



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

8:00 AM –9:30 AM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

BAC Members: Alex Burns, Chris Webley, J. Kevin Croston, Ian Alexander, Jennifer Cutter, Jimmy Loyd, Kenya McKnight-Ahad, Mike Steinhauser, Ryan Borne, Timothy Baylor, Felicia Perry, John Hacker

Agency Staff and Guests: Sophia Ginis, Jesse Struve, Jim Voll, Joan Vanhala, Kristine Stehly, Kyle Mianulli, Nick Landwer, Trevor Roy, Sam O'Connell, Rebecca Hughes, Andrew G Gillett, Daniel Soler, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Liz Morice, Jason Tintes, Cathy Gold, Colin Cox, Mike Opat

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, called the meeting to order at 8:06. She shared an overview of the agenda and what to expect with the meeting.

2. Adopt March 2 & 22 Meeting Minutes

Mike Steinhauser asked for a motion to approve the minutes it was made by Felicia Perry and seconded by Tim Baylor. The meeting summaries were adopted.

3. What to Expect: Schedule Update

a) Technical Advancement

Dan Soler, Hennepin County, shared an overview of next steps. Mike Steinhauser asked if they could share an update on input. Sophia said that the last meeting had an update and the next meeting will have more detail.

Dan shared that in June the group can expect some visualizations showing how LRT could look and fit along the routes. The group could also expect to have discussions about the evaluation criteria. In July there would be a route walkthrough to provide specific details on the routes. In August, they will continue the discussion on engineering details. September will be a final report. Chris Webley asked at what point they would show property impacts and if that would be June. Dan shared that the visualizations would be more generic. Right now, they do not have that info, but by July that might be more likely. Chris said it would be helpful to have that info for community conversations to make informed decisions. Dan shared that this would also be part of the conversation and evaluation.

Felicia Perry said that in North Minneapolis and in the group, there are people who are experienced with professional design. Juxta for example, has visualizations experience. It would be good to pull those together in addition to the designs from Met Council designs because they might be more digestible. Sophia said that



the design team will share visualizations that are a good starting point. Then there will be feedback and other ways to show these in a collaborative way.

Dan said they will look at the impacts to existing and planned buildings.

b) Community Engagement Activities

Sophia shared that the team started incorporating feedback from day 1. They want people to have time to digest the information. They are getting feedback on missing route options, station locations, issues and opportunities, and project goals. Sophia shared some of the recent engagement activities. She shared an overview of upcoming work.

4. LRT System Overview

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, provided an overview of the METRO system. He provided a comparison of commuter rail, light rail, streetcar, and heavy rail. He shared the operating assumptions of the Blue Line. Alex Burns asked a question about train frequency. Could the frequency during off-peak hours change to reflect the changing needs and demands of workers? Nick shared that yes, Metro Transit looks at these frequently. Sophia said that the midday peak has changed. Ridership late in the night has been a challenge, so it will continue to be looked at as needs change.

Nick emphasized that light rail significantly reduces carbon use compared to a single occupancy vehicle. Nick shared a few versions of track design and explained how trains run. He showed center running versus side running design and platform types. Alex asked what the right of way was on University. He also asked if they would show below grade or a tunnel on West Broadway. Dan said yes that they would look at elevated options but that tunnels would be more challenging in terms of cost and construction impacts. Nick shared aspects of station area planning including multimodal connections and safe crossings. He was asked to respond to a comment from Ian about cost comparisons for tunnels. He said they would have more detail about that, but the short answer was substantial. Nick shared how the light rail fits in different contexts.

5. Anti-displacement Working Group

Sam O'Connell, Metropolitan Council, shared an update on the Anti-Displacement Working Group. Sam reviewed some April Advisory Committee feedback including the need for a third-party facilitator, need to start as soon as possible, request for national examples and possible shared definitions for discussion.

She asked for feedback on what are the essential components on the facilitator role. She shared next steps on this work. They will be bringing back the RFP to the group for feedback to make sure that role covers what is needed.

Sam shared LRT development trends. She shared both permitted and planned development. She explained the differences that were seen between the Blue Line and Green Line development patterns. Sam shared highlights of the development of the Green Line and how it worked with community. Sam provided background on how the corridor worked with the business community.

6. Next Meeting: June 1, 2021

Sophia asked about the meeting in July and if they could switch to July 13, 8:00 AM due to the July 4th holiday.



7. Adjourn

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