



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

8:00 AM –9:30 AM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

BAC Members: Alex Burns, Chris Webley, Ian Alexander, Jimmy Loyd, Kenya McKnight-Ahad, Mike Steinhauser, Ryan Borne, Timothy Baylor, Felicia Perry, John Hacker, Matthew Kenning

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

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

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

2. Adopt May 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Felicia Perry moved to approve, and Mike Steinhauser seconded. The minutes were approved.

Sam O’Connell, Metropolitan Council, shared that the FTA released an annual update on funding. The project adheres to the federal capital improvement program, often referred to as New Starts. She said that the Blue Line Extension continues to have a placeholder in that report. They replaced the rating of “Medium-High” with “Under Review.” The project has their next meeting with the FTA June 15. Dan Soler, Hennepin County, agreed with Sam that it was good news. There aren’t many projects in the country in engineering right now, and the FTA has kept the project there which will allow the project to do some reevaluation and develop a project ranking from there.

3. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update

Sam O’Connell pointed out that there is a draft request for proposals (RFP) for the facilitation of the working group in the meeting packet. She shared that this is the third version of the request for proposals and incorporated feedback from Minneapolis staff. She reviewed the role and purposes the facilitator. She reviewed the preferred qualifications as they were listed in the draft RFP. She reviewed and described each task in the draft RFP. She emphasized that they will be doing broad outreach over the communication networks and social media to let people know this RFP is out. Sam described a potential process for the selection committee. She said they would like to have a member from the BAC and CAC on the advisory



committee for the RFP review panel. There are a few considerations for this role, including making sure not to have a conflict of interest. Felicia Perry said she would be willing to be the representative from the BAC but would also like to hear if anyone else is very interested in that role. She asked for clarification that there would be a member from the CAC, BAC and no one from the CMC. She clarified that it would be project management staff and not elected officials on the review committee. Sam O'Connell confirmed yes. Mike Steinhauser said that he may have a conflict and would not want his name in form that reason. Ryan Boone and Alex Burns supported Felicia Perry appointment to review committee. Chris Webley share that he supported what Felicia Perry said that they should have more members for community. Sam O'Connell talked about the typical size of a review panel and that when selected that there would be broad community engagement. Cathy Gold, Hennepin County, shared the timeline for the request for proposals. Cathy shared that she agreed with Felicia Perry that she wished it could be faster as well. This is unfortunately the time needed, and it is the quickest they could turn this around while following that process.

Tim Baylor shared that he feels that this feels premature in the process given where the project is at and the decisions that still need to be made about the route. Chris Webley shared that he agreed it feels premature. They don't have the data about how many businesses will be impacted for example. His understanding of this committee's role was to be a liaison and use our existing network to do outreach to the community about the work of the project. This feels ahead of the steps needed. Sam O'Connell thanked them for this input and highlighted the task of the market analysis and that they would be using a lot of data that the project partners have.

Mike Steinhauser said that having someone side by side as they go through the process was the hope. He feels that it could go faster, but the idea was to have someone ready at the onset. Chris Webley said that this seems like it's decided based on some of the language on the call. He shared that he understands the narrative of urgency but does not want anything to be rushed. True community engagement takes time. Let's commit to doing this right. Felicia Perry confirmed that she has been someone moving to have this happen faster. There are people who are in the community who are concerned about the pace and want to get working on this. She said that a lot of people feel West Broadway will be the route, and they wish to mitigate any issues that may come with that. She said there is an opportunity to really hear from communities and create something that they want if this is done correctly. Candace Oathout agreed that they really need to be listening to communities. She felt that in the past the route was sort of rammed through. She said that in Crystal at Bass Lake Road she has seen emergency vehicles have to turn around because of train traffic. She said that emergency situations can be a real problem. There are a lot of people who may have their lives disrupted based on this project, so it needs to be done right and thoughtfully.

Kenya McKnight said that she is supportive of having the displacement coordinator there in place. She said that she wants people to present very clearly who the government is referring to when they say the community wants this to go fast. They need to be specific about who that is and how many people. She said that it's important to have the resources to do engagement and make sure those resources are there.

Sophia Ginis highlighted how in engineering there may be direct displacement and then there is also concern about indirect displacement. This is a complex topic and needs a lot of time. Sam O'Connell shared that they are trying to strike a balance here. The work of the Anti-Displacement Working Group will be parallel to the work of the committees and will be providing updates and looking for feedback from the advisory committees. Tim Baylor highlighted that Jimmy Loyd had comments in the chat that should be addressed. Sophia Ginis said that there will be more engineering details to come. Pulling together resources to do this work is part of this



process and to determine policies that will address displacement in construction and beyond. She wanted to emphasize that this committee will continue to be involved in the work of that group. Chris Webley said that he agrees with starting the anti-displacement work but wanted to reiterate that he wanted the work to be done on the ground to get data to help the work. He asked if there is a mechanism for gathering feedback now. Sophia Ginis shared that the survey was just closed so the feedback can be processed. They are gathering feedback on an ongoing basis. Chris Webley shared that the survey is a mechanism to communicate. There is a strong notion that it's already been decided it will be West Broadway.

