

Southwest LRT DBE & Workforce Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 20, 2020

2:00pm - 4:00pm

WEBEX MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Tracey Jackson (co-chair), Salima Khakoo (co-chair), Barry Davies, Gilbert Odonkor, Mel Reeves, Leslie Woyee, John O'Phelan, Mary Schmidt, Barb Lau, Katy Maus, Yolanda McIntosh, Christopher Gannon, Mike Toney, Elaine Valadez, Sam Ndely, Jon Tao, Aaron Koski, Gary Courtney, Vince Fuller, Thomas Scott, Tracey Jackson, Charlotta Prestine, Mahad Omar, Josh Brotemarkel, Derreck Elligson, Colin Evenson, Jeff Salzman, Joe Johnson, Jerry Sweeney, Cy Jordan

Agenda

1. Roll Call

- Tracey Jackson, OEO, called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

2. Review Meeting Minutes

- The previous minutes were presented. The minutes were approved.

3. SWLRT Project Update (Slides 3-4)

- Sam O'Connell introduced the project updates. On August 5, 2020, the Trump Administration advanced the Southwest LRT Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) to move forward with congressional notification. Congress has a 30-day review of the project and the FFGA, and if rewarded, will free up \$928.8 million or 46% in federal funds.

4. DBE Achievement Reporting (Slides 5-6)

- Jon Tao presented the DBE achievement as of June 30, 2020. LMJV is achieving 20.88% to date, APJV is achieving 1.01%, and the Franklin O&M Expansion is currently under review and will start payments in the next few months. There was a disallowance on Pay App 21, and this was updated on the DBE progress reports showing a different number than last month's numbers for the Civil Contract. Tracey Jackson said that LS Black would be starting this September and are on the line to see how LMJV and APJV are reporting.

a. Civil: LMJV DBE Activities (Slides 7-9)

- Cody Ferguson presented the LMJV change order update. They continue to do well and hold strong DBE achievement reporting around 20%, exceeding the 16% DBE achievement goal. There is discussion around the crash wall which is a significant change order and excess of \$90 million. This could drive

up the contract value exponentially. The one month look ahead comprises of DBEs on-site. There are no new DBEs on the list.

- Barb Lau asked which trucking firm is no longer on the project. Jon answered that R Olson Trucking was on the project at the time and their scope of work was to bring stone from St. Cloud, MN. However, the DBE was not able to follow through with their commitment and reach an agreement with the Prime. After talking with LMJV, the firm decided not to participate on the contract and Rock on Trucks replaced R Olson Trucking.

b. Systems: APJV DBE Activities (Slides 10-12)

- Chris Gannon with APJV presented the APJV DBE activities update. They issued the first PO to B&L Supply for \$937,353. Gunnar Electric started some of the communications work at Hopkins and the Golden Triangle Stations, which the work has been completed since. They issued two change orders to Gunnar Electric: \$63k for the bond, and \$15k for communication and stations. There has been no real change since last month, and there is still a negative amount of -\$158,331 in change orders through August 1, 2020. The DBE change order participation is \$0.00 and are expecting to see some movement next month.
- Barb Lau asked about B&L Supply, how much delay there is in payment, and what the payment process is on the supplies. Chris answered that for material suppliers, it would be a while before they release the signal cable and they cut the purchase order to lock in the price. Installing a signal cable will not be the first thing completed but will notify the Council 20 days ahead of time and get it in the estimate.
- Tracey Jackson said it would be helpful to work with DBEs and the timing of the pay cycle. When B&L Supply does purchase the supplies, it is about the timing and when they can get in on the pay cycle. Chris said that they will review this and are following the same cycle as LMJV.

5. Workforce Participation Reporting (Slides 13-16)

- Elaine Valadez showed the workforce participation on the civil construction for June 2020. There are 579,737 hours total to date, with 63,492 hours in June. The goal is 20% women with 7.61% contract to date, and 32% POCI with 20.84% contract to date. Leslie Woyee, with the City of Minneapolis, asked why the goal percentages are being set at whole numbers, for example, 20%, and why they are not rounded, like 7.61% to 8%. Elaine answered that they are monitoring through LCP tracker and are reporting actual participation as it progresses through the project.
- Elaine showed a pie chart which shows the representation of hours worked by category based on race. There is approximately 72% white men, 18% POCI men, 3%

- POCI women, 7% white women, and >1% unspecified. Elaine gave a report of the trucking participation on the project to date. MBE has 13,699 hours, ZTS has 2,642 hours, and Rock on Trucks has 430 hours. In the handouts, there is a contract participation report for the month of June 2020 which shows the summary on participation of hours. Leslie asked if the trucking companies are women and minority owned. Elaine responded that they are DBE firms. These are the trucking hours that are counted because the work is being performed on-site.
- Elaine showed the breakdown of hours working on the project based on the subcontractors and the prime contractors. Yolanda will be following up on what the initial capacity commitments were. John O’Phelan from Ramsey County thanked Elaine for presenting the reports.
 - a. Civil: LMJV Workforce Activities (Slides 17-19)**
 - Yolanda McIntosh presented the workforce activities for LMJV. There are 12 new hires for the month of July. There are seven white male, one white female, four POCI male, and no POCI female. The new hires are from LMJV, Lunda, and CS McCrossan, with a handout showing what trade classification and trade level the workers are on. John O’Phelan mentioned that this is great practice and is happy to see the report.
 - On July 29, 2020 they held their first virtual job fair. Yolanda thanked Railworks Track Services, Delta Railroad, and Building Strong Communities. Thanks to the Urban League Twin Cities, it was advertised on KMJO radio and appreciate their partnership.
 - Mary Schmidt commented that virtual tools can help conduct more visits. Mary asked Yolanda if the virtual job fair may be a good practice post-COVID-19, or to do a combination of in-person and virtual. Yolanda thinks that it is a great idea to do a combination of both in the future, because even though connecting virtually saves time and can be easier, not everyone has access to WiFi or virtual platforms.
 - b. Systems: APJV DBE Activities (Slides 20-21)**
 - Mike Toney from APJV introduced the DBE activities. Work will follow the civil work and will be turned over in December 2020. They will hire in the spring of 2021 after the winter. They held meetings with the some of the two largest electricians, Local 292 and Local 160. On July 29, 2020, they met with the Operating Engineers Local 49 Jenny Winkelaar and talked about building relationships. On July 22, 2020, they met with Ramsey County workforce Solutions John O’Phelan and talked about advertising on websites. They want to make participants available to their subs and are continuing to identify

opportunities to increase POCI and women participation on the project.

Gunnar Electric started some work in July.

6. DBE and Workforce Compliance Site Visits (Slides 22-23)

- Tracey Jackson shared the office visits, virtual visits, and interviews that OEO and MDHR conducted. There were 46 virtual office visits, and 18 field site visits to 6 different construction sites. Charlotta and Mahad are interns that helped conduct the site visits. Salima Khakoo shared that on the days out in the field, there were 46 interviews. The 46 interviews consisted of 10 companies, and had 34 males, 12 females, 26 white, and 20 POCI.
- Gilbert Odonkor asked what the difference is between virtual visits and field visits. Tracey responded that they are looking at contracts, paperwork, potential concerns, and ways to support DBEs. The field visits are to ensure that there is no DBE fraud and that the DBE is performing a commercially useful function. They help support the process by addressing concerns and looking into any delays with payment.

7. LMJV Workforce Plan Update (Slides 24-28)

- Salima stated that there was a request for LMJV to make an updated workforce plan to see where the needs of the workforce are. Yolanda showed the Civil trade utilization totals. There are 150 operators, 75 carpenters, 25 pile drivers, 115 laborers, 12 cement masons, 43 electricians, and two plumbers. Barry asked why there are no iron workers on the civil plan. Yolanda does not have the answer and will refer to Dale. Barry said there should be 40-50 iron workers. John O'Phelan asked about the SWLRT civil trade utilization and what the total numbers meant. He was wondering if this represented the amount of jobs and people, or the number of tasks needed to be completed. John said it was likely representing the amount of jobs and people. Mel Reeves believes this is going in the right direction by showing what the needs are.
- Yolanda showed the updated LMJV projected workforce goal. The hours shown are estimated remaining hours for women and POCI. They are still striving for 20% women and 32% POCI. The goals will fluctuate because subcontractors come and go, and several are on-site as needed. For example, DBE JL Theis worked on the project in 2019, and has paused work until resuming in 2022. There are still subcontractors that are not hiring currently.
- Yolanda said that as a result of the workforce update plan, the civil construction hiring forecast in 2020 is four for Dionne Construction, six for Egan, two for Minger, 35 for Railworks/Delta JV, and 2021 has 37 for Railworks/Delta JV and 11 for Restoration Construction Services. Tracey Jackson asked if Dionne Construction, a DBE, is going to potentially hire four in 2020, even though they start work in 2021. Yolanda said she will refer to Dale for the answer.

- Yolanda inquired what the minimum qualifications are for the jobs and if they could mentor them on the job for the rest. For example, a certified crane operator is a minimum qualification. Leslie inquired if there was a breakdown on how many journey workers there are compared to apprentices.
- The LMJV hiring summary's LMJV workforce comprises of mostly Lunda and CS McCrossan transfers. The new hires to date for SWLRT are 11.7% female and 37.7% POCI. LMJV continues GFE in the recruitment of women and POCI like the virtual career fair and Building Strong Communities.

8. Workforce Development Workgroup Update (Slide 29)

- Aaron Koski shared an update from the workforce development workgroup. Aaron said that they define their actions from a good starting point. There is a lot of good energy and commitment to find tangible efforts to implement in the future for a positive impact. Salima appreciates the honest and detailed participation seen. Sheila said that there was good discussion and are looking forward to developing new plans for new partnership and more employees out for the jobs. Tracey thanked Aaron for bringing the group together.

9. Building Strong Communities Update (Slides 30-32)

- Aaron provided the update and shared that there are eight participants who have started their apprenticeship. There are four participant apprentices working on the SWLRT. Three are iron workers, two are laborers, two are operating engineers, and one is a sheet metal worker. Aaron will continue to provide updates not just for this cohort, but for the project to see who is continuing the apprenticeship. Gary said that the two iron workers in the Building Strong Communities participants are willing to learn and try their hardest. This is a good example of how everyone can come together.
- There were two site visits, one at Dale-94 and at the SWLRT Eden Prairie Station. They gave the participants an opportunity to hear what it is like to be in the industry and how to advance. The workers got a chance to work on making a sidewalk and a curb. There are a few individuals who have decided to move forward with the trade.

10. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 17, 2020 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm