Corridor Management Committee

March 1, 2017
Today’s Topics

- Chair’s Legislative Update
- Construction Update
- DBE/Workforce Outreach Activities
Chair’s Legislative Update
Legislative Update

• HF 1479 bill introduced February 20
  ▪ Requests US Secretary of Transportation redirect federal funds from Southwest Light Rail to a block grant to fund other transit projects in the state
  ▪ Referred to House Transportation & Regional Governance Policy
HF 1479 Theme

- Transfer SWLRT federal funds to a block grant for other MN transit projects

SWLRT Response

- FTA cannot simply transfer federal funds from competitive Capital Investment Grant to a transit block grant
- Unused SWLRT New Starts federal funds would deposit back to Capital Investment Grant competitive pot to be awarded elsewhere in America
HF 1479 Theme

• SWLRT not cost-effective or sustainable

SWLRT Response

• LRT is most cost-effective transit mode in system at $1.66 operating subsidy per passenger (Latest financial 2015)
• Vehicle Miles Traveled in region decrease 29 million miles/year over No Build
• Greenhouse Gases decrease by 955,000 metric tons per year over existing conditions (2013)

Revised 3/10/17
HF 1479 Theme

• SWLRT not affordable or accessible

SWLRT Response

• Current train fare is $1.75 or $2.25
• Accessible to 80,900 jobs in 2035 along SWLRT corridor and 145,300 jobs in 2035 in downtown Minneapolis
HF 1479 Theme

- SWLRT opaque, deceptive, lacking meaningful public participation

SWLRT Response

- Project sponsored 870 assorted community meetings attended by 28,000 people since 2008 when discussion began examining alternatives
- Project convened 179 formal public meetings seeking public input/comment
- Public provided 1,275 formal comments to the NEPA EIS documents
HF 1479 Theme

• Met Council avoided meaningful legislative review of SWLRT
• Legislature has not held a single vote or passed an act that could be interpreted as legislative approval

SWLRT Response

• Legislature received many SWLRT project updates in front of committees since 2009
• Legislature appropriated a total of $30 million for SWLRT on three different occasions: 2009, 2011 and 2013
HF 1479 Theme

• SWLRT
Certificates of Participation are a form of indebtedness

SWLRT Response

• Certificates of Participation by definition are not classified as debt
HF 1479 Theme

- Met Council expects MN Legislature to provide 50% of ongoing SWLRT net operating subsidy

SWLRT Response

- Current state statute requires the Legislature to provide 50% of ongoing SWLRT net operating subsidy
HF 1479 Theme

- SWLRT bypasses most densely populated, most transit dependent, largely minority populations in the region

SWLRT Response

- West Lake Station high population density currently with more infill development in the pipeline
- High concentration of zero car households:
  - Royalston (28%)
  - Bassett Creek Valley (31%)
- High proportion of people of color:
  - Southwest Station, Eden Prairie (49%)
  - Blake Station, Hopkins (38%)
  - Bassett Creek Valley and Royalston Stations, Minneapolis (42% and 41%) respectively
HF 1479 Theme

- SWLRT will adversely affect quality of Minneapolis Chain of Lakes

SWLRT Response

- Independent water studies found SWLRT will not adversely affect groundwater quality or levels
- FTA issued a Record of Decision for SWLRT
Tracking Private Investment

• $515 million development planned or underway along SWLRT
  - Mix of projects around planned West Lake Street Station in Minneapolis
  - 1+ million s.f. office space around City West Station in Eden Prairie
  - 332-unit residential building proposed near Opus Station in Minnetonka
Construction Update
## Major Project Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Construction Invitation for Bids</td>
<td>February 14, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systems Construction Invitation for Bids</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMF Construction Invitation for Bids</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Start of Civil Construction</td>
<td>Q3 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Start of Systems Construction</td>
<td>Q3 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Start of OMF Construction</td>
<td>Q3 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Funding Grant Agreement</td>
<td>Mid 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Construction</td>
<td>2017-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Service</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civil Construction Contract Status

- Invitation for Bids (IFB) Issued on February 14
- Pre-bid meeting scheduled for March 3
- Bids due May 2
Construction Staffing: Filled or Interviewing

• Filled Positions
  ▪ Director Construction
  ▪ Assistant Director Construction
  ▪ OMF Construction Manager
  ▪ 3 Assistant Council Authorized Reps (ACAR) for Track, TPSS and OCS
  ▪ Communications Specialist

• Interviewing
  ▪ 3 ACARs for Signals, Communication & Freight Rail
  ▪ QA/QC Specialist
  ▪ Freight Rail Coordinator
Construction Staffing: Recruiting

- Manager, Construction Safety and Security
- 2 Managers for OMF and Civil Construction
- 3 Council Authorized Representatives for Civil, Systems and OMF
- 10 more ACARs for variety of disciplines
- 2 Change Control Administrators
- 3 Office Engineers
## Local Actions for Construction: Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Funding Agreements</th>
<th>Total Value (in $millions)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eden Prairie</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnetonka</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hennepin Co.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MnDOT</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$32.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes project funding commitment, base project elements and locally funded work*
Local Actions for Construction: Funding

• Regional Solicitation grants approved by Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) for public improvements that will leverage SWLRT investment
  ▪ Eden Prairie: $6.1M for Town Center Station construction
  ▪ Hopkins: $6M for purchase of one floor of constructed parking at Downtown Hopkins Park and Ride
  ▪ St. Louis Park: $6.4M for construction of 268 space Park and Ride structure at Beltline Station
  ▪ Hennepin County: $3.7M transferred to the Project for construction of Grade Separated Trail Crossings with stairs at Blake, Wooddale and Beltline Stations
## Local Actions for Construction: Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Permits</th>
<th>Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Park Sediment and Erosion Control Permit</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minnetonka Permits</strong></td>
<td>Aug. 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wetland Rezoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wetland and Floodplain Alteration Permit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wetland Replacement Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wetland, wetland Buffer and Floodplain Variances</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Conditional Use Permit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Local Actions for Construction: Permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permitting Agency</th>
<th>Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Conservation Act</td>
<td>Fall 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District</td>
<td>Dec. 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnehaha Creek Watershed District</td>
<td>Feb. 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Actions for Construction: OMF

• Dec 20, 2016: Public hearing for site plan review application at Hopkins Planning and Zoning Commission on

• Jan 3, 2017 Site plan review and approval at Hopkins City Council
DBE & Workforce Outreach Activities
Jan 10: Great Minds Workshop
Great Minds Workshop: Attendees

- Alex Tittle, Diversity ACT
- Ashley Realbanas, Goodwill-Easter Seals
- Barb Lau, Assoc. Women Contractors
- Barry Davies, Iron Workers 512
- Bernard Slater, Cement Masons Union
- Bonnie Vogel, Vogel Sheetmetal
- Christina Nebel-Dickerson, PTAC
- Clifton Boyd, B & L Supply
- David Bice, Bald Eagle Erectors Inc
- Debra Bushrod, Urban League
- Ekta Prakash, CAPI
- Gerald Ben-Ami, Big G Tech support
- Gilbert Odonkor, Hennepin Co.
- Greg Massey, Cement Masons Local 633
- James Burroughs, Minnesota Chief Inclusion Officer
- Jenny Winkelaar, Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council
- Jim Roth, Metropolitan Consortium of Developers
- John O'Phelan, Ramsey Co. Workforce Solutions
- Kent Robbins, Robbins Consulting
- Kevin Lindsey, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights
- Kolu Wilson, DEED
- Marisa Bayer, Eden Prairie
- Maura Brown, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability
- Mel Reeves, HIRE
- Melyssa Mdumuka, Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights
- Paul Merkling, MEDA
- Randy Czaia, SBA Minnesota Office
- Sarah Lechowich, Saint Paul College
Great Minds Workshop: Feedback

- DBE Challenges
  - Bidding
  - Financial/Cash-flow
  - Workforce
  - Business challenges
  - Qualifications/certifications

- Workforce Challenges
  - Education
  - Transportation
  - Industry culture
  - Industry awareness
  - Impact on family
  - Financial
Feb 21: DBE Workshop

- 14 attendees
- Discussed challenges and identified potential solutions or resources
- Challenge 1: Cashflow and retainage challenges
  - MEDA and NDC presented financial resources available to small businesses
- Challenge 2: Long and complex contract language
  - Planning pre-bid meeting to review sample contract with DBEs
- Next meeting in May
Feb 22: Workforce Workshop

- 9 attendees
- Discussed challenges; identified potential solutions or resources
- **Challenge 1: Training**
  - Met Council received grants to develop *LRT BUILD* training for adults and high school graduates
  - Identify other training resources; make list available to potential workers
- **Challenge 2: Transportation**
  - Direct workers to Diversion Solutions which is a drivers license reinstatement program
- **Challenge 3: Child care**
  - Compile list of child care providers along alignment, make list available to potential workers
- Next Meeting in April
DBE Meet and Greet: March 3

- Networking opportunity to learn about potential partnering opportunities
- Prime contracting teams conduct brief interviews with prospective DBE subcontractors & suppliers
- DBE firms are encouraged to attend the pre-bid meeting
LRT Build Program

- 10 week pre-apprentice training program
  - 4 wks. job readiness training
  - 4 wks. core construction training
  - 2 wks. hands-on training
- Funding provided by:
  - McKnight Foundation $100,000
  - Hennepin Carver Workforce Innovation Act $150,000
LRT Build Program

• Provides opportunities to meet with unions & contractors working on SWLRT

• Trades: iron workers, masons, carpenters, operating engineers, construction laborers
More Information

Online:
www.SWLRT.org

Email:
SWLRT@metrotransit.org

Twitter:
www.twitter.com/southwestlrt