



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee
Brooklyn Center Community Center
6301 Shingle Creek Parkway
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430
June 11, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Adam Duininck, Lona Schreiber, Scott Schulte, Jim Adams, Betsy Hodges, Regan Murphy, Marika Pfefferkorn, Scott McBride, Mike Opat, Linda Higgins, Jeffrey Lunde, Adam Arvidson, Betsy Hodges, Denise Butler, George Selman, Shauen Pearce, Shep Harris

Committee Members Absent:

Aasim Shabazz, Andy Snope, Barb Johnson, Brian Lamb, Jon Olson, Meg Forney, Olga Parsons, Pat Bursaw, Peter McLaughlin, Regan Murphy, Rich Gates, Tim Wilson, Gary Cunningham, James Showalter, Brian Lamb.

1. Call to Order

Chair Adam Duininck called the June 11, 2015 meeting to order at approximately 1:00 pm.

2. Approval of May 14, 2015 Minutes

Council Member Scott Schulte made the motion to approve the May 14th meeting minutes. Lona Schreiber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Outreach Activities:

Dan Pfeiffer provided Open House updates. Tonight the City of Robbinsdale will have an open house being held at the Robbinsdale Middle School. Next Wednesday, June 17, the City of Brooklyn Park will hold an open house at the Brooklyn Park Community Center.

On May 28, the City of Crystal held an open house at the Crystal Community Center and there were 50 attendees.

On June 4, the Cities of Minneapolis and Golden Valley held a joint open house at the Harrison Recreation Center and there were 137 attendees.

4. Environmental Update:

Kathryn O'Brien provided an update on Technical Issue #5 Golden Valley Alignment: Floodplains.

Committee member Linda Higgins asked for an explanation as to what floodplains and mitigation are and how they affect the project design plan, as well as keeping the public informed. Ms. O'Brien explained that mitigation sites create storage areas for water runoff and there is space in the design plan, as discussed in slides presented today. The IRT teams and Bassett Creek Watershed teams are actively participating in discussions. The

issue is complex, and involves the MPRB, Soo Line Railroad, the City of Minneapolis and the Bassett Creek Watershed Committee.

On June 17, a meeting is scheduled with MPRB to finalize floodplain impacts and determine final mitigation measures and actions.

Committee member Shep Harris asked to be kept in the loop regarding floodplains discussions affecting the City of Golden Valley.

5. Preliminary Park and Ride Space Demand

Nick Landwer provided update on the DEIS Park and Ride Space demand. DEIS assumed three Park and Ride facilities:

- 93rd Avenue-now at Oak Grove Parkway-800 spaces
- 63rd Avenue-725 spaces (565 existing plus 160 new)
- Robbinsdale-500 spaces
- Total of 2,025 parking spaces for the 13 mile corridor.

Mr. Landwer discussed 'constrained' and 'unconstrained' models estimates and how each affects the total demand at Park and Ride facilities. The City of Robbinsdale Park and Ride is constrained by downtown character and opportunities for structured parking, and is a challenge, per Mr. Landwer.

Committee member Shep Harris discussed concerns over no immediate plans for a Park and Ride in Golden Valley at this time. Mr. Landwer explained that plan is based on model and demographics, and will look at whether it would improve ridership in that area. Committee member Jim Adams also voiced same concerns.

Next Steps:

Committee member Jeff Lunde questioned the plot of land to be used in Brooklyn Park in connection to economic growth. Mr. Landwer responded that he is working with cities to incorporate development around business.

Committee member Marika Pfefferkorn asked how information regarding design/plan is being promoted in each city. Mr. Landwer explained that the process is based on demographics rather than marketing.

Chair Duininck asked if there were unconstructed options at Park and Rides for example, bikes. That option is being look at, per Mr. Landwer.

6. 63rd Avenue Park and Ride and Brooklyn Boulevard Station Recommendations

Alicia Vap provided update on the 63rd Avenue Station Park and Ride from DEIS.

Ms. Vap reviewed slide of proposed plan detailing the ramp, bus loop area and proposed third level to existing parking ramp. Platform configuration, bus stop locations, Pedestrian access and Park and Ride size expansion options were reviewed.

- Platform configuration-changed from side platform to center platform
- Pedestrian access-plan for pedestrian overpass from parking ramp to platform
- Access from 63rd Avenue (pedestrian)
- Bus Stops on 63rd Avenue-Allows use of current bus turnaround for Park and Ride expansion
- Cost effective recommendations were reviewed between option one and option two and compatibility with neighborhood.

Technical Issue #9: Brooklyn Boulevard Station from DEIS

- Platform configuration changed from split side platform to center platform south of Brooklyn Boulevard
- Pedestrian access-from traffic signal at Brooklyn Boulevard; access from traffic signal at 76th Avenue North
- Bus stops-on West Broadway and Brooklyn Boulevard-continuing to analyze Starlite Transit Center operation at current location or location closer to platform

Committee member Michael Opat asked if considerations for Park and Ride and drop-off as well. Current plans are walk-up and drop-off per Ms.Vap.

Committee member Marika Pfefferkorn questioned community involvement and how it is accomplished regarding station planning. Ms. Vap responded that on June 17 the first open house in Brooklyn Park is scheduled to discuss Station plans.

7. Freight Rail Update

Ryan Wilson provided update on the ongoing meetings with the BNSF. Monthly meetings continue to be held with focus on improvements necessary to complete BLRT.

Feedback from the BNSF:

- In discussion-shift and build freight track closer to LRT tracks.
- Design and build appropriate physical barrier to ensure safe operations
- Railroad intends to own and operate freight trains on the approximate western 50 feet and to protect their ability to make future track or capacity improvements within the western 50 feet (on DEIS)
- Mr. Wilson discussed mutual goals of BPO and railroad including safety, corridor protection treatments, intrusion detection, crash walls, retained embankment.
- Locations with significant impacts include South of 71st Avenue, West Broadway Avenue road and sidewalk, West Broadway Avenue Crossings of BNSF corridor-parking lot at Steve O's Bar and Grill, and north of 42nd Avenue North-parking lot at Sawhorse Designers and Builders (10-12 feet sold to them by BNSF). There are variations of corridor footage along the route.

Freight Rail Next Steps

- Continue monthly meetings
- Advance improvements necessary for BLRT
- Ensure improvements covered in FEIS
- Meeting with BNSF Fort Worth representatives in July

Committee member Lona Schreiber commended negotiations accomplished to date with BNSF; they are hard negotiators. Committee member Betsy Hodges also applauded the success of meetings with railroads.

Adjourn: Prior to adjournment, Chair Duininck announced that there is a conflict on the date of the next CMC meeting and asked Committee to approve moving meeting to July 16, 2015. Members approved the move to July 16. Location to be determined, time remains the same.

Chair Duininck adjourned meeting at 2:10 pm.

Next meeting:

Moved to Thursday, July 16, 2015

1:00-2:30 pm

Location to be determined