



METRO Blue Line Extension

Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

WebEx Meeting

BAC Members: Felicia Perry, J. Kevin Croston, John Hacker, Jennifer Cutter, Jackson George, Ian Alexander, KB Brown, Tim Baylor, John Barobs, Jimmy Loyd

Agency Staff and Guests:

Sophia Ginis, Jason Tintes, Amber Turnquest, Andrew Gillett, C Terrence Anderson, Cathy Gold, Dan Soler, Jesse Struve, Jim Voll, John Sutter, Kristine Stehly, Nick Landwer, Marcia Glick, Liz Morice

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, welcomed the group and started the meeting at 8:02.

2. Approve Meeting Summary

Felicia Perry asked for a motion to approve the minutes. J Kevin Croston moved to approve the minutes. John Hacker seconded the movement.

3. Appoint One New Committee Co-Chair

Mike Steinhauser sold his building in Robbinsdale and stepped down from the committee. If there is anyone that will be interested in co-chairing, there is an opportunity. No one expressed interest and the topic was tabled.

4. Draft Report Comment Overview

Sophia provided an overview of the number of comments received during the comment period which included 132 comment forms, 13 emailed comments, 5 agency/city letters, and many more comments from the public meetings and the interactive map. She shared which parts of the corridor the comments came from and a breakdown of overall themes. The biggest theme they heard was regarding transit destinations and serving zero-car household.

Sophia shared the common themes based on each goal. These varied by parts of the route. Common themes for Goal 1 were concerns about traffic and interest in connecting to vibrant destinations. Felicia Perry shared that a lot of people saw this as an opportunity for investment where there hasn't been investment in the past. She shared that many neighbors expressed hope for North Minneapolis to not just be a pass-through place but a destinations in itself.

Felicia Perry added feedback regarding Goal 5. She said that its hard for people to break up their feelings based on routes. She said that people are interested in environmental justice and noise. That has come up with the interviews for the anti-displacement workgroup. There is excitement about green investments. Sophia said that is an area where they don't have all the details yet, but there is an opportunity to discuss those investments in the final report. Dan said that he sat in yesterday in the Hennepin County's climate



action plan, and there are discussions about how some of those technologies and investments could be made. This included having more solar panels, charging infrastructures and community gardens. If building light rail means they will lose some green infrastructure, how can they build that back. There is a lot of coordination between agencies that could happen in this regard.

Regarding Goal 6 there was a lot of discussion about both routes needing investment regardless. There will be more in this goal regarding anti-displacement, but that is a priority. She asked the group for any more thoughts regarding these goals. KB Brown shared that community engagement needs to be highlighted. There is a feeling that this has been decided. The steps that are being taken to assure that we don't have racial disparities and displacement needs to be highlighted. Sophia emphasized that part of the purpose of the community cohort was to make sure the community opinion was highlighted.

J Kevin Croston asked when a route is determined, is there also a determination regarding some design details, for example how it hits the freeway and how it will be elevated. Sophia shared that there is a lot to be determined after the route, and there are many options still on the table. The work that the engineering team has been doing is to make sure people now what are the options within each route. KB asked what is meant by freeway. J Kevin shared that he was referring to County Road 81 and the options there. Dan said that in some cases the less defined the specifics are now, the better in some cases. This is part of the environmental review. Tim Baylor shared that some people in Robbinsdale prefer elevated. There is also still interest in staying next to the BNSF corridor, especially now that there is a new administration there. There is a feeling that is the least invasive route.

Felicia Perry said it is important for the group to be thinking about transparency and giving as much information as possible with the public. Sophia shared that there are nuances in every city. Sophia shared from the perspective of the Blue Line project staff level, we are not looking at reengaging the railroad. This is a disappointment for many people, but the project is focused now on the new route options.

Dan Soler shared some information on the feedback from the cities. They received letters from five municipalities. Each city varied in their comments and concerns. There was interest from Brooklyn Park in continuing to develop the 63rd station pedestrian bridge and further design. Crystal is concerned about traffic primarily and furthering design options. Robbinsdale supports further evaluation of their city separately in the report. They would like to include a no-build option. Minneapolis shared a need for additional information and analysis to assist in the route selection. Maple Grove would like to be accommodated with further design options. Tim Baylor expressed concern about the timeline and would like the City of Minneapolis to be more grounded in their options. Dan confirmed that is in line with the discussions they're having. He commended Minneapolis' staff for working on this collaboratively. There are things that are different this year due to the new structure of the City and new councilmembers. They have spoken specifically about the need for more time due to these changes. The project is working closely with them to make sure the information is available, and it is brought to the surface, despite everything that is going on in Minneapolis. Sophia shared the next steps for reviewing and incorporating the comments into the report. KB confirmed there is a letter from the City of Minneapolis in the packet of comments.

5. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update

C Terrence Anderson from CURA. C Terrence shared some timeline updates for the ADWG. They will have the members set by February 11. They will have an orientation in February. These full day meetings will be in May, September, October, and February.



He discussed how they are working alongside organizing in the community. They are developing an expanded research agenda with collaborative community partners to ensure research. They are already considering a collaboration with an art project in order to communicate the data in different ways. C Terrence thanked Felicia Perry and PeggySue Imihy-Bean who helped with the selection of the ADWG group. There is light representation in Crystal, and they will continue to accept applications from people in areas where they don't have membership. Felicia Perry shared that she was very impressed with the applications they've received, and the perspectives they brought.

C Terrence highlighted some aspects of the research plan. They've hired some new research assistants. They have a large team moving on a number of different fronts. The months before the big Saturday meetings is when the data will be ready. He shared some of the goals that various committees and groups including residential and cultural displacement, business displacement, and policy and other recommendations. Felicia said that there is opportunity to talk more publicly about this process. There almost needs to be way to publicly talk about this outside of these meetings, even regarding the timeline. She asked if there will be a public announcement of the members of that group. C Terrence said they are working on those materials now. He asked the group what they need or would be useful. Cathy Gold, Hennepin County, shared that at the county they have been thinking about story telling. Felicia shared that a video showed a highlight of the West Broadway corridor and there were interviews from people discussing the Blue Line. She said she can share that with Joan. KB Brown and Felicia will connect on this and with Joan. Joan said that they received the links to those today. C Terrence confirmed there will also be an announcement once the committee members have been confirmed.

6. Next Meeting: TBD March, 2022

The project staff is recommending cancelling the typical March meeting. They are still working on a target release date but are thinking that it will not be March. The next meeting will be reviewing the results in that report and next steps.

7. Adjourn

Felicia adjourned the meeting at 9:18.