



## METRO Blue Line Extension

### Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee Meeting

April 20, 2022

6:00 PM

WebEx

**CAC Members:** Kathy Fraser, Gene Montanez, Giuseppe Marrari, Catherine Fleming, Ken Rodgers, Brett Buckner, Ellis Beck, Odua Aganmwonyi, PeggySue Imihy Bean

**Agency Staff and Guests:** Sophia Ginis, Andrew Gillett, Cathy Gold, Dan Soler, Jim Voll, Joan Vanhala, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Kristine Stehly, Nick Landwer, Jason Tintes, Liz Morice, Kjerstin Yager, Pa Nhue Vue, Marcia Glick, Jim Voll, Amber Turnquest, Trevor Roy, Emilee Roschen

### Meeting Summary

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, welcomed the group. Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

**2. Approve February 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Gene Montanez asked for the minutes to be moved. Giuseppe Marrari motioned to approve the minutes.

**3. Route Recommendation**

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, shared that this group would vote in the June timeframe for the route recommendation. Sophia shared the overall process from the last 18 months. From August 2020, Met Council and Hennepin County decided to shift the project. The route options were released, and then stations were added to get to the recommendation reports.

Each step has had a round of engagement. Overall, they had around 11,000 points of contact with the public. The Community Cohort was able to dive deep into their networks to reach cultural communities. During the Draft Report, around 500 comments were received. These comments are now in an appendix of the Route Modification Report.

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared the route recommendation is the West Broadway option. From County Road 81 it is at-grade center running with stations at 63<sup>rd</sup>, Bass Lake Road,

Downtown Robbinsdale, North Memorial, Penn Avenue area, Emerson-Fremont Avenue area, Plymouth Avenue area and then Target Field Station. The project team is looking at 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to help with this area that is a bit more constrained.

Nick shared that this document summarizes the overall process that project staff has had with community and project partners. This report also provides an overview of the technical report and why certain areas are being looked at and the pros and cons. Taking the route options and evaluating them towards the project principles and goals.

Nick discussed the next steps and schedule moving forward. Beginning in summer 2022, the environmental process begins – identifying where project impacts would be and how to mitigate those impacts. Next is the engineering phase, identifying where stations are and how to get people to the stations, along with the station area planning. Around the 2025 timeframe is when construction and full federal funding would start. They hope to have LRT open and running in 2028.

Sophia Ginis shared the following questions that are being asked for the public to comment on: Do you agree with the recommendation; What else do you want policy makers to know; and What do we need to do to ensure the project is the best it can be moving into the next stations?

Giuseppe shared that he thinks that West Broadway is the right alignment.

PeggySue Imihy shared the route alignment is good. It prioritized North Minneapolis. She is supportive of this alignment.

Brett Buckner thanked everyone for their work. He is in support of the West Broadway route and its amenities and new opportunities, including connections to destinations and housing developments. It's a great moment for North Minneapolis. It starts to cut down the figurative wall around North Minneapolis, connecting North Minneapolis to the rest of Minneapolis and the state.

Gene shared that he's never ridden mass transit and has been in favor of this since day one. It's a valuable and important fundamental issue in the growth of our cities. He is happy this route was chosen. Ellis Beck, Hennepin County, shared that he's in favor of where the line is. He is pleased because it seemed like a rare opportunity and because it had the most potential down the road.

Kathy Fraser shared that she's excited. There's a lot of opportunity for the community and businesses in the community. Moving forward, it's important in Brooklyn Park to have the east-west connectivity. She said being able to connect to the routes will help with equity. Ken Rodgers shared that he's happy we are at where we are at this point.

PeggySue Imihy asked because Lowry wasn't selected, she would like to be included to be part of conversation where bus routes will go. There are destinations that won't be included because LRT won't be going along Lowry. Getting people from LRT to the Upper Harbor Terminal is not

accessible by transit. There are some gaps now from not selecting the Lowry route. This is not the only investment in Ward 4 and 5 to get people transit access.

Sophia Ginis responded that there will be various advisory committees throughout this process. She noted her interest in that question. She has heard that Lowry is also a corridor that deserves and needs transit investment. The project team is trying to keep track of these things as things are moving forward. Sophia introduced Pa Nhue Vue and Kjerstin Yager as the public outreach coordinators who are newly supporting this work.

Dan Soler, Hennepin County, commented that the old route was a good route, but it didn't really go through the heart of North Minneapolis. They lost many things by not moving forward with the previous project, but they are making up for it with the new route.

