



Metropolitan Council

Brooklyn Center Community Center, 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Meeting of the METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee

April 09, 2015

Members Present:

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|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chair Adam Duinick | Gary Cunningham | Marika Pfefferkorn | Rich Gates |
| Aasim Shabazz | George Selman | Meg Forney | Scott McBride |
| Andy Snope | Jeffrey Lunde | Mike Opat | Shauen Pearce |
| Barb Johnson | Jim Adams | Mike Trepanier | Scott Schulte |
| (Peter Wagenius) | Jon Olson | Olga Parsons | Shap Harris |
| for Betsy Hodges | Kenya McKnight | Pat Bursaw | Tim Willson |
| Brian Lamb | Linda Higgins | Peter McLaughlin | |
| Denise Butler - alternate for Shauen Pearce | Lona Schreiber | Regan Murphy | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Adam Duinick called the April 9, 2015 meeting to order at approximately 1:06 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF March 12, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

George Selman made the motion to approve the March 12th meeting minutes. Lona Schreiber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Sam O'Connell began the presentation by going over the advisory committees and giving an update. The most recent TPAC meeting was March 23. The next meeting will be April 27. The Communication Steering Committee held their initial meeting on March 30. This group is in the process of finding community events to attend. The joint BAC/CAC meeting kick-off date will be April 15. This meeting will include a project overview, introduction of project staff and their roles and responsibilities, and provide an overview of the Hennepin County Community Works

Chair Duinick asked if all of the CAC positions have been filled.

Ms. O'Connell responded that all committees are now formed.

Council Member Selman asked what day of the week the committees will be meeting.

Ms. O'Connell reported that the days have not been decided and will be determined based upon committee availability.

4. TECHNICAL ISSUE #4



Alicia Vap gave an overview of Technical Issue #4 and how the DEIS studied both the Plymouth Avenue and Golden Valley Stations but that there is only funding proposed for one of the stations. Ms. Vap presented a summary of the open house that was held on February 26th and the benefits and drawbacks that were presented for each of the stations.

Ms. Vap reported that the Project Office would like to advance both of the stations further in the environmental analysis and engineering process. The decision to include one or both stations in the project scope would be decided at a later date. If any fatal flaws are identified, then the issue would need to be revisited in the fall of 2015.

5. TECHNICAL ISSUE #7

Nick Landwer provided an overview of Technical Issue #7 at Bass Lake Road Station. The Project Office is exploring shifting the location of the station, passenger drop-off, and bicycle and pedestrian access.

The Project Office has looked at moving the station further south, but this creates access issues from the neighborhood and is difficult due to the grades.

They have also looked at pulling the station back to where it was in the DEIS. Separate from the DEIS is a center platform station. This option can be easily accessed from Lakeland Avenue and buses on Bass Lake Road. There are also pedestrian and bicycle access from Bass Lake Road.

The next issue is the traffic on Bass Lake Road. Grade separations were explored on Bass Lake Road. The existing No Build scenario operates at a Level of Service (LOS) C. The Existing Build scenario would decrease the LOS to D, with the exception of the westbound direction, which resulted in an LOS of F. With some adjustments, however, the westbound direction could also operate in the Build scenario at an LOS of D.

The Project Office proposed to maintain the station location from the DEIS. After meeting with the City of Crystal, the Project Office will continue to study this station due to railroad traffic.

Council Member Selman asked about the bus stops nearest the station.

Mr. Landwer reported where the bus stops are today but that they have not yet been determined.

Scott McBride asked for clarification regarding the additional discussion that the city requested.

Mr. Landwer reported that the City would like further explanation and discussion of the LOS from a C to a D as caused by Light Rail Traffic. There are also concerns about freight rail through that area and how that operates with light rail.

Chair Duinick asked if this item would be brought back to the CMC.



Mr. Landwer reported that staff would bring this issue back to the committee.

Dan Soler later reported that the Project Office would like to bring a VISIM traffic model to the City of Crystal to show how the intersection would perform.

