



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

CAC Members: Ellis Beck, Lex Brand, Thomia Brown, Brett Buckner, Kathy Fraser, Andrew Gillett, Jason Greenberg, Jeff Guertin, Kathy Fraser, Jonathan Hansen, Jericho Huggar, Mary Limbeck, Giuseppe Marrari, Gene Montanez, Adua Pugh, Ken Rodgers

Agency Staff and Guests: C Terrence Anderson, Nkongo Cigolo, Neha Damle, Catherine Gold, Lee Guekguezian, Joanna Ocasio-Maisonet, Nick Landwer, Bojan Mistic, Koehl Simmons, Joan Vanhala, Kjerstin Yager, Jer Yang

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Co-chair Jason Greenberg called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Upcoming Meetings and Attendance

Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council, took attendance.

3. Review of April Meeting Minutes

Jason Greenberg asked if there were any changes to the April meeting minutes. There were no comments on the meeting minutes.

4. Anti-Displacement Overview and Recommendations

Catherine Gold, Hennepin County, presented the findings of the anti-displacement work. Catherine explained the goal of the project is to ensure the project benefits the existing community and ensures the community survives the construction of the project.

C Terrence Anderson, CURA, discussed the Anti-Displacement Working Group's (ADWG) Recommendations Report. C Terrence stated the report centers on the recommended outcomes, seventeen policies that support the recommended outcomes, and underlying principles for all recommendations. He explained that the report isn't intended to go to the public but provide a framework for the project to strive toward recommended anti-displacement outcomes. He stated that the types of displacement the report focused on included cultural, business, and residential displacement. He explained that there are separate recommended anti-displacement outcomes in each community along the light rail. In Brooklyn Park, these included preserving the rich culture of the corridor in place, improving the climate for business after construction, providing opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place, supporting and preserving affordable housing, and ensuring youth feel safe on and around the light rail. In Crystal and Robbinsdale, these included addressing indirect construction impacts, improving the climate for businesses after construction, improve infrastructure surrounding the project and supporting development. In Minneapolis, these policies included creating

opportunities for community ownership, empowering the community to have control over decision-making, provide opportunities for existing residents and businesses to stay in place, grant reparations to the Harrison neighborhood for harm caused by the previous alignment, providing residents opportunities to stay in place and feel supported, and creating accountability for government agencies.

5. Discussion and Members Feedback

Jonathan Hansen asked if the ADWG had a clear preference of West Broadway or North 21st Avenue for the rail lines east/west in North Minneapolis and asked C Terrence to expand upon the Harrison neighborhood item. C Terrence stated that there was no clear preference and stated that displacement pressures began in Harrison during the previous iteration of the Blue Line Extension when the previous line was announced. The anti-displacement strategy will address this.

Audua Pugh stated that a lot of these outcomes begin with “ensure” and asked how the project team plans to ensure these outcomes are achieved. C Terrence discussed the creation of a structure of accountability to ensure the outcomes are being met. Catherine explained this will involve expanding existing programs and creating new programs and monitoring these programs. C Terrence stated that one of the recommendations is to create a dashboard to monitor the success of the anti-displacement work.

Gene Montanez asked how fifty percent of North Minneapolis workers will get jobs. Catherine stated that project construction will result in the creation of many jobs.

Jeff Guertin asked if the Metropolitan Council anticipated this funding need. Catherine stated that the funding is not only from the Metropolitan Council, there are many local, state, and federal funding sources the project will draw from.

Kathy Fraser commented that in the Brooklyn Park recommendations, there is an equity component in that the areas of Brooklyn Park that are most in need of light rail services are missed by the route. C Terrence stated that the Blue Line Extension will augment the existing light rail system to improve service in these areas.

Ricardo Perez stated that the opposite of anti-displacement is abundance. C Terrence said that that is a great point and the ADWG stated that it is not just about surviving but thriving.

Gene Montanez asked what CAC members can do to get the word out about potential jobs. C Terrence said that there will be robust community engagement by the anti-displacement work. Nkongo responded that the project team can get back to Gene on his question. Catherine stated a June 20th event is planned for key stakeholders in workforce developers.

