



# METRO Blue Line Extension

## Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**CAC Members:** Kathy Fraser, Cory Funk, Craig Gottschalk, Jason Greenberg, Gene Montanez, Scott Booher, Felipe Sosa, PeggySue Imihy, Guiuseepe Marrari, Ken Rodgers, Adam Hutchens, John Wolhaupter, Ellis Beck, Brett Buckner

**Agency Staff and Guests:** Sophia Ginis, Andrew Gillett, Jason Tintes, Cathy Gold, Dan Soler, Jesse Struve, Jim Voll, Joan Vanhala, John Sutter, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Kristine Stehly, Nick Landwer, Sam O'Connell, Trevor Roy, Liz Morice

### Meeting Summary

#### 1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Jason Greenberg called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

#### 2. Committee Housekeeping Discussion

Jason Greenberg asked to approve the minutes. Cory Funk seconded and the minutes were approved.

#### 3. March 22 Meeting Follow-up

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, asked if there was follow-up needed from the last meeting, March 22. Jason asked if the group had questions or feedback now that they've had time to process the routes. Felipe Sosa said it would be useful to have an idea of what else is out there besides these routes in terms of long-term planning.

#### 4. Receiving Ongoing Community Feedback

Sophia shared a number of ways they are receiving feedback. The group has been receiving ongoing community feedback through advisory committees, townhalls (150 participants), check-ins with community and business members, interactive map comments (200+ comments), survey responses (700+), general comments from the online form and email (20+) and many more questions and phone calls.

There are some themes emerging. Overall, there is general support although there is also a lot of need for more information. There are lots of questions about specific impacts and the desire to preserve businesses. Other emerging themes include a need to include green infrastructure, LRT structures and stations. Jason Greenberg also shared that there is feedback around safety, pedestrians, and all traffic. Ken Rodgers brought up that the station design and some of the questions that people have, will come later. He brought up mitigation funds that were available for businesses on the line when they needed it during construction. Dan Soler, Hennepin County, brought up some examples of the Funders Collaborative.



Joan Vanhala, Hennepin County, shared an update on the community engagement cohort. The group had two orientation sessions and will be meeting monthly.

The cohort will be doing focus groups, 1 on 1s with key stakeholders, townhalls and listening sessions, as well as in-person surveys. Ken Rogers asked how people with disabilities are included in this process. Sophia talked about addressing the possible gap. Ken identified that the Courage Kenny Center might be a place to focus on. Sophia agreed. Jason Greenberg brought up that there are few groups in Area 2 identified in the cohort. Joan pointed out that it was intentional to have more focus on Area 3 since there is more change. Jason Greenberg brought up that even though distance-wise it is not a major change; it is a major difference in the community. Sophia brought up that there is still engagement outside of the community cohort. There will continue to be work throughout the corridor to make sure there is consistent engagement.

## **5. Supporting Communities in Place**

Sam shared that the group is considering the concerns that community members have raised since the project changed alignments. She shared how the project is continuing to seek solutions including updating project goals, objectives and criteria, conceptual engineering and design, community benefits and previous project commitments. Today's focus is on community benefits and previous project commitments. Dan said that the group will spend a lot of time talking about details like pedestrian crossings, station design and other choices. Dan pointed out that just because there won't be a station near Courage Kenny, the team designed some benefit and connections to that destination as a continuing commitment.

Sam said that they heard the group about needing more time to process and the way they are talking about displacement reflects that. Sophia shared some of the community feedback around issues including concerns around displacement, new development and redevelopment and other impacts that change the neighborhood. The community also shared feedback around aspirations. The community shared that they want a celebration of existing community assets, expansion of community wealth, tangible policy solutions and the inclusion of many community partners. Sam brought forward the project partners work to reflect on the process. The project recognizes the needs to work together, recognize that the project might bring up past trauma and recognize that the existing tools that they have, might not work for every community or continue to work in the future. Sam shared the commitment to bring in many private and community partners, need to address short and long-term goals, identify resources, and take tangible and measurable analysis.

Sophia shared that the project would build an anti-displacement work group that will work to address the concerns around displacement and provide opportunities to build wealth in place. Brett Buckner thanked them for bringing this together and acknowledged that Olsen Memorial was a problem for North, like 94 for Rondo. In addition to these, he would like to define equity. This is an opportunity for new things and good things. Consistency and clarity are essential for trust. There will be some people not at the table, but the communication is key. North Minneapolis is the donut (everything happens around, including this project previously). The benefits need to be made clear. Adam Hutchens asked a question about how the project will support good jobs and training and providing opportunities in construction. Sophia said that yes, there is a lot of opportunity for all the trades, and programs to encourage entry into the trades. Dan mentioned how Summit OIC was connected with past projects. Gene shared that he would like to be build wealth through the trades. Brett Buckner said that there must also be an opportunity for investment for the community in the cultural community in West Broadway and elsewhere. Giuseppe Marrari asked if there is information or takeaways from the Green Line. He would like to know about short and long-term displacements, as well as



benefits for that corridor. It is important to be humble and recognize the past mistakes and the learnings from it. Ken identified that there is a wide reach of agencies to reach out to for resources. It would be good to have someone who can connect people to the resources they may need and are out there. DEED for example has outreach programs, and the corridor could have connections to those agencies and opportunities.

