



METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee (CMC) Meeting Summary

Date & Time	May 11, 2023 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Location	F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis
CMC Members	Charlie Zelle, Reva Chamblis, Irene Fernando, Dan Doerrer, Tara Watson, Jim Adams, John Pacheco, Nick Thompson, Theresa Kiser, Meg Forney, Jason Greenberg, Jeremiah Ellison, Jacob Frey, Denise Butler, Karla Arredondo Payan, Robert Lilligren
ADWG Representatives	Cathy Gold, C. Terrence Anderson, Ricardo Perez, Terry Austin, Amanda Xiong

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Public Invitation – up to 15 minutes

Chair Charlie Zelle, Metropolitan Council, called the meeting order at 1:36pm.

Chair Zelle extended a warm welcome to the members of the Corridor Management Committee (CMC) and invited members to introduce themselves.

Chair Zelle informed the public that written comments can be submitted to Nkongo Cigolo, a representative of the Metropolitan Council, until May 19, 2023. These comments will be included as attachments to the meeting notes for the next session. Additionally, all relevant materials and handouts for this meeting can be accessed on the project's official website at bluelineext.org.

Chair Zelle announced during today's meeting that members and communities will be informed about a comprehensive set of recommendations and strategies aimed at combating displacement. These recommendations were developed by the Anti-Displacement Working Group (ADWG), with leadership provided by a community work group associated with the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA).

Chair Zelle informed the attendees that the meeting would commence with a 15-minute public comment period, during which members of the public would have the opportunity to speak, with a maximum allotted time of three minutes per speaker.

During the public comment period, several individuals addressed their comments. The speakers included Kathy Neitzke, a resident of Lyn Park neighborhood; Mitchell Hanson,



representing the Harrison Neighborhood Association; Alex Burns, from Our Streets Minneapolis; Eva Young, a member of the public; Candy Baikon, representing the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA); and Cynthia Wilson, representing the Minneapolis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The complete video recordings of their comments, in their own words, can be accessed on the bluelineext.org website under the "Committees" section, with a link to today's meeting.

2. Approval of April 13 CMC Meeting Summary

Vice-Chair Reva Chamblis, Metropolitan Council, made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 13th. Commissioner Irene Fernando from Hennepin County seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

3. Anti-Displacement Overview & Recommendations

Cathy Gold with Hennepin County introduced the members of ADWG who would be presenting the Anti-Displacement recommendations. Ms. Gold gave an overview of the work done regarding the Blue Line Extension Anti-Displacement efforts and emphasized that the purpose of the ADWG is to minimize displacement and maximize the positive impact on the community brought by the light rail project. Ms. Gold stated that the objective is to ensure that the investments made in light rail benefit the residents and businesses along the corridor. Furthermore, Ms. Gold highlighted the importance of helping communities prepare for light rail opportunities, survive through the construction phase, and thrive in the future.

Ricardo Perez, representing the Blue Line Coalition, expressed his support for the Blue Line Anti-Displacement project. Mr. Perez mentioned that the Blue Line Coalition consists of 12 active organizations that convene on a monthly basis to discuss the Blue Line Extension project and the Anti-Displacement efforts. Mr. Perez emphasized that the focus of the Blue Line Coalition is not solely on the train but on the people. He highlighted that it revolves around love—for the community, neighbors, and local businesses. According to Mr. Perez, the antidote to displacement is abundance, and he urged the project to prioritize the needs expressed by the communities. Mr. Perez stated that the communities no longer want to just survive; they aspire to thrive and requested assistance in achieving that goal.

C. Terrence Anderson from CURA shared that over the past 20 months, the ADWG has actively engaged with communities to listen to their concerns regarding displacement. This input was used to create a comprehensive report containing recommendations. C. Terrence expressed gratitude towards the ADWG members for their valuable contributions to the project. C. Terrence explained that the Anti-Displacement report underwent a rigorous process of research and analysis, culminating in a set of recommendations. C. Terrence emphasized that the report started with an important question: "Is there displacement, and will there be displacement?" From there, the focus shifted to identifying desired outcomes that the ADWG aims to achieve



abundantly within the communities where the light rail will pass through. C. Terrence highlighted that finding common ground on these outcomes opens up numerous possibilities.

C. Terrence reported that the ADWG conducted a thorough review of more than 55 different policies, ultimately identifying 17 specific policies that closely align with the recommended outcomes of the Anti-Displacement efforts. *(For further details regarding the ADWG report, visit the website at <https://yourblueline.org/12020/widgets/36825/documents/42365>).*

C. Terrence outlined the guiding principles that aided the ADWG in identifying the 17 policy recommendations. These principles were rooted in accessibility, meaning that the policies should be easily accessible for the community members. Additionally, the policies should be measurable, allowing for clear assessment of their effectiveness, and include accountability mechanisms to ensure proper implementation. Furthermore, the policies were designed to prioritize and support those most impacted by the construction, specifically targeting existing residents in the affected areas.

C. Terrence addressed the recommendations specific to each city along the corridor, highlighting that displacements manifest in distinct ways based on the unique characteristics of each city's environment. This recognition indicates that the solutions and strategies for mitigating displacement may need to be tailored to the specific context of each city along the corridor.

C. Terrence provided a report on the recommendations specific to Brooklyn Park, sharing that the desired outcomes in this area aim to preserve and nurture the rich cultural fabric of the corridor. The recommendations include enhancing the business climate, creating opportunities for existing residents and businesses to continue operating, supporting both development and preservation efforts, and ensuring the safety of youth in proximity to the light rail. These measures are intended to maintain the cultural vitality and economic stability of Brooklyn Park while accommodating the presence of the light rail.

C. Terrence highlighted the recommendations for both Crystal and Robbinsdale, adding that desired outcomes in these cities revolve around addressing the indirect impacts of construction. The recommendations include improving the business climate after construction, enhancing infrastructure in the project area, supporting the development and preservation of the local culture, and ensuring the availability of sufficient resources to facilitate the implementation of the recommended policies. These measures aim to mitigate the adverse effects of construction and foster the long-term success and well-being of Crystal and Robbinsdale communities.



C. Terrence informed that Minneapolis has the highest number of recommendation outcomes among the cities along the corridor. The complete set of recommendation outcomes can be found in the ADWG report, which can be accessed at the provided link. <https://yourblueline.org/12020/widgets/36825/documents/42365>).

C. Terrence emphasized the significant amount of work conducted by the ADWG in order to arrive at the final selection of 17 recommendation policies. This process involved conducting a comprehensive literature review on anti-displacement approaches implemented across the country. Additionally, the ADWG conducted surveys with various government entities to gain insights into how anti-displacement measures were already being addressed in practice. These efforts aimed to ensure a well-informed and comprehensive set of recommendations to effectively tackle displacement challenges along the Blue Line Extension alignment.

Ms. Gold emphasized that achieving the desired outcomes would require dedicated effort, necessitating collaboration, commitment, and coordination among various stakeholders including public, private, philanthropic, and community organizations. Ms. Gold highlighted the importance of fostering investments and partnerships to support these efforts. Ms. Gold emphasized that the objective is to actively engage people in conversation and ensure a shared understanding of the community's desires and building transparency.

C. Terrence explained the next steps in the process, which involve effectively communicating the recommendations to other aspects of the project. This includes engaging the communities in the development of an implementation plan and prioritizing strategies to address displacement concerns before, during, and after construction.

Ms. Gold informed the attendees that the Anti-Displacement report, videos of the Anti-Displacement workshops, and an interactive survey for community feedback are all available on the platform mentioned: yourblueline.org/anti-displacement. Chair Zelle thanked both Ms. Gold and C. Terrence for their outstanding efforts.

Co-Chair Jason Greenberg, representing the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), provided an update on the recent CAC Meeting that took place on May 10, 2023, reported that the members discussed how “outcomes” will be ensured by the project. Co-Chair Greenberg also highlighted some concerns expressed by the community along the corridor. These concerns included a perceived lack of sufficient information being provided to the community, worries about potential displacement among residents and



businesses along the alignment, and a lack of support for the light rail project from some individuals.

Co-Chair Tara Watson, representing the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), shared an update on the recent BAC Meeting held on May 9, 2023, reported that members have requested for the Anti-Displacement report be simplified to ensure better understanding by the public. Co-Chair Watson also mentioned that the community has expressed concerns about the project's perceived progression, despite their request for it to slow down. This lack of alignment between the community's desired pace and the project's advancement has resulted in a lack of trust from the community.

Terry Austin, ADWG member, expressed that C. Terrence delivered an exceptionally thorough and thoughtfully planned presentation. Terry Austin would like to extend his apologies to the Metropolitan Council for any confusion or mix-up regarding his attendance during the recent meeting with Lyn Park. He wants to clarify that he attended the meeting with the intention of encouraging members to remain engaged.

Amanda Xiong, ADWG member, shared that she holds high hopes that the Anti-Displacement recommended policies will be implemented, emphasizing that the corridor is home to diverse communities that may face displacement due to the light rail project. Amanda Xiong openly expressed her belief that if the recommendation policies are not adopted, then the purpose of the work becomes questionable. She emphasized that the recommended policies align with the desires of the communities and are crucial for fostering the flourishing of the community.

Commissioner Irene Fernando from Hennepin County provided clarification that the meeting will not involve voting on the recommendations at this time. Commissioner Fernando mentioned that there will be a public comment period where further input can be submitted. Commissioner Fernando acknowledged that while some of the recommendations may be innovative or aspirational, it is essential to consider the reality and perspectives of the residents and neighbors affected by the project. She expressed gratitude towards the ADWG for their dedicated work on the recommendations.

Denise Butler from the Blue Line Coalition expressed that she was not aware of a public comment period and proposed a motion to accept the policy based on the input from the communities. Chair Zelle acknowledged the member's desire to take action but highlighted the importance of fairness in considering all comments and additional input. Chair Zelle pointed out that the acceptance and adoption of the policy recommendations involve multiple government entities, as these recommendations extend beyond the scope of this specific project.

Vice-Chair Chamblis emphasized the importance of addressing anti-displacement concerns. However, she highlighted that the issue at hand extends beyond anti-



displacement alone. It is crucial to understand and ensure that the community reaps the benefits of the project's investment and aligns with the Anti-Displacement recommendations that were presented during the meeting. Vice-Chair Chamblis emphasized the crucial role of funding and investments from various sources such as public, private, foundation, and community organizations in realizing the recommended policies. Vice-Chair Chamblis highlighted that without substantial investments in line with the recommendations, it would be challenging to make a strong impact on behalf of the communities along the corridor.

4. Next Steps – 10 min

Next Meeting: June 8, 2023

5. Adjourn

Chair Zelle concluded the meeting and officially adjourned it at 3:02 PM.