on east and west ends of corridor
- Crystal – 45<sup>th</sup> to Corvallis

#### 4. Design Updates: Jim Toulouse

##### Traction Power Substations (TPSS) and Systems Elements

- Maps were presented showing preliminary locations for each element.
- Location considerations – reviewed property to find public property/limit private property acquisition
- Looking at 15 TPSSs, 15 signal bungalows, and 12 grade crossing bungalows

Next steps – finalizing locations, develop site plans, investigate fencing and screening options

#### 5. Golden Valley Road/Theodore Wirth Parkway Intersection Update – Nick Landwer

Presented to city and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and arrived at conclusion that a signalized intersection was the right solution because it is less confusing for pedestrians and bikes, and allows traffic to operate at a high level.

David Davies thanked Alison Pence for sharing input on behalf of Courage Center as part of the evaluation process.

Next steps – will present to the public this summer and collect input, including input on proposed cul-de-sacs and access points.

#### 6. Outreach Look-Ahead: Dan Pfeiffer

Outreach will continue into 2016. Overall topics include:

- LRT operations
- Safety and security
- Environmental process
- Right-of-way acquisition process
- Survey work/people in the field
- Technology
- Parks

Key outreach items:

- Station design
- Civil design
- Park & ride design
- Fencing and streetscaping
- Other community specific-outreach items

At least 1-2 rounds of open houses are planned throughout summer and fall, as well as neighborhood group meetings and other smaller meetings.

Dan reminded the group to notify outreach staff of upcoming community events.

**7. Project Development Update: MarySue Abel**

Update on project scope will be provided at next meeting on May 31, which will be an evening joint meeting with the CAC. The June 7 BAC meeting will be canceled. Scope and budget recommendations will be made to the CMC on June 2, when the info becomes public. The CMC will be asked to take action at its next meeting on June 23.

Funding partners (CTIB and HCRRA) will also be briefed in June and recommendations will be presented in July. Met Council approval of scope and budget will occur in August.

**8. Meeting Minutes**

No comments, approved.

**9. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum**

No comments.

**10. Adjourn**

Next scheduled BAC meeting will be May 31, in a joint meeting with CAC.