



METRO Blue Line Extension Project Decision Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	July 17, 2024 9:00 – 10:30 am
Location	Blue Line Extension Project Office, North Conference Room, 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 600, St Louis Park, MN 55426
Members	Charlie Zelle, Irene Fernando, Lisa Cerney, Reva Chamblis, Marion Greene, Peter Hanf, Ben Schweigert, Lisa Carney, Anjuli Cameron, Jeff Lunde
Project Staff	Dan Soler, Nick Thompson, Nick Landwer, Kelcie Young, Kyle Mianulli, Jer Yang

1. Call To Order

Charlie Zelle, Chair, Metropolitan Council, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decision Board (PDB) Meeting to order at 9:09 am, and welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Minutes from May 15, 2024 Meeting

Chair Zelle asked for a motion to approve the My 15, 2024 PDB minutes. Irene Fernando, Commissioner, Hennepin County, motioned to approve the May 15, 2024 minutes, which was seconded by Reva Chamblis, Council Member, Metropolitan Council. The minutes were officially approved.

3. Cost & Ridership

Nick Thompson from the Metropolitan Council reported that cost and ridership data were initially presented at the March 2024 Corridor Management Committee meeting, and an update was requested before Municipal Consent. Mr. Thompson noted that this data was also presented at the Metropolitan Council Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on July 8, 2024, and will be shared again at the upcoming BLE CMC meeting on July 18, 2024.

Mr. Thompson mentioned a few changes in ridership numbers, stating that the figures are higher than previously presented, due to the inclusion of one more year of new baseline data. He also shared an update from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on their Simplified Trips-on-Project Software (STOP) model data and provided the latest ridership numbers.



Regarding the BLE Project's cost breakdown, Mr. Thompson reported that in March 2024, the projected cost range was \$2.9 to \$3.2 billion. With the project's design now advanced to just over 30%, the current base cost projection is \$3.2 billion. Mr. Thompson noted that the BLE is maintaining a 37.5% contingency, which is considered a safe margin given the many unknowns that remain. Mr. Thompson noted that the next Cost and Ridership ship will be at 60% design.

4. Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Update

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council, shared that since the publication of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), the BLE Project held its first public hearing on the evening of July 16, 2024, which had a good turnout. Ms. Young also announced that the next SDEIS public hearing will be held at the Brooklyn Park Public Library on July 23, 2024.

Dan Soler, Hennepin County, mentioned that Ms. Young presented on the SDEIS at the Minneapolis Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR) meeting.

Commissioner Fernando requested that any council letters received for the BLE project be sent to her for awareness.

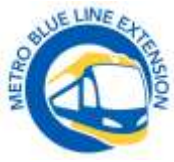
Ms. Young shared that the next step is to respond to the comments received during the SDEIS comment period. Mr. Thompson added that there have been requests for a summary of these comments, which will be shared at the August 8, 2024, CMC meeting.

5. Municipal Consent Update

Mr. Thompson stated that the municipal consent process will be detailed at tomorrow's July 18, 2024, CMC Meeting. He then provided an overview of the municipal consent process, noting that a joint Municipal Consent public hearing is scheduled for August 26, 2024, pending approval from the County Board and Metropolitan Council board members.

a. Local Agency Coordination

Mr. Thompson noted that there has been legal coordination on the Municipal Consent process. He reviewed the actions each city can take regarding municipal consent: they can vote yes, vote no with a request to modify the design, or take no action at all. Additionally, the BLE project has developed a one-page information sheet about the project, and alignment roll plots are available at public libraries for the communities.



Commissioner Lunde inquired if it would be possible to provide a one- to two-page document that can be shared with residents to help focus public attention. Mr. Thompson responded that the project would offer a one-page overview of the BLE alignment and municipal consent.

Mr. Soler shared that the City of Crystal submitted a letter for CMC.

6. Next Meeting: August 21, 2024

7. Adjourn

Chair Zelle concluded the meeting and adjourned it at 9:45am.

Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda, July 17, 2024

Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2024

PDB PowerPoint Presentation

Respectfully Submitted,

Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead