



# **METRO Blue Line Extension**

## **Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee and Business Advisory Committee Meeting**

**October 11, 2022**

**6:00PM**

Microsoft Teams

**CAC Members:** Adam Hutchens, Giuseppe Marrari, Jeff Guertin, Jericho Huggar, Ellis Beck, Johnathan Hansen, Jason Greenberg, Thomia Brown, Stephen Spaulding, Ty Plunk, Kenneth Rodgers

**BAC Members:** Chris Webley, John Barobs, Sabrina Williams, Kelvin Johnson, Donna Sanders, Jamez Staples

**Agency Staff and Guests:** Chris Beckwith, C Terrence Anderson, Jim Voll, Lex Brand, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Catherine Gold, Nkongo Cigolo, Neha Damle, Rob Hume, Nick Landwer, Trevor Roy, Pa Nhue Vue, Kjerstin Yager, Jer Yang, Kelcie Young, Joan Vanhala, Kelsey Fogt, Scott Reed, Sarah Abe, Emilee Roschen

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council, welcomed the group to the meeting. The meeting started at 6:04 PM. Project staff, new and returning CAC and BAC members made introductions.

Nkongo shared that this is an interim meeting and that there will be a few more members to join as the meetings get kicked off.

#### **2. Community Outreach & Public Comments Summary**

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared that the project is in the phase of working on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The design options have been selected and the public will be commenting on the options. As the project goes through the draft environmental impact statement, the design options that get advanced will then be moved onto the Municipal Consent portion of the project, then the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Nick added that the project team is continuing outreach and engagement efforts. At the last Corridor Management Committee (CMC), the scope had 4-5 options and the team wanted to narrow down to 2 options between Target Field Station and West Broadway. There were 4

options between the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and West Broadway area and the team wanted to narrow down to 2 options. Nick explained that for the project to meet state requirements, the project needs to publish in the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) monitor. The EQB monitor is a notice that states the project is starting the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). There will be a 20-day comment period once the notice is published on October 18, 2022. Jason Greenberg asked what kind of comments the project team is looking for feedback on. Nick responded that comments can be on anything but hope that they would be more specific to the scope of work being rolled out.

Nkongo provided a summary of the September engagement and outreach efforts. Throughout the month, three in-person workshops and two virtual meetings were held. The project team also held community and business stakeholder check-ins. Comments and feedback were gathered through the interactive map, survey, and in-person. Adam Hutchens asked if there will be a transit connection for the station that's close to I-94. Nick responded that there's not specific coordination there but it's something to try to incorporate. Adam commented that it seems like a missed opportunity. Chris Webley shared that there was an impact assessment done and asked if anything has changed with the options. Nick responded that the project team will evaluate more in each of the options with potential property impacts. There are some maps available on the project website that identify some properties that have potential impacts. Thomia Brown asked in the chat "what happened to the Washington Ave option?" Nick responded that the project team is evaluating how to get over to Washington Ave, but there's no way to get there without substantial impacts. Jamez Staples asked where there are potential significant property acquisitions if the project team has talked to those properties. Nick responded yes, they have talked to them.

Nkongo shared a list of common themes that were heard on the options from Target Field Station to West Broadway and the West Broadway and 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue options. Adam Hutchens asked about the remediation for noise to the homes close to West Broadway. Nkongo responded that noise will be studied in the environmental process. Kelcie Young added that the environmental analysis looks at future noise as compared to existing. Where there are impacts then there's a path to consider mitigation options. This would be part of the EIS process. Adam asked what a remediation route would be. Kelcie responded that there's a benchmark for when mitigation is necessary. Could look at a noise wall or look closer at options that are where people sleep. Kelcie added that mitigation options are usually identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Adam added that it's one of the prevalent questions he's heard. Jeff Guertin asked if Metro Transit has a plan to feed the station locations with bus routes from the communities. Nick responded that they try to locate stations near robust transit connections. For example, on West Broadway, where the D Line is, they will try to get a station close to there. Nkongo added that two years before revenue service begins, Metro Transit does a study on existing bus routes. They host open houses to get community feedback on existing routes and how to best connect to LRT. Ty Plunk asked if on-street parking on West Broadway would be eliminated. Nick responded that the options would eliminate on-street parking on West Broadway, but the project team knows it's something that needs to be addressed. They will work with business owners and continue to look along the corridor to address parking.

