



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

September 14, 2021

8:00 AM

WebEx

BAC Members: Tim Baylor, Ryan Borne, John Hacker, Felicia Perry, Ian Alexander, Candice Oathout, Chris Webley, Jennifer Cutter, Jimmy Loyd, J. Kevin Croston

Agency Staff and Guests: Sarah Abe, Sam King, Marcia Glick, Nick Landwer, Kyle Mianulli, Kristine Stehly, Kerry Pearce Ruch, Jim Voll, Jesse Struve, Rebecca Hughes, Dan Soler, Cathy Gold, Andrew Gillett, Amber Turnquest, Jason Tintes, Sam O'Connell, Sophia Ginis, Jason Tintes, Sam King, Liz Morice, Emilee Roschen

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, began the meeting at 8:05 AM.

2. Adopt Meeting Minutes

Felicia Perry, Committee Co-Chair, moved to approve the minutes. Candice Oathout seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Public Engagement: What we heard Summer 2021

Sophia Ginis provided an update on July and August public engagement. There were over 2,000 points of contact with the public and over 200 comments. During the summer they sought feedback on station study areas. Sophia shared community feedback on visualizations by city. Brooklyn Park, for example, had feedback on Park-and-Ride placement. For Crystal, it was about roadway design and pedestrian connections. Robbinsdale was concerned about pedestrian safety, traffic flow, community cohesion, connections to the hospital and Park-and-Ride options. For Minneapolis, the visualizations generated a lot of questions about intersections and displacement.

4. Engineering Update

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared updates on County Road 81. Nick shared three examples of options near North Memorial Hospital. Chris Webley, City of Minneapolis, asked about the main differences between the West Broadway options. Nick pointed out that the one West Broadway route would be elevated above the bridge to stay center running. The other West Broadway option would have a station further south of the hospital and go to the side of County Road 81 at this point. Nick showed the Lowry option. Sophia clarified that some considerations here included were the existing new bridge and what the community and hospital want and need for connections. Chris Webley asked about visualizations like this for each part of the corridor. He also asked about impacts for buildings and homes for each option. Nick said there will be more visualizations. He said that they are looking at refining the options now with the cities, and they will be showing those impacts to these committees and to the public going forward. Chris Webley asked if there is an assumption or assessment of which route has properties impacted the most. Dan Soler, Hennepin County, said



that this update will happen in the Minneapolis Update section, it is what staff is working to answer at upcoming community workshops. Sophia said this has been the main question during this process.

Nick shared a drawing for the Bass Lake Road intersection with County Road 81 which would have an overpass for the vehicle traffic and at-grade station option. This is a diamond intersection. Candace Oathout pointed out that the distance one would have to walk at this station would be a big issue for someone who has limited mobility. She also that is would be the same issues for people to walk through a park-and-ride to the hospital.

Nick shared considerations for planning at the Crystal Airport. The route would run under a Runway Protection Zone. He showed a section with the road and approach surfaces which detailed these considerations at Crystal Airport. Robbinsdale and Crystal have upcoming meetings and open houses in September and October.

5. Minneapolis Update

Dan Soler, Hennepin County, shared some current progress and thinking in Minneapolis. He referenced Chris Webley's question around what the quantitative factors are, right-of-way impacts and other considerations.

He reviewed work completed so far. This includes determining the main options: West Broadway and Washington/Lowry. Next, they determined station study areas for each route. They are currently determining the evaluation criteria. They are currently advancing design details including station configurations and locations as well as intersections. These are both important for property impacts. They are putting together designs considering many different sets of information for this evaluation including land use, equity considerations, community demographics, traffic and parking information and Right-of-Way impacts.

Dan Soler, continued, looking at transit connections, which routes serve more destinations, what types of destinations. This kind of data and information will help make comparison between the Lowry Route and West Broadway Route, which overall benefits offset by minimizing impacts.

Tim Baylor, Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce, asked if the City of Minneapolis is included in these conversations and what their response is to the various routes that are displayed? Dan responded that they are actively involved on developing options within these various sections. Tim added that he would like to make sure the process is seamless as possible. Could those on this committee representing Minneapolis be included in the Minneapolis planning and public work meetings so that they can have homogeneous input at the same time?

