



METRO Blue Line Extension
Joint Community and Businesses Advisory Committees Meeting
November 7, 2016
Crystal Community Center
4800 Douglas Drive North
Crystal, MN 55428
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Meeting Summary

CAC Members: Giuseppe Marrari, George Selman, Chris Berne, Vicki Moore, Steve Schmidt, La Shella Sims

BAC Members: Brad Clift, Staci Horwitz, Jim White, Mark Steinhauser

Agency Staff and Guests: Dan Pfeiffer, David Davies, Juan Rangel, Alicia Vap, Shelley Miller, Rachel Dammel, Sam O’Connell, Nick Landwer, Kathryn O’Brien, Caroline Miller, Jim Toulouse, Joan Vanhala

1. Station Design

Alicia Vap presented.

- Station Design
 - LRT stations provide access to the light rail system
 - LRT stations provide form in terms of shelters and function in terms of ticket vending machines, heaters, and train information
 - LRT stations and access are owned and maintained by Metro Transit
 - LRT stations are one element of the larger transit system
- Design Framework
 - Respond to lessons learned
 - Provide safe and accessible facilities
 - Enhance customer experience
 - Develop design consistency
 - Customer wayfinding
 - Constructability/cost
 - Maintenance
 - Response to character and context of each site
 - Incorporate Section 106/Secretary of Interior standards
 - Areas of variability to create identity for each station through use of color, materials, and massing

- Metro Transit encourages partnerships with stakeholders and community members to facilitate addition of artwork along BLRT corridor
- Corridor Framework
 - Designers looked at station in segments
 - West Broadway Ave “Grand Boulevard”
 - West Broadway Ave “Community Connector”
 - BNSF Rail Bottineau Blvd “Crossroads”
 - BNSF Rail Robbinsdale “Town Center”
 - BNSF Rail “Parkway”
 - Olson Memorial Highway Minneapolis “Gateway”
- Opportunities for Variability
 - Roof edge
 - Underside
 - Standard Metro Transit glass panel size
 - Column paint color
 - Concrete platform surface treatment

Committee members looked at boards showing the draft station designs and were asked the following:

- Is the design on track with the context and character?
- What did you like?
- What’s missing?

Feedback included the following:

- Plymouth Avenue Station
 - Historic looking light fixtures?
 - More seating
 - Seating should not be too low in height
 - Clear signs at stations indicating how to get to stairs, bridge, trail – not everyone will be able to climb the stairs
- Golden Valley Road Station
 - Creative park-and-ride site solution – sets up special place for it
 - Positive: minimalist design and park setting
- Robbinsdale Station
 - Screen bus headlights from residential area
 - Include car share, electric car charging, and bike storage in park-and-ride
 - Too many vertical lines – looks like it is even taller than it is
 - Good wayfinding for where to enter the parking ramp
 - Perhaps use a darker brick
 - Only stop with historic downtown at station – need to make sure people can find their way into downtown from the station

- Bass Lake Road Station
 - Note Metro bus stops in proposed improvements
 - They are on Bass Lake Road – will stay in existing location
 - Positive: asymmetrical shape – nod to Crystal airport, pointing people west
 - Two access points to station
 - Traffic signals will be timed so pedestrians can get across in one signal phase
 - Hennepin County will also be widening the median to serve as refuge in case someone only makes it halfway across
- 63rd Ave Station
 - Like the treatment on entryway
 - Nice color (green part)
- Brooklyn Blvd Station
 - Neat idea for wavy panels – etched panels will give feeling of movement
 - Feels safe, contained, secure
- 85th Ave Station
 - Visually busy, annoying
 - Trying to make it look like the brick on the college, a destination/entrance to the future
 - If less contrasting and more tonal it might be more visually appealing
 - Hard to show in SketchUp – using shades of color to give feeling of movement
- 93rd Ave Station
 - Very institutional, corporate – feels right for neighborhood
 - Will be interested to see how it compares with the two new hotels that are going in in terms of colors
 - Suggesting something dark with something light on top of it
- Oak Grove Pkwy Station
 - Nice integration – a lot going on but doesn't feel visually busy
 - Does a nice job of fitting in
- Van White Blvd and Penn Ave Stations
 - Van White
 - Continues the original system – feels like it continues on from the original Blue Line
 - Penn Ave
 - Hwy 55 is an entryway into Minneapolis
 - Like similar but different approach to Van White
 - Stainless panels feel cold compared to panels on Van White – a warmer color may be more inviting
 - Neither station reflects the character of the Heritage Park and Harrison neighborhoods – the design is too sterile and institutional
 - Both neighborhoods are family friendly, these stations feel more like a business or industrial area

- Work some elements of Target station into Van White station
- Stations should be inviting both into the neighborhood and into downtown
- Incorporate design elements from library or Heritage Park?
- Have discussed having the ends glow at night like a beacon
- Should these stations be larger than the others to accommodate all the people?
- Make accessible to seniors, those with disabilities, and people that speak different languages

2. Community Open Houses

The station design concepts will be shared at community open houses on:

- November 9: Minneapolis
- November 10: Golden Valley
- November 14: Crystal
- November 16: Robbinsdale
- November 17: Brooklyn Park

The open house will start at 5:00, and then at 6:00 there will be a presentation on where the design concepts came from and have some time for Q&A. The boards and presentation will be posted online along with a comment form tomorrow (November 8th).

The purpose of these open houses is to:

- Educate the community about station design evolution
- Receive feedback about station design concepts

After the open houses, we will share with the committees what we heard and what we learned.

3. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.