



**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)
Business Advisory Committee Meeting
October 26, 2016
Southwest Project Office
6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

BAC Members/Alternates: Co-chair Dan Duffy, Co-chair Will Roach, Curt Rahman, Tony Barranco, Lou Wack

Agency Staff and Guests: Sarah Ghandour, Dan Pfeiffer, Jim Alexander, James Mockovciak, Andrew Larson, Nkongo Cigolo; Guests; St. Louis Park's Gregg Hunt

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by BAC Co-chair Duffy. September 28, 2016 meeting summary approved.

II. Project Readiness

Jim Alexander provided a summary of SWLRT Project Readiness. Topics included an overview of the 5 construction contracts (Civil, Systems, Operations & Maintenance Facility, Fare Collection, and Light Rail Vehicles), a Procurement Schedule Look-Ahead, and Construction Sequencing and Phasing. Mr. Alexander pointed out critical path construction sites, the length of time of construction (2-3 years); the reality of the localized traffic disruptions construction will cause, and that it will take place simultaneously throughout the corridor. Co-chair Duffy asked if freight rail will be interrupted during construction. Mr. Alexander replied it will. However, he added, we are reaching agreements with the railroads to direct short, temporary closures when and where required. Also, SPO is developing detailed Maintenance of Traffic specifications to be included in the civil bid documents. Co-chair Roach asked how bad congestion could be on interstates 494, 169 and Hwy 62. Mr. Alexander stated that there will be no direct impact on 494 and 169. SPO intends on keeping traffic flowing in both directions on Hwy 62 during construction. Tony Barranco asked to identify the top two risks for the project. Mr. Alexander suggested the top concern was short term funding; the importance of maintaining the timeline to receive FTA's approval to enter engineering this year in order to apply and receive the FFGA in next summer. Despite SPO's confidence in our relationship with FTA, and the fact that no LRT project to date has been approved for engineering has not received the federal grant, there are no guarantees when the FFGA would be approved. The second concern was just meeting the personnel, logistical and material challenges of completing all of the [29] new bridge structures. Mr. Barranco then asked if any local funding risks remained. Mr. Alexander emphasized there were not. But explained SPO's preference to swap state money with the COP's next year if there is legislative support.



II. Southwest Transit Station Construction Phasing

Sarah Ghandour provided a high level overview of the construction phasing at SouthWest Transit Station. Co-chair Duffy asked if the tracks at this station would extend beyond the platform. Jim Alexander replied they would not. Co-chair Roach asked how confident SPO was with this plan while maintaining the operations of SouthWest Transit. Ms. Ghandour agreed it was more complicated to build while maintaining their operations while expressing confidence in the current plan to mitigate any required accommodations. Lou Wack asked about traffic interruptions along Prairie Center Drive during construction. Jim Alexander explained there would be temporary closures to complete the bridge crossing the road. But traffic flow will be maintained. Mr. Pfeiffer added that there will be minimal interruptions once the system work begins because it will take place above the road. Mr. Alexander emphasized the construction will go on for approximately two years.

IV. DBE & Workforce Programming/Outreach

Andrew Larson discussed the Project Goals, DBE Monitoring System, upcoming Great Minds Retreat; the Joint DBE/Workforce Oversight Committee, Bid Stage DBE outreach in December, and, the Workforce outreach efforts underway. Co-chair Duffy asked if there were any DBE requirements for small business enterprises. Mr. Larson replied there were not. Co-chair Roach asked if the percentage of workforce goals were attainable. Mr. Larson said yes, citing the US Bank stadium project, which superseded their goal.

V. Construction Outreach and Communications

Dan Pfeiffer proved an overview including SPO's hiring and communication plans. He also announced the upcoming construction contractor event on December 5. Tony Barranco asked if SPO was worried about finding workers in the current labor market, and the duration of these new jobs. Dan Pfeiffer responded that SPO recognized the tight labor market and would hire a consultant to augment efforts to hire jobs SPO had trouble filling. Project jobs, he added, are limited to the duration of the project. But typically, council employees find work in other divisions within the council. Co-chair Duffy asked how frequently BAC will meet in the future. Mr. Pfeiffer introduced the plan to develop localized community committees during the construction phase. Mr. Duffy asked members if quarterly meetings would be sufficient as the project moved forward. The committee agreed. Tony Barranco asked what value members would have in the construction phase. Mr. Pfeiffer stated SPO relies on members to filter and raise outside perspectives and solutions; to pass on what they're hearing in their business circles; and, to be made aware of other projects developed near SWLRT. Co-chair Duffy added the influence BAC input has on CMC member's decision-making process. Co-chair Roach voiced his support for the changing meeting schedule. Dan Pfeiffer stated how well this proposed model worked on Central Corridor Project, adding these proposals wouldn't take place until the spring of 2017.

V. Member and Committee Reports

Co-chair Roach asked if members received any anecdotal feedback after the local funding solution was announced. Curt Rahman mentioned how glad people were to see positive action instead of political gridlock. Tony Barranco expressed surprise that the Governors funding solution wasn't met with more criticism. Dan Pfeiffer informed members November's meeting might be cancelled and to stay tuned. Lou Wack asked when SPO anticipated forming the community committees.



Mr. Pfeiffer answered around the time private utilities being communicating with the public about their preliminary work. He added SPO required sufficient time to identify committee members, meeting times and locations. Mr. Rahman and Mr. Barranco were pleased SPO was including social media apps like NextDoor in their communication planning strategies.

VI. Meeting Adjourned