Tim Baylor said that number three of Jimmy's comments is really important. He said what he's hearing they are adding another layer of bureaucracy to this process with the Anti-Displacement Working Group. He said this is a distraction from the important decision being made. He does not see this as a positive for West Broadway. Chris Webley said to follow-up on Jimmy's comments, there might be an opportunity to give some of the resources directly to community groups in this process. Sam O'Connell reiterated that as the Working Group develops recommendations they will be reviewed by the CAC and BAC.

Kenya McKnight asked in the chat about giving more to local community groups for engagement. Kenya McKnight said that in their group conversation, they recognized that with COVID, the community needed more resources to engage with community. Online engagement has limits. She said that she supports Broadway but is even more supportive of the community truly being engaged with this. Jimmy Loyd shared concern that the consultant's work with the advisory committees would not be efficient, and that process still needs work. He asked for a more visual way to update where they are in the process and how these pieces fit together. Sophia shared that the collaborative piece of this is the development of these policies.

4. Summary of March-May Engagement Feedback

Sophia Ginis shared a review of some of the events in May. She emphasized that they are constantly receiving feedback, and these conversations have been enriched by the community cohort. She reviewed what feedback was received through the comment map; comments about the route; and additional routes that were suggested. Ian Alexander shared a little more about an option for North 21st Street as a transit mall. He said that this is not necessarily advocated for by the BAC. He said he is not officially pushing this agenda, but there will be a letter that the project will receive about this option that community members have organically organized.

5. LRT Station Placement Discussion

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared a brief overview of the station selection process. He showed the past station selections. He shared how station locations are determined by project area. He shared some feedback collected from the comment map. He reviewed the components of station planning and station elements.

6. Next Meeting: July 13, 2021

Mike Steinhauser thanked everyone for their time. Tim Baylor had one more comment about the voting members of the CMC. He asked that it be discussed at a future meeting. It doesn't make sense for Minneapolis to have one vote and Crystal to have one vote; it does not seem proportionate. Sophia Ginis confirmed that this would be a topic in the future and can report back on future CMC conversations.

7. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 9:35 AM.



Chat

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:06 AM
could you drop the YouTube link in the chat for me please?

from Tintes, Jason to everyone: 8:07 AM
<https://youtu.be/jtRF2KrdUFY>

from Alex Burns to everyone: 8:10 AM
That's great news!

from Mike Steinhauser to everyone: 8:26 AM
I MAY have a conflict. I don't know who the potential bidders are, but I would be cautious.

from Alex Burns to everyone: 8:27 AM
I support Felicia's appointment

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:28 AM
I appreciate the support you all.

from Mike Steinhauser to everyone: 8:29 AM
Felicia, if the potential conflict does not bid, I could help you as needed.

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:31 AM
I only wish it could be quicker. But this makes sense.

from Mike Steinhauser to everyone: 8:33 AM
Working with many consultants in the past, my suggestion is to push the potential consultants to respond quicker. Ultimately, every consultant could do a next day turnaround if pushed.

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 8:47 AM
We don't have to address these issues on this call, but can the following issues be addressed by staff?

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 8:48 AM
1. Is there any data around routes? Engineering concerns, businesses and homes impacted and costs?

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 8:49 AM
2. What is the goal of the Anti-displacement consulting? What will the report be used for?

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:50 AM
+++

from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 8:51 AM
3. I agree order is critical, what happens to our work while this anti-displacement work is being done? How can this group be a part of that work if there is a third-party consultant being hired?

from kenya to everyone: 8:59 AM
Will there be more funding to communities for community engagement?

from kenya to everyone: 9:03 AM
The narrative of the route being predetermined is circulating throughout the community, making it clear that planning is still happening... Clarification is needed to ensure that the process is open, transparent and ongoing...

from kenya to everyone: 9:03 AM



Sorry, making it clear that planning is still happening is important
from Jimmy Loyd to everyone: 9:05 AM

Great point Kenya

from kenya to everyone: 9:06 AM

I'm a supporter of the route coming down either route that's best fit for the community, Broadway is an option. The goal for me is to properly explore both showing not only the impact the rail will have on either but to show the benefits the rail can have. Also to reiterate the need for the displacement work to move forward- it will help us see and understand the impact & opportunities clearer throughout the process...

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:10 AM

I'll amplify that more resources are needed to support engagement that works.

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:10 AM

works= more effective and customized to the diverse community we're engaging with

from O'Connell, Sam to everyone: 9:14 AM

Thank you Jimmy, we can also strengthen language in the RFP to underscore the need for collaboration with advisory committees in doing this work and ask for proposers to detail that work in their proposals.

from O'Connell, Sam to everyone: 9:16 AM

Link to the Federal Transit Administration's Annual Report on Funding

Recommendations: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2021-05/FY22-Annual-Report-on-Funding-Recommendations.pdf>

from Alex Burns 9:26 AM

Thanks everyone