Business Advisory Committee: April 6, 2021
Today’s Topics

• Approve Meeting Summary
• Community Engagement Activities
• Supporting Communities in Place
Approval of March 2 & 22, 2021 Meeting Summaries
Community Engagement Activities
Receiving Ongoing Community Feedback

• Advisory committees
• Three Townhalls with ~150 participants
• Initiating community & business stakeholders check-ins
• Interactive map: 200+ comments
• Survey: 700+ responses
• General comments via online form/email: 20+
• Many more questions and phone calls
Example Responses
Emerging Themes and Questions

• General support for LRT and improved transit, coupled with the requests for more information

• Questions about specific impacts to roadway & adjacent home/businesses
  ▪ Desire to preserve businesses

• Other emerging themes:
  ▪ Focus on green infrastructure
  ▪ LRT structures: tunnels or elevated
  ▪ Stations
Preliminary Survey Results

• Route options:
  ▪ 55% prefer West Broadway Avenue
  ▪ 22% prefer Lowry Avenue
  ▪ 23% Need more information or have another preference

• 60% of responses cite these top priorities for Project Goals:
  ▪ Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations
  ▪ Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities
Community Engagement Cohort Contractors

- 14 community organizations that are trusted community partners with expertise on cultures and geographies
  - Area 1: Focus of 4 community organizations
  - Area 2: Focus of 2 community organizations
  - Area 3: Focus of 13 community organizations
- Four groups focused on communications
- Collaborative and coordinated across the corridor
- 10-month contracts
## Community Engagement Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ange Hwang</td>
<td>Asian Media Access Inc</td>
<td>Area 1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ekta Prakash</td>
<td>CAPI USA</td>
<td>Area 1, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tezzaree El-Amin Champion</td>
<td>Encouraging Leaders</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nichole Buehler</td>
<td>Harrison Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Murray</td>
<td>Juxtaposition Arts</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Chanthanouvang</td>
<td>Lao Assistance Center of MN</td>
<td>Area 1, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson George</td>
<td>Liberian Business Association</td>
<td>Area 1, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren McLean</td>
<td>Northside Economic Opportunity Network</td>
<td>Area 2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martine Smaller</td>
<td>Northside Residents Redevelopment Council</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicia Perry</td>
<td>West Broadway Business Coalition</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Spann</td>
<td>Jordan Area Community Council</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danecha Goins</td>
<td>Cleveland Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diana Hawkins</td>
<td>Hawthorne Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markella Smith</td>
<td>McKinley Community Neighborhood Association</td>
<td>Area 3</td>
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April Goals & Next Steps

• Host and participate in events targeted at specific community groups and areas of the corridor

• Identify geographic and community gaps to broaden the conversation

• Working with the project team to respond to specific feedback and larger requests/input
Supporting Communities in Place
Continue to Seek Solutions

Project Goals, Objectives and Criteria

Conceptual Engineering and Design
- Engineering Analysis to Understand LRT & Roadway Configurations
- Potential Station Locations
- Right of Way Impacts

Community Benefits
- Further efforts to address anti-displacement, equitable development and community wealth building

Previous Project Commitments
- Address investments related to the previous alignment
Today’s Focus

Community Benefits
Further efforts to address anti-displacement, equitable development and community wealth building

Previous Project Commitments
Address investments related to the previous alignment
Community Feedback: Issue

• Displacement and gentrification issues are a major concern for community members

• New development or redevelopment must emanate from the needs/desires of the community and are in alignment with community vision

• Previous alignment brought community investments; needs remain

• Community members must be at the table

• Project sponsors have an obligation to address these issues and develop strategies/policies in conjunction with the LRT project
Community Feedback: Aspirations

• Recognition and celebration of existing vibrant and dynamic community assets

• Expansion of community wealth for every generation

• Tangible solutions: policies/strategies that are supported by resources

• Any effort to address issues must include community members/public/private/non-profits/philanthropy
Project Partner Reflection

• Recognize we need to work together to address community concerns at all levels and across sectors

• Recognize our mere presence can raise concerns over trust, sustainability of effort, and past trauma

• Recognize our existing tools might not work for every community
Project Partner Commitment

- Recognize community/non-profits/philanthropy/public/private entities all have a role
- Actively address short and long-term needs
- Identify resources to address these issues
- Take actions that are tangible and measurable
Discussion Point: Shared Understanding

• Coming to consensus on definitions of:
  ▪ Displacement
  ▪ Gentrification
  ▪ Community benefits
  ▪ Other questions?
Building the Table

• Goal: Establish an Anti-Displacement Working Group to create implementable recommendations

• Build a team that has the support, expertise, and resources to deliver measurable outcomes
  - Convened and managed by a third-party facilitator
  - Meets on a regular basis through the duration of the project
  - Reports regularly to Blue Line Extension Advisory Committees and Community Works Steering Committee
  - Develops workplan
Setting The Table

- Who is a trusted facilitator to convene and manage these efforts?
- Philanthropic, non-profit, community organizations, and private development currently working in community that could help deliver outcomes?
- Other public agencies?
Setting The Table

- Initial actions?
- What does success look like?
- How will we define success?
- Other questions?
Next Steps

• Review with BLRT advisory committees in May steps forward to begin implementation
  ▪ Develop an approach to form and support the Working Group
  ▪ Begin to identify initial framework for Working Group
Next Meeting: Tuesday May 4
Stay Connected!

- **Project website:** bluelineext.org
  - Project news, maps, surveys, what we’re hearing
  - Committee meeting materials: agenda, handouts, presentations, meeting minutes
  - Sign-up for GovDelivery project updates
  - Connect with staff for your questions or schedule a presentation

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