



**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)
Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

April 28, 2015

**Southwest Project Office
6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500**

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Meeting Summary

CAC Members/Alternates: Council Member Munt, Russ Adams, Amanda Kappes, Asad Aliweyd, Charles Weber, Craig Westgate, David Greene, Doug Peterson, Hildy Shank, Jamil Ford, Janet Weivoda, Jeff Strate, Jody Strakosch, Kathryn Campbell, Kevan Hanson, Mathews Holinshead, Michael McDowell, Sarah Maaske.

Agency Staff and Guests: Sam O’Connell, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Tim Thompson, Grace Fleming, Jim Alexander, Ryan Kronzer, Sarah Ghandour, Dan Pfeiffer, Sophia Ginis, Alysen Nesse, Loren Olson, La Shella Sims, Meg McMonigal.

1. Welcome and Introductions

CAC co-chair Munt opened the meeting with a round of introductions. No edits to the March 31 meeting summary were noted. Co-chair Munt also provided comments related to the increase in project costs.

2. Survey Results

Dan Pfeiffer presented the survey results. Nineteen members responded and the top five topics were multi-modal, transit oriented development. Third was trails, parks and bike impacts. Tied for fourth were station architecture and integrated public art, streetscape and landscape design, and safety. Fifth was construction impacts and mitigation. Members discussed the results. David Greene and Jamil Ford asked that equity be included as a topic. Doug Peterson asked that staff share the council’s definition of equity at the next meeting. Co-Chair Adams mentioned that he has a few different definitions that could be shared with the committee.

3. Community Works Update

Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County) presented on the Southwest LRT Community Works “Corridor-Wide Housing Strategy”, the housing strategy workplan was endorsed by the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee in May 2012 and implemented through the Housing Workgroup. The Housing Inventory, up to 2 miles out from stations but focused on the ½ mile radius, was completed

March 2013. The Gaps Analysis, housing existing today compared to future need and market feasibility, was completed September 2014. The draft Corridor-Wide Strategy, marrying of market feasibility and housing policy goals, was completed in the first quarter of 2015 with the final anticipated for third quarter 2015. Members asked questions and discussed; affordability goals, measurement of AMI (Average Median Income), and the role of the cities and county in affordable housing. Co-chair Munt summarized the discussion for staff to take to the Steering Committee as; equity, multi-unit 3or 4 bedroom goals, and higher expectations for affordable housing along the corridor.

4. Project Update

Craig Lamothe, Southwest LRT Project Director, provided an update on the project's budget and schedule; updated cost estimate above \$1.653 billion to \$1.994 billion and updated revenue service beyond 2019 to 2020. Craig Lamothe started by providing context; very serious challenge, the strong purpose and need has not changed for this corridor and metro, there are six other projects in same New Starts status around the county and both in Maryland went through the same situation. The Craig Lamothe spoke to the primary reasons for the cost estimate increase; taking the Draft Environmental Impact Statement design, approximately 1% of engineering to 15% engineering in 2013, this began with survey and book research of the corridor. Beginning in 2014 the survey and soil testing work expanded in late fall and continued through the winter. The additional data indentified; additional property acquisitions and relocations, additional retaining walls, bridges, and connecting roads, mitigation for contaminated soils, and additional operational and system requirements. Members asked about the SDEIS (Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement), whether Super Fund money could be used for soil remediation, and the process moving forward. Co-chair Munt stated that all options are on the table and Craig Lamothe added that the project is working with the cities, county, and local partners to identify potential solutions.

5. St. Louis Park Activities Update

Meg McMonigal (City of St. Louis Park), provided an update on the projects that have occurred or are in the planning process in the City of St. Louis Park including redevelopment and infrastructure focusing on the station areas and the West End area.

6. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum

Concern was expressed about TC&W Railroad carrying ethanol in the corridor and in the event of a derailment and sparking by the LRT system. Jim Alexander stated that the project office continues to talk to the railroads, it is a fact they carry ethanol, the railroads are required to carry goods for the shippers along the line, and that the LRT system is designed not to spark. Jim Alexander also noted that the project has met with first responders along the corridor to discuss safety and security and that these are ongoing discussions.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.