



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee Meeting

July 13, 2022

6:00PM

Microsoft Teams

CAC Members: Kathy Fraser, Jason Greenberg, Adam Hutchens, John Wolhaupter, Ellis Beck

Agency Staff and Guests: Sophia Ginis, Kjerstin Yager, Nick Landwer, Jason Tintes, Pa Nhue Vue, Trevor Roy, Tim Sandvik, Cathy Gold, Andrew Gillett, Koehl Simmons, Kelcie Young, Chris Beckwith, C Terrence Anderson

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, welcomed the group. Sophia introduced Chris Beckwith and Kelcie Young to the CAC. Jason Greenberg began the meeting at 6:13PM.

2. Adopt June 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Jason Greenberg asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Adam Hutchens moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

3. Anti-Displacement Update

C Terrence Anderson, CURA, gave an update on anti-displacement. C Terrence recapped a workshop on June 4th at Juxtaposition arts in Minneapolis. C Terrence said at the event, the Working Group analyzed previous LRT projects regarding anti-displacement, co-defined anti-displacement, reviewed anti-displacement policies throughout the country, and looked at policies the BLRT Project could support or model to address displacement.

C Terrence emphasized that engagement will continue and CURA is still continuing to work to get enough background research to decide what to focus on. C Terrence acknowledged there has been pressure to get this work out in the community and so there will be open houses in August, of which times and locations will be announced this week. C Terrence stated a desire for targeted open houses for specific groups, such as the business community and that there will be additional two-hour meetings with government internal working groups in order to keep governments on track.

4. Design & Environmental Next Steps

a. Update on Environmental Evaluation

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council, provided an update on the environmental evaluation. She identified that the first phase has a Final Environmental Impact Statement. The Project is now in a new phase where the Federal Transit Administration is working with the project and the project has had an environmental re-evaluation memorandum. The memo recommends a Supplemental EIS as the NEPA Class of Action. They are recommending that because the new route has impacts to locations not previously reviewed in the environmental process. This phase will be for the next 1.5-2 years. Other parts of this phase include municipal consent, other associated engineering and design. Kelcie reviewed the environmental schedule through Winter of 2023.

Jason Greenberg asked if the only place where the route is still the same [as the previous route] is in Brooklyn Park and if the supplemental EIS will only need to cover the new portions of the route. Kelcie responded that it will cover the entire route. Adam Hutchens asked if the team foresees any issues crossing the Greenway [Victory Memorial Parkway] from Minneapolis into Robbinsdale? Kelcie responded that the Project team will study that. Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, also added that the BLRT team has been coordinating with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board and doesn't anticipate that being an issue. Kelcie added that they have been working with the community to gather input on things that they should look at in greater detail.

Kelcie shared the next steps for the environmental phase which include beginning to prepare a draft supplemental EIS and comparing options where we have them. There will be a public hearing on a draft environmental documentation. The project team will then need to prepare the final environmental documentation, reflect environmental social, and economic impacts in the project design, identify mitigation commitments, and amend the Project Record of Decision.

b. Issue Resolution Process

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared an overview about the Issue Resolution process which includes regular meetings with the City staff and Project team. Nick emphasized that they are still in the infancy of the design and need to identify what the issues are in order to mitigate for those issues. The project team is developing a full list of issues that need to be resolved and work through them during their regular meetings. The team will work to resolve those issues so they can be updated in the design and environmental review process.

i. Brooklyn Park: Previous Design Refresh

Nick stated in Brooklyn Park, the project team is reviewing new changes to the current station area designs, which were more advanced in the old phase but need to account for new development that has happened since the previous environmental review.

ii. County Road 81/Bass Lake Road Intersection

Nick stated Crystal's Bass Lake Road intersection has a number of options to help improve traffic flow, with the implementation of light rail. One example is building an overpass for the intersection. This offers benefits to traffic and allows the station to stay at grade.

iii. Robbinsdale: Downtown station placement

Nick stated Robbinsdale is reviewing station placement. This includes the station for downtown Robbinsdale, North Memorial Hospital and station access, as well as connections to the Grand Rounds and neighborhoods there.

iv. Minneapolis: Evaluation of Routing between Target Field and West Broadway

Nick stated in Minneapolis, the project team is reviewing connections to West Broadway from Target Field Station to support the neighborhood input and review all options.

Adam Hutchens had a question from the presentation (Slide 22). He said it shows the tracks split between 21st and West Broadway, and wanted to clarify whether that was decided or just an option? Nick responded that it's just an option and has not been decided yet. Sophia added that this illustrates that there is still a lot more work to do and that these are the kind of discussions that we will be having as the project moves forward. Sophie emphasized that Kelcie's work will contain both environmental issues within the physical environment as well the social environment and that the project team values this group and its' feedback. Adam asked if the fact that the IJH funding that did not go through the matching from the State would hold up the project. Dan Soler, Hennepin County, responded that they did not anticipate getting those funds, so it will not.

Sophia asked if anyone had any general thoughts. Adam shared that he likes the meetings and thinks they are valuable. Adam continued stating that it is exciting to see the project come to fruition and that he'd like to meet in-person. Sophia said that meetings of the future CAC will be in-person and shared that her team has found that virtual meetings do not give members a chance to meet each other. Jason thanked everyone who has been part of this process and appreciates the work that has gone into this. Ellis Beck also thanked everyone and noted the group has been very welcoming.

5. Adjourn

Sophia stated the new CAC will meet second Wednesday of October (October 12), due to Yom Kippur and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Chat

[5:59 PM] Ginis, Sophia

Jason -- can you hear us?

[5:59 PM] jagreenb@yahoo.com (Guest)

I can't

[6:00 PM] Ginis, Sophia

Might need to go into more and select devices

[6:12 PM] Catherine M Gold

Sophia - C Terrence will need to leave in short order.

[6:23 PM] Kyle Mianulli

Here's the direct link to the webpage with the materials C Terrence is referencing:

<https://mybluelineext.org/anti-displacement>

Preventing displacement, maximizing community benefits

Ensuring the Blue Line Extension benefits current and future corridor residents, communities and businesses is critical to the project's success. This new light rail line will serve areas with some...

[6:29 PM] Tintes, Jason

have C Terrence turn off his video and just try that..