

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

February 24, 2015

**Southwest Project Office
6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

Meeting Summary

CAC Members/Alternates: Amanda Kappes, Andrew Pieper, Brian Kirk, Doug Peterson, Ian Kees, Janet Weivoda, Jeff Strate, Jody Strakosch, Kathryn Campbell, Kevan Hanson, Melissa Everett, Sara Maaske, Shirajoy Abry, Vida Ditter

Agency Staff and Guests: Peter Kivimak, Katie Walker, Robin Kaufman, Michael McDowell, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Mat Hollinshead, Craig Lamothe, Dan Pfeiffer, Sophia Ginis, Jim Alexander, Kathryn Hansen, Kim Koempel, Michael Krantz,

1. Welcome and Introductions

CAC co-chair Russ Adams opened the meeting with introductions. Committee approved meeting calendar. Committee approved charter with typo correction of committee dates and addition of “Hennepin County” in the first line of the “Purpose” paragraph; Jeff Strate moved and Vida Ditter seconded. Co-chair Munt will serve as the representative of the Community Advisory Committee to the Corridor Management Committee and Co-chair Adams will serve as the representative to the Community Works Steering Committee.

2. Community Works Update

Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County) presented an overview of Hennepin County Community Works. Hennepin County Community Works is celebrating 20 years of work to improve mobility, access to and from transit, and creating vibrant and connected communities. The work is table setting, bringing additional resources above and beyond the transit investment.

Through a HUD Sustainable Communities Grant, Community Works completed the Investment Framework, found online at www.swlrtcmmunityworks.org. The document expands on previous station area planning and is meant to be a living document to help guide the cities and county. Kerri walked through the Royalston Station plans from the Investment Framework. The Investment Framework looks at what development might be and identifies action steps to improve; pedestrian and bicycle connections, road improvements, utility infrastructure, and LRT station amenities.

The focus of Community Works has shifted to implementation of the Investment Framework with almost \$5 million invested to date along SWLRT. Kerri then played a video created for the Downtown Hopkins Station.

3. Development Update

Kathryn Hansen (Southwest Project Office) provided an update on development including; highlighting a report from the Government Accountability Office about the factors that influence transit oriented development (TOD), and TOD supportive conditions in Southwest LRT Corridor.

4. Environmental Update

Craig Lamothe (Southwest Project Office) provided an update on the environmental process. The project is still conferring with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on the release of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The SDEIS will evaluate adjustments that may result in significant adverse impact from the proposed project since publication of the DEIS, including; the Eden Prairie alignment, proposed location of the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) and the Kenilworth corridor/freight rail alignment. Craig Lamothe also presented an update on the Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act process and the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act process.

5. Design and Engineering Update

Jim Alexander (Southwest Project Office) provided an update on design and engineering focusing on station design, the four station prototypes, integrated public art, Kenilworth Landscape Design, and Kenilworth Channel bridge design concepts.

6. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum

Kerri Pearce Ruch mentioned Hennepin County's Bicycle Facilities Assessment is going on and encouraged members to go online to complete the assessment.

Ian Kees noted expectation that this committee is meaningful, asked that members be given material in advance, when feedback is asked for.

Mat Hollinshead noted that it is important to look at the first and last mile of trips.

7. Adjourn