Dan responded to a question in the chat from Catherine Fleming, MPRB. Dan responded that they will likely have more than one contract at a time. They are likely to have construction happen concurrently. Dan responded to Catherine's question of station locations – saying there are station study areas, knowing there will be a station but letting the design evolve before deciding what would fit best.

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, responded to Catherine's question in the chat – they are starting to look at staffing and diversity and inclusion on the team. It's going to be key as the project is moving forward. It's a commitment to represent the community, have different voices and to be intentional. Dan Soler said that it goes two ways. Part of it is hiring on Met Council, Hennepin County and the other part is the consulting and construction teams. Sophia Ginis shared that Metro Transit has a job opening for a project director now.

Dan Soler responded to Catherine's question in the chat – they are visiting and talking with developers to coordinate projects and LRT. The City of Minneapolis helps to keep the project team informed. Dan asked for clarification of what Catherine meant by her question of "Will you stay on W. Broadway or detour to 26<sup>th</sup>". Dan responded that they would lay out various options and take feedback from the community and try to put in place what works best for everyone. It will be a big piece of the design between West Broadway and Lyndale Avenue.

Sophia Ginis shared that they are coordinating with the Park Board. Nick Landwer said they've been working with MPRB for Hall Park, North Commons, and the Grand Rounds. MPRB is supportive of a station by the Grand Rounds.

#### **4. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update**

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, shared that the formation of ADWG has been a process. They heard early on that the light rail is about transit and regional connections, but also the community desire to build wealth. They knew a third party was needed to facilitate this process due to input. This committee helped put together the RFP and reviewed applicants to sit at the table. Input helped form the ADWG. Folks are at the table from the government, community members affiliated with organization businesses and non-affiliated community members.

Catherine Fleming asked a question chat – Sophia responded that there are pieces we know that we need to do. The May meeting will be a deep dive. Catherine Gold, Hennepin County, said that government bodies are setting up internal work groups – combined of different disciplines. They will vet through discussion happening in the ADWG and come to action and a path forward implementing. They are compiling lists of programs and policies in the process or being implemented and identifying the gaps and investments in the corridor.

#### 5. Next Meeting:

For May, they are recommending canceling the May meeting. It would fall in the middle of the comment period and suggesting meeting in June. The CMC will have to go back to in-person. This group has the choice to be in person or to be virtual for the next meeting, and they could do a hybrid meeting. The team will pursue hosting in-person with virtual option at the Haywood office.

They will discuss next steps at the June meeting. Catherine Fleming, MPRB, asked in the chat when her tenure ends – Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, responded likely in June. They will be looking for people who are interested in staying on and more members for the future.

#### 6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19PM.

#### Chat

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:49 PM**

Always in favor of West Broadway...no brainer! Which direction will construction begin. Minneapolis or the Brooklyns?

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:50 PM**

Where's my ADOS/BIPOC engineer for the Team

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:51 PM**

Station locations?

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:51 PM**

How are you coordinating with new development on W. Broadway?

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:52 PM**

Will you stay on W. Broadway or detour to 26<sup>th</sup>?

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:53 PM**

Are you coordinating with the Park Bd to highlight destinations

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:53 PM**

Grand Rounds, etc.

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:53 PM**

Grand Rounds, etc.

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 6:56 PM**

yes

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:07 PM**

So, will there be any actions from the group before 02/2023

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:07 PM**

Can you list specifics to share

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:09 PM**

Why aren't the identified issues being share with the CAC. We feel disconnected.

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:10 PM**

You need to identify the problem b4 you seek solutions, federal or otherwise

**from PeggySue to everyone: 7:12 PM**

in person!

**from Gene Montanez to everyone: 7:12 PM**

in person

**from Kathy Fraser to everyone: 7:12 PM**

in person

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:12 PM**

either is fine, prefer virtual

**from Ellis Beck to everyone: 7:13 PM**

In person

**from Ken Rodgers to everyone: 7:13 PM**

both preferred

**from Ellis Beck to everyone: 7:14 PM**

Guess it depends how long winter plans to last

**from PeggySue to everyone: 7:14 PM**

either works for me

**from Ellis Beck to everyone: 7:14 PM**

(either works)

**from Ken Rodgers to everyone: 7:15 PM**

Heywood preferred

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:16 PM**

June date?

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:17 PM**

when does our tenure end

**from Catherine Fleming to everyone: 7:18 PM**

2028

**from PeggySue to everyone: 7:19 PM**

Thank you so much!!