5. TECHNICAL ISSUE #9

Mr. Landwer continued with the Brooklyn Boulevard Station and the 73rd Avenue Crossing. He gave an overview of the alignment across 73rd Avenue and the grade through the area. The Project Office has looked at the LOS at the 73rd Avenue and County Road 81 intersection. The intersection operates at LOS B today and only drops to an LOS of C in the Build scenario. The Project Office proposes to maintain the intersection as proposed.

Commissioner Opat asked as they go north on County Road 81 what happens to the number of lanes at 73rd Avenue.

Mr. Landwer responded that the model assumes 6 lanes on County Road 81 at the intersection.

Mr. Soler informed the committee that the next piece of reconstruction is scheduled to take place in 2017 and the following piece of reconstruction is currently listed as unfunded in the Hennepin County CIP. Mr. Soler reported that if the reconstruction has not occurred yet that the Project Office would not complete any reconstruction that would preclude a 6 lane County Road 81.

Mayor Lunde asked about the number of buses on West Broadway and if that has been considered in the analysis.

Mr. Soler responded that it came up during the meeting on Monday night, and he is going to have staff at the Project Office go back and reanalyze this.

6. TECHNICAL ISSUE #10

Mr. Soler reported how the Project Office has been working with the City of Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County, and the public to find the best alternative for the reconstruction of West Broadway. Three open houses/workshops have been held with the Project Office staff, Brooklyn Park staff, Hennepin County, and the public. These meetings have been very well attended and have covered a variety of topics.

Mr. Soler reported that the majority of homeowners fronting the corridor have attended at least one of the meetings to learn about the proposed property acquisitions presented from the County previously and the property acquisition currently proposed.

The public has strongly supported four lanes on West Broadway and Project Office staff is in concurrence.

It was apparent at the April 7 open house that people needed an opportunity to voice their concerns about the alignment on West Broadway. Mr. Soler reported that



Commissioner Opat was present at the meeting and was able to share the process that the alignment has been through and the rationale for why the alignment is on West Broadway. Mr. Soler informed the committee that this is what the Project Office would like to bring back to the Brooklyn Park city council on April 28.

Marika Pfefferkorn requested additional information on who attended the open house events and what the ideal number of attendees is at an open house.

Mr. Soler responded that these open houses were very specific to an issue; future open houses will be more general about the project.

Ms. Pfefferkorn requested information regarding how the open house attendees have an opportunity to affect the outcome of the project and if there is a goal regarding the number of attendees at open houses and what is done if this number is not met.

Mr. Soler responded that there is not an external goal.

Ms. Pfefferkorn responded that her underlying concern is that people will later say that they have not been involved in the process.

Ms. O'Connell reported that these open houses were very specific and many people weighed in on the specific question being asked. She also responded that the Project Office understands that not everyone can attend a meeting and that all of the materials are available online with an opportunity to provide feedback. In later May or early June we hope to get out and hear what other folks are thinking along the corridor (outside the West Broadway piece).

Ms. Pfefferkorn responded that her questions were not a criticism but that it is important to capture additional information about those in attendance.

Mayor Lunde reported that this project came to these homeowners last year due to the county's reconstruction of the road. There will be an opportunity for general committee involvement later in the project but that these meetings were specifically for the homeowners along this segment of the corridor.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Scott Reed provided an update on the environmental analysis underway for the project. The bulk of the efforts at this point are focused on coordination. Up to this point, coordination has begun with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Three Rivers Park District, State Historic Preservation Office, United States Army Corps of Engineers, MN Department of Natural Resources, and Wetlands Conservation Act entities (LGUs).

Three Rivers Park District has already entered into a joint powers agreement with Golden Valley and Robbinsdale for park planning and management support.

There are very few historic properties along the Blue Line Extension project. The State Historic Preservation Office agrees with the impacts that have been identified.



The Project Office has been meeting with the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding wetlands impacts.

Wetlands Conservation Act entities (LGUs) are also concerned with the wetlands along the corridor and will be meeting with Project Office staff and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Reed also reported that the environmental team has been coordinating with the engineers on the project and its impacts.

Council Member Snope requested that the environmental team maintain contact with the Cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale in addition to the Three Rivers Park District.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Duininck adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:57pm.

Next meeting will be on May 14th from 1:00 – 2:30pm.