Felicia asked a question in the chat, who are those planners (CPED/Public Works) with the city you've been working with? I'd love to connect with them as well. Dan Soler, pointed out the Minneapolis staff who were currently on the call.

Jimmy Loyd asked what is the actual goal of council on this? Is the goal to create the best route for Met Council or best route for the community? Dan responded that they want to build a good light rail system. As a way for people in the community to get around and provide an opportunity to simulate and generate community economic impacts and help lift-up the community as well. Sophia added that project staff is not trying to impact the North Minneapolis community. It's about improvement and investment in the community. They can't 100% avoid impacts but are working on advancing a project that benefits the North Minneapolis community.



6. Project Schedule

Sophia reviewed the schedule which includes fall community workshops, a draft report being released in December and the final report being released in March 2022.

Sophia shared background on the upcoming report. The Route Modification Report will have the project history, process, and evaluation. It will underline how community engagement has guided the work so far. Sophia shared the project goals. The project goals will guide the evaluation process.

7. Anti-Displacement Update

Sophia shared that Hennepin County will be taking a board action to bring CURA onboard to help anti-displacement efforts. CURA is part of the University of Minnesota, and C Terrance Anderson is the project manager. September 21 would be the Board contract approval; contract kick-off would begin the week of October 4th.

8. Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Will need to push the November meeting because of the Minneapolis election on November 2nd.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Chat

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:05 AM

Hello Ian.

from Cathy Gold to everyone: 8:06 AM

Good morning all!

from Ryan Borne to everyone: 8:07 AM

Good Mornng from Golden Valley!

from Jennifer Cutter to everyone: 8:07 AM

Good Morning!

from John Hacker to everyone: 8:07 AM

morning everyone good to see you again

from O'Connell, Sam to everyone: 8:07 AM

Good Morning! Sam O'Connell, Met Council Project Lead

from Candace Oathout to everyone: 8:07 AM

Good morning

from Ian Alexander to everyone: 8:07 AM

Hello All...

from e01285 to everyone: 8:07 AM

Kevin Croston, MD Robbinsdale North Memorial Health

from Tim Baylor to everyone: 8:07 AM

Hello everyone, Tim Baylor - Robbinsdale CC



from Sam King to everyone: 8:08 AM

Good morning everyone 😊

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:08 AM

Greetings all, Felicia Perry- West Broadway Business & Area Coalition (Area 3)

from Amber Turnquest to everyone: 8:10 AM

Good morning. Amber Turnquest, City of Minneapolis

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:10 AM

Question: Is the interactive map still available for us to view the comments and responses? I haven't checked in the last week or so.

from Kristine Stehly to everyone: 8:23 AM

Good morning! Kristine Stehly - Hennepin County

from Kristine Stehly to everyone: 8:24 AM

@Felicia - Here's is the public map available for commenting:

<https://www.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/BLRT/map>

from Candace Oathout to everyone: 8:24 AM

What are the proposed walking distances from transit station to hospital admission location?

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:24 AM

Thank you Kristine

from Kristine Stehly to everyone: 8:25 AM

@Felicia - Here is the informational GIS map: <https://arcg.is/19T5z40>

from CW to everyone: 8:29 AM

Are there visuals for it actually going down each corridor ?

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:29 AM

Will these moving 3 D vizualizations be available/presented this Thursday at the Northside Business Luncheon?

from Ginis, Sophia to everyone: 8:32 AM

We could bring them for sure if you want us to

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:35 AM

++Chris

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:03 AM

Also, who are those planners (CPED/Public Works) with the city you've been working with? I'd love to connect with them as well.

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:03 AM

++Tim

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:06 AM

Dan, I believe you are missing the oppurtunity to include us now rather than later. There is value in having the end user experience infused into the process.

from Cathy Gold to everyone: 9:21 AM

Echo that Sophia!

from Tim Baylor to everyone: 9:28 AM

I have to sign off. Have a good day everyone.