



Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT) Community Advisory Committee Meeting

September 13, 2012

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

St Louis Park City Hall, Council Chambers

5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St Louis Park, MN 55416

CAC Members and Alternates: Ann Beuch, Art Higinbotham, Bill Neuendorf, Barry Schade, Bob Tift, David Green, Derek Gunderson, Elizabeth Ryan, Co-Chair Jeanette Colby, Co-Chair Jennifer Munt, John Erickson, Kandi Arries, Kim Kang, Linnea Sodergren, Matt Flory, Matthew Fyten, Meg Forney, Neil Trembley, Rolf Peterson, Steve Cramer, Venkat Jalasutram, Vida Ditter, Ann Iverson, Claudia Johnston-Madison, Jami LaPray, Kathryn Kottke, and Sue Brown.

Agency Staff and Guests: Katie Walker, Laura Baenen, Susan Hoyt, Kathryn Hansen, Robin Caufman, Sam O'Connell, Adele Hall, Kathy Doty, Abdi Ahmed, Jim Alexander, Ed Ferlauto, Sean Walter, Paul Mogush, Tim Flugum, Kathie Doty and Dale Kenknight.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chairs Colby and Munt

Co-Chairs Colby and Munt called the SWLRT Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Co-Chair Munt asked if there are any comments or changes to the August meeting minutes. Two changes were made to the draft meeting minutes:

- Rolf Peterson and Ann Iverson indicated they attended the meeting.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board was correctly identified.

The CAC approved the August minutes as amended. In addition, the CAC amended the June meeting minutes to reflect a question raised during the public forum. The June meeting minutes were approved as amended.

2. Project Updates: Jim Alexander and Katie Walker

Jim Alexander provided an overview of the preliminary engineering (PE) work to be conducted on the SWLRT corridor through a PowerPoint presentation. The PE work is being advertised under two requests for proposals with the dividing line between the two areas being just east of the Shady Oak station. As part of PE, designs for both the co-location and the re-location freight alternatives will be developed. Comments generated from the DEIS will inform the PE process. PE consultants will be housed in the SWLRT project office to increase coordination with agency staff and help deliver the project on-time and on budget.

An additional contract will be let for an independent engineering per review consultant, which will be tasked to review the plans and specifications as the designs are advanced. A question was raised about approvals from the cities. Jim Alexander replied that the Met Council will seek municipal consent on preliminary designs from the cities and the county; it is anticipated that municipal consent approvals

would be sought by quarter one of 2014. Robin Kaufman noted that the Governor awarded the project \$2 million as part of a Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Co-Chair Munt asked CAC members if they would like to have a meeting focused just on freight issues in the future. About half of the membership said yes, half responding no. It was agreed that the discussion needs more focus and structure. Co-Chair Munt asked for volunteers to help design a future session that can be productive and Bob Tift, Vida Ditter and Kathryn Kottke volunteered.

Katie Walker shared a slide on DEIS overview presentations given to date. Staff is working with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to get the DEIS out the door and it is likely to happen on October 12. The comment period will be 60 days due to the Thanksgiving holiday rather than the typical 45 days. These are 60 calendar days and not business days. The CAC suggested having a training session on commenting on the DEIS. Neil Trembley volunteered to share his information with other CAC members and alternates that he obtained from a recent training. Katie Walker noted the FTA will not authorize formal DEIS training. The DEIS will be a searchable document so navigation will be a little bit easier. Kandi Arries attended the CCMC meeting and learned that the Midway Greenway was included as an alternative which included the freight re-route as an expense. She asked if there is engineering documentation to help her understand why? The Midtown Greenway does not have the space for tracks and other infrastructure due to existing geometrics and bridges.

3. Station Area Profiles: Katie Walker

Katie Walker shared an example of a station area profile that is being developed for each station in the corridor. The profile will highlight land use, community amenities, and businesses near each station. The profiles will be used to share with elected officials, businesses and others interested in Southwest LRT about the project. The profiles can be used as a tool by the business community to market the corridor and its business opportunities. Staff welcomes comments on the profiles and the hope is to have the document ready for the RailVolution conference in October.

Feedback on the station profiles included the 10 minute walkshed should also include a “shed” for bikers and transit users. Trails, transit ridership, identify property in the public domain, potential developments, educational facilities as well as job concentrations should be depicted on the profiles. CAC members asked how can members provide more feedback. A comment was made that through PE and station planning, a fresh look at station locations should be given to seek the best fit for stations and development as there may be many thoughts by the community. Katie Walker stated the station profiles are in their first iteration and will be updated in 6-9 months and can provide more in-depth information at that time.

4. Featured Station Spotlight – Featured at Next Meeting

5. Community Engagement Grants – Held Over To Next Meeting

6. CAC Management: Sam O’Connell

A handout was provided that outlines the distribution and modifying of CAC meeting minutes. In addition, a SWLRT Business Advisory Committee roster was distributed for reference.

7. SWLRT Committee and Member Reports: Co-Chairs

- SWLRT Corridor Management Committee met on Sept. 5 and received a presentation on DEIS process overview and outreach, preliminary engineering services procurement, advisory committee reports, federal funding, station profiles and a presentation from Ann Beuch on the Blake Road Discussion Circles.
- SWLRT Business Advisory Committee toured the Central Corridor on September 12.
- SWLRT Community Works Steering Committee met on Sept. 20 and received an update on a development workshop to be sponsored by Urban Land Institute, appointed representatives to review engineering proposals, received a presentation on station areas profiles and the Royalston station.
- Member Reports:
 - Vida Ditter: Concerned that this group will be disbanded after PE, would like to explore ways to keep the group going after PE.
 - Art Higinbotham: Concerned about high speed rail trains and the SWLRT. Hard to see public relations on the project given all the contentious issues; would suggest pulling back on the momentum to allow for more investigation.
 - Meg Forney: Ann Carrol is working with a corridor coalition to identify common issues. Commissioner Dorfman will attend a walking workshop in the West Calhoun area.
 - Kathryn Kottke: Would like to have the TC&W more engaged, not hearing their perspective regarding trackage rights.
 - Kandi Arries: Still unable to understand how this all connects, will handle off-line with Hennepin County staff.
 - Linnea Sodergren: Develop talking points about other areas of the line, not just the freight corridors.
 - Matt Flory: Would like to tape CAC meetings and post on-line to take advantage of social media.
 - David Green: Went on the tours liked how they were organized.

8. Public Comment Forum:

Co-Chair Munt invited members of the public to address the CAC:

- Jamie LaPray suggested the Metropolitan Council document the past information and myths about the project. This would be helpful in supporting mitigation discussions.
- Claudia Johnston-Madison: Claudia asked for more clarification about the municipal consent process and asked if public input is part of the process. Jim Alexander replied that the project office will present design concepts to the CAC, BAC and the CMC. Robin Cauffman added that each community will hold a public hearing as part of the municipal consent process. Please e-mail Sam O'Connell with questions you may have.

9. **Adjourn:** Hearing no further items, Chairs Munt and Colby adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.