

Southwest LRT DBE and Workforce Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 20, 2020

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Southwest LRT Project Office

6465 Wayzata Boulevard, St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Meeting Summary

Meeting attendees: Tracey Jackson (Co-Chair), Salima Khakoo (Co-Chair), Barry Davies, Gilbert Odonkor, Barb Lau, Keith Baker, Shelia Olson, Julie Brekke, Tony O'Brien, Sam Ndely, Sean Skibbie, Mel Reeves, John O'Phelan, Mary Schmidt, Sheila Kauppi, Aaron Koski, Elaine Valadez, Yolanda McIntosh, San Nying Vang, Dale Even, Cody Ferguson, Katy Maus, Sam O'Connell

1. Call to Order: Co-Chairs Salima Khakoo and Tracey Jackson opened the meeting at 2:08 PM.
2. Approval of January 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes (All): Co-chair Khakoo reviewed the meeting minutes and asked for approval. Two edits were noted and the motion to approve was made by Barry and seconded by Barb Lau; motion carried.
3. Public Comments: No comments received from members of the public.
4. SWLRT Project Update: Sam O'Connell provided a project update and presented slides 12-22 and noted the Eden Prairie Town Center station will be included in opening of the line. This is an approximately a \$11 million change order.
5. DBE Achievement Reporting: Tracey Jackson presented the December 2019 report; DBE participating is 18.21%. Barb Lau commented she was happy to see increases in DBE. For the systems contract, Aldridge Parsons committed to 12.7% are getting their subcontracts lined-up; APJV will be joining the committee in May. Barry asked why their goal is only 12%, Tracey J. answered that a lot of work is very specific/specialized and the Council looks at each project what are the subcontracting opportunities and whose available, Keith B. asked if firm capacity is considered and incorporated of the reviews and mentioned that smaller firms can deliver design. This could be a possible future topic to understand what else is happening do support other subs. Barb L. mentioned there are an influx of new members who can do trucking.
 - a. LMJV DBE Activities: Cody Ferguson reported on change orders to date include Eden Prairie Town Center and a crash wall near Glenwood and Royalston in Minneapolis. Change orders have tripled the and expect to see increases in trucking and electrical activities. Keith B asked how firms previously considered for work are being considered in future work. So far 8-10 new DBEs from the original bid have seen increases, and

there are opportunities to bring new DBEs, as scopes continue to grow; will mostly likely see new contractors in May.

6. Workforce Participation Reporting: Elaine Valadez provided the December 2019 report. Workforce hours dipped slightly for women and people of color. Minnesota Department of Human Rights started meeting LMJV monthly, possible twice a month, to discuss companies that are not meeting goals. LMJV has prepared a 5-month schedule so their workforce can plan for upcoming needs. A discussion occurred about trucking participation and the committee noted it would nice to know hours tracked, identify non-trucking hours, what are the rules, and how many people are working on the project.
 - a. LMJV Workforce Activities: San Nying Vang highlighted the upcoming March 26 career fair event. She noted that some potential candidates don't qualify because of freight railroad's requirement of background checks; however, this does not exclude candidates from other work. Mel Reeves inquired if this is an issue. Don't know yet, too early to tell. San Nying covered the list of January events, new hire updates 18 new hires, 1 female and 7 POCs. John O'Phelan is hosting a job fair in April looking to have 30 booths, three unions have committed so far.

7. Workforce Development Event Update: Aaron Koski reported the hope is to have 50 individuals by May in the Building Strong Communities program. Very fortunate to have funding and resources, resources going back to participants through stipends. Barry mentioned there are opportunities to promote during Women in Construction week. Future efforts include supporting JV job fair; hope to celebrate results in May 2020. Will assess the value of the program and appetite for future years. Discussion followed regarding who's been trained already through the program and future activities. Aaron will provide updates about the program at future meetings.

8. 2020 Planning: The Committee identified potential presentations for future topics:
 - March: CBOs
 - April: Unions

Discussion followed regarding additional opportunities for other ideas to share about workforce needs including something similar to the 35W annual meetings where larger subs can also attend. It was mentioned that Finance and Commerce have recognized Yolanda M. and Barb L. for their leadership. Comment was made ensure to make sure we're not forgetting journeyman workers and take these goals seriously; very seldom do they feel like they have a permanent home.

9. Adjourn: Co-chairs adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.