Sophia asked who should be included in the group. Brett identified the public schools and their headquarters should be considered. For facilitators: Makeda Zulu-Gillespie (UROC), Anika Roberts, Phillips Foundation (coming on to West Broadway), Sanctuary Church. Jason identified that in Robbinsdale they have a human rights commission. In other cities, they might have that as well. Hennepin County has a disparity reduction team. Met Council has an equity council. PeggySue brought up Neighbors for More Neighbors and OurStreets. Brett named the Minneapolis Urban League. Jason shared that it would be good to go back to this at the next meeting. Sophia shared that they would bring the topic back during the May committee meeting. She asked the group to think of initial actions, what does success look like, how will it be defined, other questions? Jason brought up that it would be useful to have some of the information and data about past experiences, to “level-set.” Dan shared that success will be defined very differently by different community members.

Brett brought up that the surveys will be a major place to start for the process to understand what is going on in the community. Gene shared that he wants to see this line used. He shared that usage is the most important. The only way they will use this is when there is community wealth and people living there. Scott Booher suggested that everything is discussed about the data collection and wants to understand and bring to light the motivations of people doing the survey, and that type of data. Scott shared that the Met Council has years of experience, and he would like to see their analysis. Sam shared that that the Center for Transportation Studies and the Humphrey Institute has studies as well. Ken asked if there are also people designing the footprints of the station and lanes for cars, etc. Ken asked to talk with designers early so that some issues that exist on the Green Line are repaired.

## 6. Adjournment

Felipe Sosa thanked everyone for the great discussion and thought it was a great starting place. Jason Greenberg shared that thinking about these in between will help. The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:01PM.

### Chat:

from Craig Gottschalk to everyone: 6:04 PM  
Sarpinos

from PeggySue Imihy to everyone: 6:10 PM  
Sorry! Just settling down!

from Sophia Ginis to everyone: 6:26 PM  
Sorry all got kicked off back

from Jason Greenberg to everyone: 7:04 PM  
I really appreciate this self-awareness from the project team

from Kathy Fraser to everyone: 7:06 PM  
Thanks Sam! Much appreciated.

from Sam O'Connell to everyone: 7:07 PM



Thank you Kathy.  
from Cathy Gold to everyone: 7:14 PM  
Well said, Brett! Thank you!  
from Jason Greenberg to everyone: 7:14 PM  
^  
from Craig Gottschalk to everyone: 7:14 PM  
Well said Brett. Yes, yes.  
from Brett Buckner to everyone: 7:15 PM  
Thanks!  
from Scott Booher to everyone: 7:23 PM  
spot on Giuseppe, we need real-world data/experiences to inform these conversations  
from PeggySue Imihy to everyone: 7:27 PM  
I also think that as someone said at the joint BAC/CAC that we also need to be considering that there are a lot of people are not distrusting but ready for this to happen and ready to partner.  
from Scott Booher to everyone: 7:28 PM  
Suggestion that we have as a formal agenda item in future: walking this committee through a summary of the available data/studies, so that we have that grounding in experience.  
from H Ellis Beck to everyone: 7:28 PM  
Agree with Scott.  
from PeggySue Imihy to everyone: 7:35 PM  
I think we should engage some of the more grassroots orgs like Neighbors for More Neighbors and OurStreets.  
from Brett Buckner to everyone: 7:37 PM  
Minneapolis Urban League,  
from felipe sosa to everyone: 7:42 PM  
That's a great place to start  
from felipe sosa to everyone: 7:46 PM  
100% agree with usage as a point of success  
from felipe sosa to everyone: 7:47 PM  
People know how to get to the state fair via public transportation...a degree of success would be the same based on public transportation usage  
from felipe sosa to everyone: 7:46 PM  
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People know how to get to the state fair via public transportation...a degree of success would be the same based on public transportation usage  
from Brett Buckner to everyone: 7:52 PM  
Opportunity to redefine of "Region" & "Community."  
from Adam Hutchens to everyone: 7:53 PM  
Why Tuesday next month not Wed?  
from Sophia Ginis to everyone: 7:53 PM  
Should be Wednesday -- did BAC presentation first  
from Sam O'Connell to everyone: 7:54 PM  
Yes, Wednesday, May 5....thanks Adam  
from Sophia Ginis to everyone: 7:54 PM  
Next Meeting: Wednesday May 5



from Adam Hutchens to everyone: 7:54 PM

Thank you!

from Craig Gottschalk to everyone: 7:58 PM

I need to step away for the evening. Great discussion so far, everyone. I appreciate the thoughtfulness from everyone. Have a great night and see you all next month.

from Adam Hutchens to everyone: 8:01 PM

Thanks everyone see you next month.

from Jason Greenberg to everyone: 8:01 PM

Thanks everyone!