Nick shared the results of recommendations to be further evaluated in the EIS. Nick shared that from Target Field Station to West Broadway, the Lyndale and East I-94 options are being

recommended to further evaluate and the West I-94 option is not being recommended. For the options between 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and West Broadway, options A and D are being recommended to further evaluate and options B and C are not being recommended for further evaluation. Jason Greenberg asked in the evaluation handed by the project team. Nick responded yes, it is handled by the project team but have been working with partners. He added that it's not to compare each option against each other, it's comparing the options against the criteria.

### **3. Environmental Analysis – Staff Recommendation on Project Scope**

Kelcie Young shared that the project staff will provide a notice that will include the project definition and what will be in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). This notice identifies that a SEIS is needed. Kelcie added that the key thing is that there are potential significant changes due to the new route. The project team will study a full range of topics – environmental, social, and economic impacts. The purpose is to compare the options and a no-build option. Through this process, one option will be identified to move forward.

Kelcie highlighted sample environmental review topics – community and social impacts, transportation impacts, physical and environmental impacts, environmental justice, and parks. She gave an overview of the next steps in the environmental phase. The project team would prepare and publish the Supplemental Draft EIS and then there would be a public hearing on the Draft Environmental Documentation, which would have more public engagement and a comment period to follow.

### **4. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update**

C Terrence Anderson, CURA, provided an update on the recent activities. On September 24, 2022, the second all-day workshop was held, and it revolved around 27 anti-displacement policies. The working group spent time surveying governments to see where they are with the list of policies. There was discussion on developing structures for recommendations, figuring what needs to be done to prevent displacement. C Terrence added that there would be a meeting to prioritize policies before the group gets to recommendations. There are seven things that each recommendation would need to comply of – policies, roles, cost, impact and measurement for success, legal consideration, timing, examples, and implementation strategy or plan. Phase two would be a deeper dive of talking about money to deliver, resources of possibilities, the need to draft a plan, and figure out a management structure – structure of accountability. C Terrence added that the next full-day workshop would be in early December.

C Terrence added that it's a lot of information to digest and suggested that new members should connect with him to learn more about how and why they are doing this work. Jason Greenberg commented that it seems like these ideas and polices are getting consolidated compared to the beginning of this process. C Terrence added that they want to understand the problem and impact and the align resources for it. Jason added that the anti-displacement working group is providing avenues for residents to address issues they see. Other projects didn't have this level of engagement this early on.

### **5. Next Meeting: CAC/November 2, 2022, and BAC/November 1, 2022**

Jason thanked the project staff and shared he will be attending the CMC meeting on Thursday to provide an update on this meeting. He added that the committees will reconvene separately for the next meetings. He thanked everyone who returned and the new members for joining.

### **6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

### Chat

[6:38 PM] Thomia Brown

What happen to the Washington Ave Option?

[6:42 PM] Vue, PaNhue

The East I-94 or pink line is the Washington Ave option.

[6:50 PM] Thomia Brown

Great question Adam. I was wondering the same thing.

[6:59 PM] cw (Guest)

its lit !

[7:00 PM] C Terrence Anderson (CURA) (Guest)

lol

[7:01 PM] Thomia Brown

Do you provide survey to the community and home owners regarding transit effectiveness?

[7:03 PM] Thomia Brown

Yes

[7:04 PM] Thomia Brown

Thank you

[7:29 PM] Sabrina Williams, Excell Academy (Guest)

Yes, please send notes to this group.

[7:55 PM] Sabrina Williams, Excell Academy (Guest)

A lot but extremely helpful and very informative!! Thank you C Terrence.

[7:57 PM] C Terrence Anderson (CURA) (Guest)

Thank you!

[8:00 PM] Yang, Jer

Great presentation and lots of great information. Thank you.

[8:00 PM] Joan M Vanhala

you will be meeting in person in the future?

[8:01 PM] Jonathan (Healy) Hansen (Guest)

Thank you! I'm excited to be a part of this important project

[8:02 PM] Sabrina Williams, Excell Academy (Guest)

Cute!!!

[8:02 PM] Ellis Beck (Guest)

thanks everyone

[8:02 PM] Ellis Beck (Guest)  
bye!!