

**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)
Business & Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**February 12, 2015
Beth El Synagogue
5224 W 26th Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

Meeting Summary

BAC Members: Will Roach, Dan Duffy, Bill Beard, Curt Rahman, Gary Orcutt, Christy Swenson, Stuart Ackerberg

CAC Members/Alternates: Council Member Jennifer Munt, Russ Adam, Amanda Kappes, Andrew Pieper, Asad Aliweyd, Bill James, Brian Kirk, Charles Weber, Doug Peterson, Janet Weivoda, Jeff Strate, Kathryn Campbell, Kevan Hanson, Lee Munnich, Melissa Everett, Miguel Zuniga, Sara Masske, Vida Ditter

Agency Staff and Guests: Commissioner Jan Callison, Craig Lamothe, Sam O’Connell, Sophia Ginis, Dan Pfeiffer, John Welbes, Mark Fuhrmann, Nani Jacobson, Robin Caufman, Ryan Kronzer, Katie Walker, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Regina Rojas, Alysén Nesse, Greg Hunt, David Greene, Michael McDowel, Mat Holinshead

1. Welcome and Introductions

CAC Co-Chair Munt opened the meeting. Commissioner Callison gave opening remarks on the importance of community involvement in the project. The members went around the room introducing themselves, who they represent, and their interests/goals for being involved in the project. Sam O’Connell presented an overview of the project scope, timeline, and connections to other transitways throughout the metro region. CAC Co-Chair Russ Adams then asked members to share their Vision; what does success of Southwest LRT look like. Responses from members included; creating a linear community linked to the whole city, easy to get from west suburbs to downtown, connecting people from different communities, accessible affordable transit creates wealth, LRT is the back bone of the transit system and the bus system is the artery, looking forward to the choice of LRT to go somewhere without a car, equity and economic development, another step to a great transit system for greater MSP, build a transportation system without destroying the communities it goes through, becoming a regionally connected community.

2. Roles, Responsibilities and Resources

Sam O’Connell presented the roles and responsibilities of the committees and resources for the committees. The committees support both the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County. On the

Metropolitan council side is the Southwest Project Office, the Southwest LRT Corridor Management Committee, and the Metropolitan Council. On the Hennepin County side is the Technical Implementation Committee, Community Works Steering Committee, and Hennepin County. Members of the committee serve as a voice for the community, provide input on design, identify impacts related to construction and operation of the line, and serve as an information resource for their community. Staffs from the Southwest Project Office and Hennepin County's Community Works program support the committees. Committee agendas, presentation and meeting materials are posted on www.SWLRT.org, members can sign up to receive the project newsletter, and Hennepin County's community works website at www.swlrtccommunityworks.org.

3. Hennepin County Community Works

Katie Walker presented an overview of Hennepin County's Community Works program, which looks at beyond the rails for housing, jobs, connections. Community Works is moving into the implementation stage after completing the Investment Framework (Transitional Station Area Action Plan).

4. 2015 Look Ahead

Craig Lamothe, Southwest LRT Project Director, began the 2015 Look Ahead with an update on the New Starts rating and the Full Funding Grant Agreement. In the recent presidential budget, the Southwest LRT Project was included as a New Starts project for funding in federal fiscal year 2016. The project's New Starts rating was also updated in February to an overall rating of "Medium-High" from its last rating in September 2011 as "Medium". Ryan Kronzer gave a brief look ahead at advancing design from 30% to 60% and the remaining slides, both design and environmental, would be presented at the next meeting. Sam O'Connell presented the project's public involvement activities in 2014 highlighting the President and Secretary Foxx visit last February, the June 14 opening of the METRO Green Line, the municipal consent public hearings, outreach at the State Fair, and the hosting of Rail~Volution in September 2014. Sam presented a look ahead at 2015 public involvement.

5. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum

None

6. Adjourn