



METRO Blue Line Extension Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee

December 7, 2022

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

CAC Members: Kathy Fraser, Jericho Huggar, Jeff Guertin, Jason Greenburg, Gene Montanez, John Chambers-Dunn, Giuseppe Marrari, Ken Rodgers, Jonathan Hanson, Ellis Beck, Brett Buckner

Agency Staff and Guests: Lex Brand, Nkongo Cigolo, Neha Damle, Cathy Gold, Rob Hume, Olu Oresanya, Trevor Roy, Koehl Simmons, Dan Soler, PaNhue Vue, Annie Xiong, Kjerstin Yager, Jer Yang

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order and Welcome (Nkongo Cigolo)

Nkongo Cigolo called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

2. Introductions (Nkongo Cigolo)

Nkongo introduced himself to the group and provided an opportunity for CAC Members to introduce themselves.

3. Review Membership and CAC Charter (Nkongo Cigolo)

Nkongo reviewed the CAC charter and provided an overview of the CAC by explaining the purpose of the CAC and stating the responsibilities of the CAC members. Responsibilities of CAC members include attendance, participation, reporting back to their organizations, and respectful discussion. According to Nkongo, membership in the CAC will last around 2 years. Nkongo stated the CAC will have 2 co-chairs and provided a summary of the additional responsibilities of the co-chairs. Nkongo added that the project team is checking with the Metropolitan Council's legal team to see if hybrid meetings are possible and asked the group whether they would prefer to meet virtually or in-person.

Discussion

- Gene Montanez asked if hybrid meetings are possible. Nkongo stated the project team is looking into that.
- Nkongo asked Jason Greenberg to provide feedback from his experience as a part of the last CAC. Jason stated he enjoyed his experience and felt it was valuable. He said he felt like an equal at the CMC.
- Nkongo asked the group if anyone was interested in serving as a co-chair. Jason stated he is interested in serving as co-chair again. Brett asked how many members are missing. Nkongo listed the members who are missing. Brett asked Jason to serve as a stop-gap until the next meeting. Gene agreed and



stated Jason should serve as interim until the next meeting when everyone is present. Nkongo asked if anyone was opposed to this, none of the CAC members stated they were.

4. Project Update (Nkongo Cigolo and Neha Damle)

Nkongo started the CAC presentation. Neha Damle summarized the past 2 years of work on the project, stating over the past 2 years the project has pivoted from the freight rail corridor to County Road 81, released a route modification report, created a new route from Brooklyn Park, through Crystal, Robbinsdale, and into Minneapolis. Nkongo gave an overview of public feedback from recent engagement events in Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park. Nkongo gave a summary of recent engagement findings including overall themes and a summary of comments. Currently, the project is in a phase of preparing a supplemental draft environmental impact statement. Cathy Gold stated the anti-displacement group will be meeting this Saturday, focusing on cultural and business displacement. Nkongo then provided an overview of the project schedule.

Discussion

- Jason asked a question about post-pandemic ridership. He asked what the 70% post pandemic ridership number that Met Council came up with meant; “Was that over one day? Week? Year?”. Nkongo stated he’ll put the ridership study in the chat. Gene stated the Robbinsdale concern slide represented Robbinsdale residents well.
- Kathy Fraser stated the anti-displacement work is important, and she is happy that there is a plan to share this work with the community.
- Jason stated conversations during the meeting are important and emphasized it is important to have a lot of discussion during the CAC. Gene added that we need every voice needs to speak up in order to represent their communities.
- Jonathan stated there should be more communication with the public regarding the environmental and anti-displacement work. He stated there may be some public misconceptions out there and emphasized the need to clear some of those misconceptions up.

5. Next Meeting: May 3, 2022

Nkongo stated the next meeting of the CAC will be January 4th, and the project team will look into providing a hybrid option.

Discussion

- Nkongo asked if there was interest in postponing the CAC one week. The 4th works for the majority of the group. Ken Rodgers stated he would be unable to attend on the 4th. Kjerstin Yager will send out an email poll to committee members to determine if January 4 or 11 is preferred.

6. Adjourn

Nkongo adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.



CHAT:

[6:08 PM]

Ellis Beck (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[6:21 PM] Tim Sandvik (Guest)

Tim Sandvik - City Manager of Robbinsdale. Im not on the CAC, but here to observe... Thanks

[6:40 PM]

Jason (Guest) left the chat.

[6:42 PM]

Jason (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[6:48 PM]

Daniel Soler (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[7:02 PM] Brett

My apology, I need to step off. Looking forward to serving with you all. See you on January 4th.
like 1

[7:02 PM]

Brett (Guest) left the chat.

[7:03 PM]

Thomia Brown (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[7:12 PM]



Gene Montanez (Guest) was invited to the meeting.

[7:15 PM]

Gene Montanez (Guest) left the chat.

[7:25 PM]

Thomia Brown (Guest) left the chat.

[7:27 PM] Cigolo, Nkongo

[Public Transportation Ridership Rises to More than 70 Percent of Pre-Pandemic Levels - American Public Transportation Association \(apta.com\)](#)

Public Transportation Ridership Rises to More than 70 Percent of Pre-Pandemic Levels - American Public Transportation Association
WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 28, 2022) – According to APTA's Ridership [...]

[7:28 PM] Cigolo, Nkongo

[APTA - Ridership Trends \(transitapp.com\)](#)

APTA - Ridership Trends

APTA and the Transit app have partnered to build a new resource for the entire industry, tracking demand for public transit and publishing estimates of ridership change in real time.

[7:28 PM]

Hume, Rob left the chat.

[7:30 PM] Jason (Guest)

Thank you for sharing