

Meeting Date: May 4, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members Present:

- Chair, Charlie Zelle
- Judy Johnson, District 1
- Reva Chamblis, District 2
- Deb Barber, District 4
- Molly Cummings, District 5

- John Pacheco, District 6
- Robert Lilligren, District 7
- Abdirahman Muse, District 8
- Raymond Zeran, District 9
- Peter Lindstrom, District 10
- Susan Vento, District 11

- Francisco Gonzalez, District 12
- Chai Lee, District 13
- Kris Fredson, District 14
- Phillip Sterner, District 15
- Wendy Wulff, District 16
- = present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Council Chair Zelle called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:02 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Lilligren, seconded by Wulff to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the (date), 2022 regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole. **Motion carried.**

Wulff, Chamblis

2022-108

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-110:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement, Contract 22I007 with Hennepin County for the construction of temporary conveyance as part of Hennepin County's Noerenberg and Hendrickson bridges replacement project for an amount not to exceed \$2,300,000.

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business – Reports of Standing Committees

Environment

1. **2022-108:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute the Water Efficiency Grant Program grants recommended in Attachment A in the total amount of \$997,920.

It was moved by Lindstrom, seconded by Wulff.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Blue Line Extension Route Modification

Council Members heard a Blue Line Extension Project Overview and Route Recommendation presented by Sophia Ginis, Director of Community Affairs, Metro Transit, Nick Landwer, Senior Project Manager, Transit Systems Development, Metro Transit, and Dan Soler, Senior Program Administrator, Hennepin County. Hennepin County Commissioners Irene Fernando and Jeffrey Lunde were also in attendance to share comments about the project. Ginis began with an overview of the Blue Line Extension project. Blue Line Extension will provide single seat service to downtown Minneapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and the Mall of America. Route options explored included a route through Brooklyn Park, a route through Brooklyn Park, Crystal, and Robbinsdale, and two route options through Minneapolis. Ongoing public engagement has included input on project goals, concerns, opportunities, and route options. Public input was also considered on the connections with the community and station location, updated design concepts, and the Draft Route Modification Report findings. A community engagement cohort is in place to ensure voices from all backgrounds are involved in decisions. From August 2020 to February 2022 there have been over 300 community engagement events resulting in nearly 11,000 points of contact with the public. These points of contact have included community event attendance, door-knocking, stakeholder meetings, project-hosted events, driveway talks, and more. Project staff also established an Anti-Displacement Work Group. Community feedback influenced the group's formation, with a clear priority for local experience, implementable strategies, and a sense of urgency. The work group is facilitated by the University of Minnesota Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA). Project staff also shared a Blue Line Extension route recommendation. The route recommendation is to extend the existing Blue Line from Target Field Station along West Broadway Avenue in Minneapolis to County Road 81 in Crystal and Robbinsdale, and along West Broadway Avenue in Brooklyn Park. With this new recommendation, much of the previous route is maintained but provides a new opportunity to serve the cultural and economic heart of North Minneapolis. The route options were assessed against six defined goals: 1.) Improve transit access and connections to jobs and regional destinations, 2.) Improve frequency and reliability of transit service to communities in the corridor, 3.) Provide transit improvements that maximize transit benefits while being cost competitive and economically viable, 4.) Support communities' development goals, 5.) Promote healthy communities and sound environmental practices including efforts to address climate change, and 6.) Advance local and regional equity and work towards reducing regional racial disparities. The public comment period on the Draft Route Modification Report closed on May 18, 2022. In June, the Corridor Management Committee will take action on the staff recommendation and the recommendation will then come to the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County for approval.

Council Member Chamblis thanked the presenters and staff for their work and shared that she has been a part of this process since 2010 in Brooklyn Park. She also had comments regarding historical disparities and anti-displacement work in the community. Council Member Lilligren thanked the staff and commissioners for their work on the project and acknowledged the difficulties of projects of this size. He also addressed the issues of community confidence and trust, as well as anti-displacement work.

Hennepin County Commissioners Irene Fernando and Jeffrey Lunde shared comments about the project. Commissioner Fernando thanked staff and Council Members and addressed the route



modification in her district. She shared that the federal government is very interested in the project and expressed appreciation for the opportunity for community involvement in route planning. Commissioner Lunde shared an appreciation for the equity opportunities along the Blue Line Extension. Lunde also thanked staff for flexible outreach opportunities for safe engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council Members had questions and comments about working with the local businesses and business associations, the consideration of transit safety, a bus connection to the City of Maple Grove, environmental review and issues, construction impacts on local businesses, meeting recordings of BLRT planning discussions, transit safety for an aging population, and maintenance and snow removal. Council Members thanked staff and commissioners for their commitment to the project.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council's Committee of the Whole meeting of May 4, 2022.

Approved this 18th day of May 2022.

Bridget Toskey
Recording Secretary

Council Contact:

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