



Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee

Minutes of the July 7, 2016 Meeting

Present: Adam Duinick, Lona Schreiber, Mike Opat, Jeffrey Lunde, Jim Adams, Brian Lamb, Chris Berne, Rich Gates, Shep Harris, John Griffith, Denise Butler, Scott Schulte

Not in attendance: Linda Higgins, Myron Frans, Meg Forney, Andy Snope, Betsy Hodges, Regan Murphy, Tim Willson, Marika Pfefferkorn, Shauen Pearce, Denny Walsh, Barbara Johnson, Liz Wielinski, Gary Cunningham, George Selman, Peter Wagenius, Scott McBride

1. Call to Order

Chair Duinick welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 1:35 PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2016

Chair Duinick asked the committee to review the meeting minutes from the May 12, 2016 meeting and asked if there were any edits. Council Member Schreiber made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Opat seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Update

Chair reported that conversations continue between Governor Dayton and the State Legislature. Status of special session not set yet although there are impacts to transportation projects around the region.

Commissioner Opat: Welcomed everyone to the new Hennepin County Brooklyn Park library which opened two weeks ago today and invited all to tour the new facility. The new library offers elements that can't be found at other libraries; this library has a technology focus and sound studio as well.

Mayor Harris: Golden Valley library remodel has been completed. During an overview of bonding committee, Council Member Snope was asked to testify and shared that it isn't all about SWLRT but also about other projects around the state. If funding isn't done now, it's going to back up and make it more challenging in the coming years. In the event the special session does not happen, where do we go from here?

Chair: Blue Line Extension plans will keep going forward; don't need state funding until next year.



Committee Member Berne: What about property values? There will be lots of impact to housing in the area. CAC meeting is Monday evening, and would like to have that covered. Mr. Berne spoke of housing concerns and property lines impacted by light rail plans.

Dan Soler: There is no update today but we will have some information ready for the next CAC meeting on Monday, and will provide update in the minutes as well.

Community Advisory Committee presentation July 11, 2016 contained research information from the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota. Presentation available at: <http://metro council.org/getdoc/893e6718-4065-4bf9-b7fe-cb057c6ddc83/Presentation.aspx>

4. Cost Participation

The 2 year process of Project Development is coming to an end this year in late August and the FEIS is moving forward. Next step in the New Starts process is a request to enter into the Engineering phase expected in mid-September.

Mr. Soler explained the cost uncertainty by project phase and how we have progressed in setting a final project budget. Mr. Soler provided updates on DEIS cost estimates (August, 2014), the current cost estimates (December, 2015) and the proposed project budget at 30% Engineering (August 2016).

Additional project cost participation data was reviewed. The project office has coordinated with MnDOT on an \$8.2M participation in additional funding for elements benefiting Mn/DOT in the project. Hennepin County has agreed to cost participation on the portion of West Broadway Ave north of TH 610 which will add \$4.1M additional funds. Brooklyn Park has agreed to cost participation that will add additional funds of \$8.2M for city infrastructure north of TH 610. This local participation along with the appropriate federal match will result in a total of \$40M in new funding for the project.

These additional funds do not increase CTIB, HCRRA or State cost participation.

5. Adjusted Project Scope and Cost Estimate Recommendation (No action today)

Mr. Soler explained three categories that will result in additional cost to the project. They are additional costs resulting from design advancement, environmental mitigations and requirements and new scope additions.



The advancement of the design to 30% has identified an additional \$26M in several areas of the project. These include bridge refinements, parking ramps cost adjustments, rail system elements, traffic signal adjustments and retaining walls.

The environmental mitigations include noise walls, Sochacki Park improvements, visual screening and pedestrian improvements. These measures add an additional \$14M in new costs to the project.

These two categories would be funded with the additional \$40M in new cost participation and result in a new overall project cost of \$1.536 B.

Potential scope additions at a total cost of \$31M include 63rd Avenue at-grade pedestrian improvements (\$1M); the Bass Lake Road pedestrian bridge with elevator on west side (\$9M); (the addition and cost of elevators on the east side [\$3M] of road was discussed), modifications to the Rail Control Center (\$4M), modifications at the Hiawatha OMF to accommodate LRV overhaul functions (\$9M), and rail crossings and gates north of TH 610 (\$5M) .

Each of these items was presented to the committee by Mr. Soler with an explanation of the work and an estimated cost. The committee will be asked to take action on which of these items they agree to add to the project. The cost for the scope items added (between \$0 and \$31M) will be funded by a reduction of project contingency. The current project contingency is 30% and funding of all the scope additions would lower the contingency to 28%.

The committee moved to a discussion about the scope items as presented and discussed the merits of them. Key topics in the discussion included:

Maintenance responsibilities of the proposed pedestrian bridge. The project office suggested that maintenance and ownership should be the responsibility of the City. Mayor Adams informed the committee that this was recent news to the City of Crystal and they were not ready to make such a commitment. Mayor Harris requested information about maintenance costs for the bridge. Commissioner Opat reiterated that the County would not be assuming responsibility for ownership and maintenance of a pedestrian bridge. It was agreed that the project office and the City of Crystal need to discuss this topic in more detail prior to the next CMC meeting.

Commissioner Schulte raised his concern about lowering the contingency amount at this point in the project. Numerous risks remain including railroad negotiations, continued design and cost uncertainty in construction bids. The entire construction industry is busy and the available workforce is a concern.

The committee discussed the need for the Hiawatha OMF modifications to accommodate LRV's to be included in the Blue Line extension project rather than a separate capital project. General Manager Lamb explained why this project tips the need for these improvements in the context of the overall LRT program.



After the discussion it was agreed that the committee would consider these scope additions over the next two weeks and then vote on which items to add to the final project scope on July 21, 2016.

6. FEIS Update

Caroline Miller stated the FEIS was approved for publishing by the FTA and we anticipate a publication date of July 15, 2016. FEIS copies will be located on the project's website and at area libraries and city halls. Ms. Miller provided an overview of how final FEIS was compiled.

7. Adjournment

No questions. Meeting concluded at 2:58 pm.

**Next CMC Meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2016
1:30-3:00 pm
Hennepin County Brooklyn Park Library
8500 West Broadway Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55446**