Audua asked if the Lowry route is still under consideration. Catherine responded no. Audua asked why, and Jason stated that the Lowry decision will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

C Terrence shared the seventeen anti-displacement policy recommendations that CURA is putting forward. Audua stated that she has been at the community meetings and some people in the community have said no to the project and asked how that is addressing the community concerns. Nkongo stated that they have been

meeting with certain communities to address specific concerns. Audua said the report was too long and nobody is going to read two hundred pages. C Terrence said they are developing public-friendly materials to summarize the findings of the report. Mary Limbeck said the main portion of the report is only forty pages. Ricardo suggested an audio version that people could listen to. Kathy stated that some feedback she's hearing in North Minneapolis is that we are not reaching people and even if we create public friendly materials, people may not know what is going on. Catherine stated that there will be a push to get the anti-displacement materials to the public. C Terrence stated that he will be on radio and there may some newspaper articles. Kyle Miaulli, Hennepin County, discussed that they are planning ad buys with the Star Tribune, KMOJ, and the Minnesota Spokesman-Reporter.

6. Next Steps

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared next steps, saying that the June 8th CMC will still be held and focused on Minneapolis. Nick added that it will generally be an informational meeting and that there won't be a recommendation to pick a route. The project team would give notice if an action would rise at this meeting. Audua asked if the route options were West Broadway or 21st Avenue, if the feedback received has informed the route options and asked how many no's the project needs to decided West Broadway or 21st Avenue. Audua stated that in her perspective, it has been a no to light rail on West Broadway. Jason clarified that the decision between Lowry and West Broadway has already been made and asked if there was enough negative feedback from the community if the project would go back to considering that. Nick stated that if there was enough negative feedback, it could go back to the policymakers and that would be a policymaker decision. Audua asked how many people were asked about Lowry Avenue versus West Broadway when there are thousands of people living in North Minneapolis. She said that they made their decision based on limited information before and asked if the project team has asked about West Broadway versus Lowry Avenue now that the alignment has been engineered further. Jason thanked Audua for sharing her perspective.

Jason asked if there were any comments on the last presentation. Jason asked if it gets 'heated' in the community. Audua said that writing it down on a post-it note is not community engagement and that she believes a couple of note takers should be present. She believes that the outreach is often too structured in a way that community engagement is not done. Jonathan Hansen stated that there have been changes to the route based on community feedback, Jason agreed. Nkongo stated that the project team has been reaching out to those impacted by the project and that the project team is open to suggestions. Gene stated that it is a really hard sell but the project is bigger than us and it is a really good project, and it is our responsibility as CAC members to communicate to the community members. Audua agreed with Gene that the project is bigger than us and suggested that eminent domain will occur if the community does not get ahead of the project. Jason thanked Audua for her comments.

7. Next Meeting: June 7, 2023

8. Adjourn

Jason Greenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

MEETING CHAT

[7:14 PM] Lee Guekguezian CURA (she/her) (Guest): as well as supporting communications materials

[7:17 PM] Gene (Guest): KISS always works when it comes to complex data for reader understanding.

[7:30 PM] Kathy Fraser (Guest): Thanks Kyle!

(1 liked)

[7:32 PM] C Terrence Anderson (CURA) (Guest): canders@umn.edu

[7:32 PM] Ellis Beck (Guest): Thanks C. Terrence!

[7:32 PM] C Terrence Anderson (CURA) (Guest): Of course!

[7:37 PM] Guertin, Jeff (Guest): Aside from community feedback, what are the other inputs to the decision?

[7:41 PM] Cigolo, Nkongo: Route Modification Report - Metropolitan Council (metro council.org)

[7:50 PM] Jonathan Hansen (Guest): I have personally seen feedback from the public in BLE meetings that resulted in revisions in the alignment.

[8:01 PM] C Terrence Anderson (CURA) (Guest): Thanks for the time tonight. See y'all next time. All the best - CTA

[8:01 PM] Guertin, Jeff (Guest): Good point Gene, our role is to be 2 way communication facilitators.

(1 liked)

[8:01 PM] Ocasio-Maisonet, Joanna: Thanks everyone for your time.