



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

July 12, 2022

8:00-9:30 AM

WebEx

BAC Members: Ryan Borne, Candace Oathout, Felicia Perry, KB Brown, Mike Opat

Agency Staff and Guests: Chris Beckwith, Autumn Dobrowski, Ed Goetz, Jim Voll, Joan Vanhala, Koehl Simmons Kristine Stehly, Kyle Mianulli, Tim Sandvik, Kjerstin Yager, Kelcie Young, Liz Morice, PaNhue Vue, Nick Landwer, Sophia Ginis, Jason Tintes, Alana Kutka, Andrew Gillett, Brey Golding, Cathy Gold

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome, and Introductions

The meeting began at 8:05 AM. Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council – Environmental Lead, and Chris Beckwith, Metropolitan Council – Project Director, introduced themselves. The next meeting will be a review of the charter which is in place and will include new members.

2. Adopt June Meeting Summary

Felicia Perry, asked for a motion, KB Brown, moved, Candace Oathout seconded. The meetings were approved.

3. Anti-displacement Update

Ed Goetz, CURA, provided an update on Anti-Displacement. June 4th was the Anti-Displacement Working Group that met at Juxtaposition for a full day. They discussed the impacts of the METRO Blue and METRO Green Lines. This was a combination of CURA's research and other studies that reviewed property values and other data. The group went through an exercise of defining displacement. The impacts were different for the different lines. For the original Blue Line, the property value increases started only when the line opened and impacted initially only the west side of the line. For the Green Line, this happened as soon as the project received full funding. The group reviewed initiatives that are happening nationally. They also had a panel of people who shared their experiences and lessons learned living near the other lines. There is another day-long workshop in September and there will be two public open houses in August.

The agencies are convening internal working groups. They are looking at all the recommendations that were pulled from the initial meetings. KB Brown shared that it was a productive meeting, although the ending was not what he would have liked. He thinks that there are many things that need to be addressed and that was a very productive day. Mike Opat asked who was attending this event from the general public, from Robbinsdale. Cathy Gold shared that there was a representative from the public for Robbinsdale. The workshop was kept to members of the working group. The general public could listen into the event virtually. Cathy Gold, Hennepin County, shared a little about the application process: there were 70 applicants and they



had representatives selected by each city from staff. Felicia Perry identified that the website has updates and is glad to know that is available. She is wondering if there is a way to make that broadly known. When she sees an article for example, there is not a website listed. Could there be ads in bus stops about this for example? Can there be some ongoing updates for the BAC for the foreseeable future, as a standing agenda item? Do other members have thoughts? KB seconded that thought. Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, and Cathy Gold agreed it would be good to have more opportunity to share out the information. Sophia said for example her team can pull out the section of the panel from the daylong event to the group. Felicia said the Anti-displacement Work Group should have been more involved in draft report. Folks were given a date several months away and were told a vote on the draft report was going to happen that day and the onus was on them to get involved between then and the time of the vote.

KB Brown wanted to ask what the Central Corridor is. Sophia Ginis shared it's the Green Line. KB pointed out that Central Corridor is not plain language and the general public needs that to stay in these conversations (Central Corridor sounds like Central Avenue to someone unfamiliar with that nomenclature).

4. Design & Environmental Next Steps

a. Update on Environmental Evaluation

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council, provided an update on the environmental evaluation. She identified that the first phase has a Final Environmental Impact Statement. The project is now in a new phase where the federal government is working with the project and the project has had an environmental re-evaluation memorandum. The memo recommends a Supplemental EIS as the NEPA Class of Action. They are recommending that because the new route has impacts to locations not previously reviewed in the environmental process. This phase will be for the next 1.5-2 years. Other parts of this phase include municipal consent, other associated engineering and design. Kelcie reviewed the environmental schedule through Winter of 2023.

b. Issue Resolution Process

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared an overview about the Issue Resolution process which includes regular meetings with the City staff and Project team. They are developing a full list of issues that need to be resolved and during the regular meetings. They work to resolve those issues so they can be updated in the design and environmental review process.

i. Brooklyn Park: Previous design refresh

They are reviewing new changes to the current station area designs, which were advanced in the old phase.

ii. Crystal: County Road 81/Bass Lake Road intersection

Crystal's Bass Lake Road intersection has a number of options to help improve traffic flow with the implementation of light rail. One example is building an overpass for the intersection. This offers benefits to traffic and allows the station to stay at grade.

iii. Robbinsdale: Downtown station placement



Robbinsdale is reviewing station placement. This includes the station for downtown Robbinsdale, North Memorial Hospital and station access, as well as connections to the Grand Rounds and neighborhoods there.

iv. Minneapolis evaluation of routing between Target Field and West Broadway

They are reviewing connections to West Broadway from Target Field Station to support the neighborhood input and review all options.

5. Next Meeting: Appointments for committee sought for next phase of project

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, shared they are looking at more creative ways to get everyone involved in the environmental process. Sophia shared the next steps for the committee reappointments and shared that Pa Nhue Vue, Metropolitan Council, will send out an email with details. The project hopes as many people as possible can continue on.

6. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 9:17 AM.

Chat

Mike Opat asked for an updated member roster.

Sophia shared the online link. *[Note, the meeting ended abruptly due to a technical issue and the time was not captured for these two comments.]*

from Ginis, Sophia to everyone: 8:32 AM

We are working on the audio

from kb to everyone: 8:33 AM

Ok

from Joan Vanhala to everyone: 8:39 AM

<https://mybluelineext.org/>

from Joan Vanhala to everyone: 8:41 AM

Anti Displacement Work Group information can be found on <https://mybluelineext.org/> In addition people are welcome to join the conversation on this web page by adding in their thoughts and stories

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 8:44 AM

I would add that it may be helpful to intentionally inform the ADWG members of these public committee meetings to help them stay abreast of our work and hopefully identify ways to support each other's work.

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 8:49 AM



I always think of the green line as the line that goes down University in St Paul. I didn't realize Central Corridor was the previous name

from kb to everyone: 8:50 AM

That's what I thought to 🙄

from Felicia Perry to everyone: 9:06 AM

Webex doesn't want us to be great today. Lol

from Ginis, Sophia to everyone: 9:08 AM

It really doesn't

from Yager, Kjerstin to everyone: 9:13 AM

Fingers crossed