

Metropolitan Council

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
Wednesday, April 5, 10:00 a.m., St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates Present	Chair Charlie Zelle Mike Barnes Patrick Hanlon James Hovland	Chris LaTondresse John Pacheco Brad Wiersum	Tim Brausen (Alt) Anjuli Cameron (Alt) Suzanne Sobotka (Alt)
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zelle called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Introductions were made for the new members.

Chair Zelle provided updates on the following:

- At the current Legislative Session, staff are monitoring two Transportation/Transit related bills which would provide transit funding.
- The Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) has released their second of series of reports on this project. Staff have been engaged with this group and are providing all the requested information. The OLA has indicated that there will be a third audit report out near the end of May on the Project's change order process, followed by a financial audit in the late summer timeframe.
- Transit safety and the experience of customers is very important on Metro Transit's existing transit lines along with the new lines. Our new Transit Police Chief Morales will be introduced at our June CMC meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Zelle presented the February 1, 2023, SWLRT Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. Mayor Hovland made a motion to approve the minutes, Mayor Wiersum seconded the motion. Following a vote, the minutes were approved.

3. PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director provided an update on the project. Currently, staff are negotiating costs of the revised construction schedules with both Civil and Systems contractors. On the Civil contract, we finalized a settlement agreement in March 2022 based on a revised schedule that added approximately 34½ months to the Civil work. The Met Council and ECCB authorized staff to spend up to \$210M. We are currently in negotiations on what this final amount will be. Our expert outside consultants are assisting the Council with these negotiations. We are finalizing a no cost change order to include a revised schedule that adds approximately 28 months to the Systems work. The contractor will cap the amount it is seeking for the revised schedule at approximately \$64M. Note that the work stoppages to the critical path work for the Kenilworth LRT Tunnel experienced in 2022 and 2023 have not been incorporated and impacts are under evaluation.

Jim stated the estimated project budget remains at \$2.7B. The Council continues to seek additional funding of approximately \$270M. The revenue service date remains 2027. Jim shared the construction worker slide, which shows over 69 of the 87 Minnesota counties that have brought home money from working on our project.

Upcoming construction activities for 2023 were highlighted. Maps were shared of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, St. Louis Park and Minneapolis with the key work for each city. The anticipated reopening of the trails was shared.

Glenwood Avenue is planned to be open later this summer. Once Glenwood Avenue is open the Royalston area will close for crossing work. The bike lane in this area is scheduled to remain closed until 2025.

Photos were shown of the construction highlights. Jim stated that overall, the project is over 70% complete. SouthWest Station will be turned over to SouthWest Transit later this spring. Work is mostly

complete in this area except for the passenger drop-off and access to the new parking structure, which includes driving piles.

Mayor Hovland asked if the future spur line, which is in discussions to run from Savage to St. Louis Park, would this connect to the Louisiana Station? The Council is not working on any plans associated with this, however, with the spur being a freight track there could not be a track connection to the LRT station.

In Minneapolis, the secant pile work at the Kenilworth LRT tunnel is now complete. Work continues on the tunnel. Jim shared some photos of the impediment that was found at the tunnel site. The impediment was a concrete slab that extended into the footprint of the secant piles. Our engineering consultant determined that the extension was non-structural and was subsequently removed. We coordinated closely with CICA representatives on this work.

The work on the Cedar Lake channel wall was shown. This work is to reestablish the shoreline of the Cedar Lake channel, which is an environmental requirement. We expect to have this wall work completed this summer.

Photos were shown of the Systems work. The catenary poles are now installed from SouthWest Station to the Nine Mile Creek Bridge. We continue to receive Systems equipment, which is being held in storage until work areas are ready for installation.

Chair Zelle said we were fortunate to have the storage area which helped with the supply chain issues. Jim said there are some impacts with supply chain, but they have not been significant.

Mayor Hanlon appreciates all the development the project brought along the Blake and Excelsior area. For the Shady Oak Station though, he appreciates that the parking was reduced but would like to see a ramp versus surface parking, which would help with density of development. He asked if there are any dollars available to help with a ramp. Jim responded that from the Project's perspective, there are no funds available for this. We have 182 parking surface stalls to build on the north side of the station and have programmed 315 on the south side; the south parking is currently deferred to allow time to determine if a ramp could be constructed instead of surface stalls with funding provided by others. Mayor Hanlon mentioned that Hopkins is only four-square miles, one of the lowest income cities on this line and any help to look for funding for this would be appreciated. Chair Zelle mentioned that there may be programs outside of the Project to look into, such as CMAQ funds. Jim noted that the City of St. Louis Park has a good example of this at the Beltline Station.

Jim introduced James Mockovciak, Senior Outreach Coordinator, to talk on the upcoming Outreach activities. James reported we have a busy year ahead with Outreach work. We now have two new Outreach Coordinators on board. James introduced Diane Anastos and Kaydee Kirk. Diane will focus on the west with Eden Prairie, Hopkins and Minnetonka and Kaydee will focus on St. Louis Park and Minneapolis. James reported on the upcoming Town Halls. This year the Town Halls will be virtual and combined as follows: one for Eden Prairie and Minnetonka on April 19, one for Hopkins and St. Louis Park on April 26, and one for Minneapolis on April 26.

We will be hosting walking tours for community members again this year. We will offer three tours for each city (held in May, June and September). James noted that these tours do fill up quickly and encouraged those interested in attending to sign up on our website when dates are posted. James said individual groups can also be offered tours. If there is a special group that would like a tour, let the Outreach staff know.

4. DBE/WORKFORCE UPDATE

Jon Tao from the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity reviewed and shared the DBE achievement numbers as of January 31, 2023. The contractors continue to exceed the goals for the DBE participation on their contracts. Staff continue to monitor progress.

The disaggregated totals to date were shared. The region has a 20% goal for women; 32% goal for POCl.

March is women's history month. To honor this, our Civil contractor, Lunda McCrossan Joint Venture (LMJV) co-sponsored Women in Construction Week, March 5 – 11. LMJV also held a roundtable luncheon at their field office, which was a good opportunity to network and build relationships. There were over 45 in attendance.

The Met Council's initiative of Building Strong Communities program has one of the graduates now working on the Civil contract. This is great program adopted by the State, that besides offering to train the employees, helps retain them to build on their careers.

On May 4 there will be a Construction Career Expo, called 'Rocking the Rails'. This is a great opportunity for young people to become familiar with construction work. Our Civil contractor LMJV along with our Systems contractor, Aldridge Parsons Joint Venture (APJV) are working with Dunwoody College to host this expo.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary