

Metropolitan Council

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
Wednesday, August 2 10:00 a.m., St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates Present:	Acting Chair Robert Lilligren Dr. Tyrone Carter Debbie Goettel	Patrick Hanlon James Hovland Chris LaTondresse	Will Roach Brad Wiersum Matt Aguirre (Alt)
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Robert Lilligren called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Introductions were made for the new members.

Acting Chair Lilligren reported that Lesley Kandaras was announced as the new Metro Transit General Manager. Lesley will be the first woman general manager of Metro Transit. We plan to invite Lesley to a future CMC meeting to introduce herself and provide a Metro Transit update.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acting Chair Lilligren presented the June 7, 2023 Corridor Management Committee minutes. Mayor Hovland made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Goettel seconded the motion. Following a vote, the minutes were approved.

3. PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director reported on the project schedule and cost. The Met Council and the Executive Change Control Board (ECCB) authorized expenditures up to \$210M to resolve issues with the Civil contractor and to extend the Civil contract by 34½ months. We are working with the Systems contractor to address a similar extension of time to the Systems contract and will be seeking Met Council and ECCB approval for this item as well. Staff is also working to address delays related to the secant wall construction in 2022 and 2023 with both contractors.

Our current Full Funding Grant Agreement with FTA calls for revenue service by December 2024. With the revised project timeline, the grant agreement will need to be amended. Before that can take place, the project will undergo a risk assessment with FTA to evaluate project cost and schedule. The risk assessment is expected to be conducted in the fall timeframe. We anticipate this process will yield a revised estimated cost for the project. We continue to hold 2027 for revenue service.

Commissioner Goettel asked how soon the Systems revised cost and schedule will be completed. Mr. Alexander said the Systems contractor has identified a cap of \$64M for the extension of time to their contract. We are working on a Part 1 change order to address a subset of the contractor's claim for compensation for the extension of time. The amount of time it takes to resolve remaining issues related to the extension of time is dependent on the time it takes to receive and evaluate data on the remaining items.

Mr. Alexander reported that our project to date now has workers represented in 70 of the 87 Minnesota counties. There are over 4,243 individuals that have worked on the project through June 2023.

Trails. Mr. Alexander presented a map of the trail closures. The Project Office is working with the Civil contractor to open additional trail segments early where possible. The segment from Blake Road to Louisiana Avenue is one that will open early. Also, there is good progress on the segment from Wooddale Avenue to Louisiana Avenue. We are working with the contractor on the possibility of not having to close the north part of Cedar Lake Trail by Target Field for an extended period of time, which was reported earlier. For the trails in the Opus area, we are working to open up yet this year.

Mr. Alexander presented photos of the recent construction progress and highlighted the recent developments along the stations.

Mayor Hanlon asked for a future update to himself and Hopkins staff on the Shady Oak station and the aspects of the parking. Mr. Alexander acknowledged this request and will follow up with city staff.

Photos of the Kenilworth LRT tunnel work were shown. Mr. Alexander went through the work that is involved with this tunnel.

In Minneapolis, Cedar Lake Parkway will be opening within the week. The Cedar Lake Channel is scheduled to open up later this month. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) retaining wall work is now complete in this area. Mr. Alexander discussed the work around Glenwood Avenue area, which we are coordinating with Hennepin County, as they also have work in this area. We currently plan to complete the bridge work in September.

Systems: Photos were shown of the Systems work. Mr. Alexander reported good progress is being made with the Systems work. The overhead catenary wire pulls are starting at SouthWest Station and moving east. There are currently four traction power houses installed.

Public Outreach. David Davies, Public Involvement Manager, provided an update on public involvement. Mr. Davies reported that over 140 public meetings have been held this year. Outreach work continues, which includes providing tours. Six public walking tours were held in July, with over 75 attendees. The next round of walking tours will be in September. Mr. Davies said if there is any other interest in tours, contact the Outreach department to set one up.

4. DBE/WORKFORCE UPDATE

Jon Tao from the Met Council's Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity reviewed and shared the DBE achievement numbers along with the small business and workforce participation. Mr. Tao went over DBE participation since May 31, 2023, and said we are still exceeding the goals in this area. The disaggregated construction workforce in hours was shown. Mr. Tao mentioned that we now have included the total number working on the project and compared it to last time presented. This reporting cycle, there are over 200 people added.

Mayor Hovland commended Jon on reporting the DBE participation and the work on exceeding the goals.

Mayor Wiersum also commended Jon on this report, and asked if it would be possible to add a count for non-white women. Having awareness of this would be useful. Mayor Wiersum also said there is a lot of talk that light rail projects all over the country are over budget. Mayor Wiersum said he fully supports this project and the work and suggests that with a project of this scope, a post analysis be completed. This would really help us learn for projects in the future.

Commissioner Goettel agrees and said this should be a lessons learned. When talking to our Federal partners, most of these large projects all over the country are over budget. The Federal government is trying to help with this, one way is by increasing contingency level requirements. They seem to be taking lessons from other projects around the country. Mr. Alexander said you also need to look at the scope and risk limits. With our project, we have freight rail and tunnels, which are both high risk items. A lessons learned would be to stay above ground and not to build close to freight rail when possible.

Mayor Hanlon mentioned that another item to think of would be adding in costs to businesses being impacted along the construction area. There were businesses hurt during this construction period.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be October 4.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary