

Metropolitan Council

St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee

June 4, 2014

Members Present	Chair Susan Haigh	Peter McLaughlin	Cheryl Youakim
	Jan Callison	Will Roach	Marion Greene (Alt)
	James Hovland	Terry Schneider	Tom Harmening (Alt)
	Bill James	Nancy Tyra-Lukens	Peter Wagenius (Alt)
	Brian Lamb		
Members Absent	James Brimeyer	Jeff Jacobs	Betsy Hodges
	Keith Bogut	Linda Higgins	Matt Look
	Scott McBride		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susan Haigh called the June 4, 2014 meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. at the St. Louis Park City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Haigh presented the April 2, 2014 SW Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. Mr. Bill James made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Jan Callison seconded the motion, which was then unanimously approved.

Chair Haigh introduced and welcomed Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene, who will now be a Hennepin County alternate to the CMC.

3. MUNICIPAL CONSENT PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Jim Alexander provided an update on the municipal consent process. Mr. Alexander reported the plans were sent out on April 22, which then started the process. To date, a number of public hearings have been held, along with a joint hearing with Hennepin County and Met Council. The attendance and number of people that testified was shown for all the hearings held to date. To date there is one confirmed date for the City Council action on the plans, which is Minnetonka. They will have their Council action on June 23.

Mayor Nancy Tyra Lukens asked if the City of Minneapolis has enough time to publicly notice and hold their public hearing. Mr. Peter Wagenius stated that the City of Minneapolis attorneys are aware of the law requirements for public hearings, the timeline and are working on this. They will be holding a public hearing.

Mr. Alexander shared the different avenues for getting information on municipal consent. The SWLRT web site has all the information, including the municipal consent plans that were shared at the public meetings. The plans were submitted to the cities and county on April 22, and we are now in the process of getting comments from the cities and county staff. SPO staff will then provide responses to these comments, which will be sent to the cities and county prior to their respective board actions.

Mr. Alexander went over the categories that the city/county staff comments are being put into, which are:

- No changes required;
- Requested design refinement accepted;
- Additional staff discussions required;

- Locally Requested Capital Investment (LRCI). This category is for the betterments that are requested; and
- Policy level discussion.

The next steps are to receive municipal consent approvals. After this we will work on completing the PE plans. For this we are releasing a request for proposals for the advanced design work. The goal is to have this contract by the end of 2014. The Advanced Design Consultant will work on items such as station design, streetscape design and utility relocation design. Also work will include other design advancement and specifications.

Commissioner Jan Callison asked how the environmental work fits into this. Mr. Alexander stated that the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) is currently scheduled for publishing in the Fall of 2014. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be in 2015. We are expecting to get a Record of Decision in the late summer timeframe of 2015. We will then be able to move into the Engineering phase, as defined by FTA and right of way acquisitions.

Mayor Terry Schneider asked how much analysis work is done during PE for mitigation plans, such as the Opus Hill work. Mr. Alexander stated that for the Opus Hill work, the FEIS team is working closely with the engineering plans to identify concerns about visual, vibration and noise. These will then be evaluated in the FEIS process. Mitigation impacts will then be identified to further advance the design plans.

Mr. Bill James asked about the station area design and how this will flow into the process. Mr. Alexander stated we have developed the layouts as to where the stations are going to go. There is a lot of anticipated work surrounding the station areas that may not be project related. In terms of access, we have already started working on this in the design process.

4. SWLRT PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Ms. Sam O'Connell shared some of the recent outreach activities. Ms. O'Connell also acknowledged and thanked the Community Advisory Committee and Business Advisory Committee, who have both done a lot of work and spent many hours on the project planning. They provided input on the station designs, station location and alignment.

Ms. O'Connell went over the recent open houses. A lot of good feedback from these meetings has been received. Once the public meetings are complete, we record the comments and put them up on our website. Ms. O'Connell mentioned our outreach coordinators are doing an excellent job and have been working tirelessly on this project. They spend time in the neighborhoods and community sharing information and getting citizens comfortable with the project, along with answering questions and concerns.

Electronic outreach is used to get out the information as well. We will continue to do this and we thank the cities and county for helping us get the information out there through their portals.

In 2013-2014, the outreach activities included 35 BAC/CAC meetings; 25 open houses; and 160+ community events. We also have great electronic outreach including our website, GovDelivery, Twitter and Facebook.

Ms. O'Connell described our new SWLRT Mobile Project Office, which is a 40' bus that was converted for sharing our SWLRT information. This bus allows us to go into communities deeper and bring information to the communities. The bus is here today and Ms. O'Connell encouraged SWCMC members to go through the bus following the meeting.

Chair Haigh mentioned that the Green Line opening date is June 14. There will be an event at Union Depot, along with many of the stations along the line. This is a great opportunity to see what all the neighborhoods have done along the line, as each station with an event has had input from the neighborhood groups. All rides are free on Metro Transit on both Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15. Ms. O'Connell mentioned the SWLRT Mobile Project office bus will also be available during this event and will be at the Target Field location.

Roundtable

Chair Haigh suggested to cancel the July 2 SWLRT CMC meeting, as there will not be a lot to report at this time. It was decided to wait until August to meet again. A cancellation notice will be sent in the coming weeks. Mayor Schneider mentioned he would like to see some type of communication following July 14 as to where the municipal consent process is at. Chair Haigh stated that an update will be sent out to members prior to the August CMC meeting.

Mayor Schneider asked about the process for LRCIs. Mr. Mark Fuhrmann stated that the municipal consent process needs to be completed first, with the next step of finishing out the 30% design plans. Following that, we can begin the conversations with the cities and county on their ideas for the locally requested capital improvements. Once we get the list assembled, the project office will assemble a group from the cities, CTIB and county at a senior staff level to itemize each request in order of sequencing, prioritizing and phasing. Next step will be to work with FTA to develop the risk contingency management plan, which will tell us the amount of contingency needed and when the release points for this contingency will be.

Mayor Schneider asked if the areas of design that will be funded locally fall in the same track as this? Mr. Fuhrmann stated that if a betterment request is major in nature and requires a lot of design work, then we will look to the requester to fund the additional design effort. Every request is different, but with minor design changes, we can handle within the project office, but large changes, we need to have help funding the design work.

Mr. Tom Harmening stated it is his understanding that in order to provide municipal consent, it can't contain any conditions. It is also his understanding that the municipal consent plans we are approving are the same ones as distributed in April. If there are changes agreed to on the plans, we are asked to approve a plan that doesn't reflect our changes. How is this going to be documented? Mr. Fuhrmann stated that the law for municipal consent is for all to consider a point in time, which is the April 22 plan set that was sent out. Things do change in these large projects, and this process will be further discussed at the meeting that will be held with city managers in early June.

Mr. James asked that once the plans are approved, will it be published so the public can read through the details? Mr. Fuhrmann stated that the municipal consent plans are on the website and as we hit each milestone – 30% and beyond, these will also be put on the website.

Mayor Hovland mentioned that at the recent Transportation Advisory Board meeting, there was some CMAQ money from a project that wasn't ready yet reallocated to the downtown Hopkins Park and Ride. He asked if Hopkins will have this information when they make their municipal consent determination, as this is a modification of the plan that was in place in April. Mr. Craig Lamothe reported that the TAB on 5/21 did award \$6M to the City of Hopkins for the downtown Hopkins park and ride structure. This does not have to go the Met Council for approval. This is the new design element in the advanced design contract.

Mr. Will Roach congratulated the project office for all their fantastic and professional work. He also recognized the Business Advisory Committee members and their involvement at the municipal consent hearings, and recognized the various chambers for their continued support and involvement.

Mayor Hovland said he would like to request the SWLRT Mobile Project Office bus for their upcoming 4th of July parade in Edina.

Councilmember Youakim mentioned Family Days at Raspberry Festival would also be a perfect place for the bus.

Chair Haigh asked CMC members to let Outreach staff know of any other events that the bus should be requested for.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary