



METRO Blue Line Extension Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

BAC Members: Ellis Beck, Thomia Brown, Brett Buckner, John Chambers Dunn, Kathy Fraser, Jason Greenberg, Jeff Guertin, Jonathan Healy, Jericho Huggar, Ryan Johnson, Giuseppe Marrari, Gene Montanez, Ken Rodgers, Melanie Sedqi, Steve Spaulding, Jeanette Warner

Agency Staff and Guests: Chris Beckwith, Nkongo Cigolo, Neha Damle, Cathy Gold, Nick Landwer, Koehl Simmons, Dan Soler, Kjerstin Yager, Jer Yang

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Jason Greenberg began the meeting at 6:02 p.m. He encouraged discussion and participation during the meeting.

2. Upcoming Meetings and Attendance

Jason Greenberg emphasized that it is the role of the CAC members to encourage people from the community to attend meetings. Thomia Brown stated that in the past the times that the project has done door knocking or events has been during the day while everyone is at work. Jason stated that is a good point and we should be mindful of this during events. Jeannette Warner added that having a table, booth, or even passing out flyers at community events would be beneficial. Jeannette also suggested sharing information with coworkers, especially if your job involves meeting with the community.

Jason went over upcoming meetings, noting that the Brooklyn Park open house has already occurred. John Chambers Dunn asked if there is a budget for marketing to get people to come to these meetings and asked if we can do door direct mailings. Cathy Gold stated that there is a budget for this, and the project team does do some of this while at the same time incorporating more creative approaches to getting people involved such as radio ads and gas pump ads. Nkongo Cigolo stated that the project team does have the ability to send mailers when needed. Jeff Guertin asked if the project team is working with cities to post these events on their website. Nkongo responded that the project team is working with its municipal partners.

Nkongo introduced an attendance tool to make sure CAC members are attending the meetings. Nkongo introduced Jeannette Warner and took attendance.



3. Project Update

Chris Beckwith provided a project update, reviewed the schedule and project goals. Chris reviewed outreach and engagement. She shared that one city per month is reviewed. This month is the City of Brooklyn Park and next month is the City of Crystal. Chris provided a community cohort update.

4. Environmental Update

Neha Damle provided the environmental update. Jonathan Healy asked what the No Build condition was. Jason Greenberg asked if there was updated information on ridership after COVID. Neha stated that the section discussed how ridership is bouncing back. Jason asked if there were new numbers for after COVID. Neha replied that those numbers are part of a larger study and not available yet.

Ken Rodgers asked if the environmental document was an academic exercise or an involved study that takes community involvement to mind. Nick Landwer responded that it is an involved study. Ken stated that as a previous member of the CAC on the Green Line, he knows that there are a lot of details. Nick stated that the analysis is high-level – lines, lanes, and stations. Nick clarified that the draft environmental impact statement will be in depth and a lot of the design work will feed into the final environmental statement.

5. Brooklyn Park Design Elements

Nick Landwer provided the design update. Jeff Guertin asked a question about the pedestrian crossing at 63rd Avenue. Jeff asked about the orange line from the park-and-ride to the station. Nick clarified it's a pedestrian access from the park-and-ride to the station. Jeff asked which way north is. Nick clarified it is to the right and stated they will make an effort to add north arrows to these graphics. Jeff also asked about the crosswalk across two lanes of County Road 81. Nick stated that's a good point. Ken Rodgers asked if elevators are included in vertical circulation. Nick responded that every time there is vertical circulation there will be an elevator.

Ken asked what the deadline for the New Starts program is. Chris Beckwith responded that it is 2024. Ellis Beck asked if there were any plans for traffic calming measures around County Road 81. Nick responded that the number one priority around County Road 81 is safety, and the project wants to make sure to provide safe access between intersections and safety. Jason Greenberg asked if there was feedback from the railroad. Nick stated that the railroad has only asked for 24 feet of clearance. Jason asked if the railroad could derail this by saying it's not okay. Nick said he supposes they could but wouldn't anticipate that.

Nkongo Cigolo went over the comments from the Brooklyn Park open house. Dan Soler stated that the project team could do a tour with the CAC of the existing LRT network if the CAC was interested.

6. Anti-Displacement Update

Johnathan Hansen asked for clarification on Cathy's statement about the youth wondering if these are built for them. Cathy Gold stated that through some of the engagement they have found that the 2025-2028 construction timeline is relatively long time for youth. John Chambers Dunn asked about busing into Brooklyn Park and if there is good transit. Nick Landwer stated there is not a lot of transit in Brooklyn Park.



7. Discussion and Members Feedback

Jericho Huggar asked what precautions the project is doing to make sure we don't run into funding issues like SWLRT. Nick Landwer said absolutely, we are trying to keep the lowest complexity of this project as possible. Chris Beckwith said that there is a risk process, every transit project has a risk process. There is a track record amongst this staff to deliver these projects under budget and ahead of schedule. She added that as a project team, we are learning from our Southwest colleagues. Nick stated that we have to value engineering and risk engineering to make sure we are doing things the best way possible.

Jason Greenberg reiterated the importance of knowing when the community meetings are for CAC members to attend and ensure that community members are aware of these meetings.

8. Next Meeting:

March 1, 2023

9. Adjourn

Jason Greenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.