

Southwest LRT DBE and Workforce Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 21st, 2021

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

WebEx Meeting

Link to Video Recording:

http://metro council.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=3618

Meeting minutes

AGENDA

1. Roll Call by Salima Khakoo:

- a. Jason Tintes, Jon Tao, Aaron Koski, Ashanti Payne, Barb Lau, Brian Leitch, Brian Runzel, Chris Gannon, Cyrenthia Jordan, Dale Even, Elaine Valadez, Gilbert Odonkor, John O’Phelan, Julie Brekke, Katy Maus, Leslie Woyee, Lykahnu Lysongtseng, Mohamed Omar, Salima Khakoo, Sam O’Connell, Sheila Olson, Sheila Kauppi, Mahad Omar, Melanie Williams, Mike Toney, Mel Reeves, Christa Seaberg, and Barry Davies

2. SWLRT Project Update by Sam O’Connell (Slides 3-13)

- a. Sam O’Connell and Brian Runzel provide project updates. Initially, the original opening service date was in 2023. Currently, what we know is that due to construction of the corridor protection wall and the secant wall in Minneapolis, there is an impact to the construction schedule. What we don’t know currently is the impact on the overall construction schedule or impacts to the project budget.
- b. The Met Council is working with LMJV to understand impacts and develop a new schedule. They brought in additional resources to help navigate the complexities of working through the schedule
 - i. For example: Identifying areas where we can complete civil work and turn over to systems
- c. The Council is ensuring contractors are treated fairly, they are working closely with OEO to ensure they’re addressing contractor issues in a timely manner, and the Council intends to keep the DWAC committee updated as more info is gathered.
- d. Brian shows diagrams of 2021 Corridor Protection Wall Work, excavation at Kenilworth Tunnel, example of a Secant Wall, Tunnel Construction Sequence

- e. DBE impacts: OEO is committed to the success of DBEs. They will continue to monitor impacts to individual firms and serve as a resource to DBEs. Specific concerns regarding the timelines and cost impacts should be directed to the Prime contractors of the project.
- f. Questions/Comments:
 - i. Ashanti: In regard to the Corridor Protection Wall, was that anticipated or not expected?
 - 1. Brian: “We weren’t able to get the wall into the base contract unfortunately. That’s why it’s being added as a change order, and it is much bigger than we anticipated when we started this job. That has a big influence on the impact of that wall. The wall was not unanticipated, but it definitely had a bigger impact than initially thought.
 - ii. Gilbert Odonkor: Is there a way that this is communicated to DBEs?
 - 1. Dale Even: “As we work through these time related changes, we are reaching out to subs and notifying them about changes and time and ask them to put in requests if they are being affected by changes.
 - 2. Christa: “We do have a DBE workshop where we cover and discuss delays with individual DBE’s, so everyone is on the same page.
 - iii. John O’Phalen: “In regard to POTUS’s executive order in furthering Racial Equity, we should be aware that this project would be the prime project to be sampled as important since Minnesota is already low on Equity and that there is a lot of money being put into this project.”

3. DBE Achievement Reporting by Jon Tao (Slides 14-15)

a. DBE Achievement Reporting as of Nov 30th, 2020:

- i. LMJV is at \$78,602,793 DBE billed-to-date, 20.5% DBE percentage to date
- ii. APJV is at \$4,612,976 DBE billed-to-date, 10.7% DBE percentage-to-date
- iii. LS Black is at \$975,271 DBE billed-to-date, 9.6% DBE percentage-to-date
- iv. Closed contracts are at \$74,610 DBE billed-to-date, 18.4% DBE percentage-to-date
- v. With a 15% goal in mind, DBE \$ to date is \$84,265,650, 19.2% DBE percentage-to-date

b. Civil: LMJV DBE Activities by Dale Even and Christa Seaburg (Slides 16-19)

- i. Dale presents Change orders: Owner change orders approved thru 12/15 is \$28,089,294 and DBE change order participation is \$2,5113,352. DBE participated is 14.2% and DBE job-to-date participation is at 20.16%.
- ii. Christa shows the anticipated DBEs list for their one month look ahead.
- iii. Christa showcases Safety Signs as LMJV's DBE highlight. Their original contract value is \$6,381,799 with change orders at \$1,316,726. Their revised contract value as a result is \$7,698,525. Their scope of work is Traffic Maintenance.

c. Systems: APJV DBE Activities by Chris Gannon (Slides 20-23)

- i. Chris Gannon shows the anticipated DBEs list for their one month look ahead.
- ii. Chris presents change orders: Owner change orders approved thru 12/21 is - \$655,210 and DBE change order participation for Gunnar Electric is \$191,683.00. DBE job-to-date participation is 10.7%

d. Franklin O&M: LS Black DBE Activities by Brian Letich (Slides 24-27)

- i. Brian presents change orders: Owner change orders 1-10 approved thru 12/02 is at \$125,120.14. DBE Change order participation is \$33,295 with the percentage being 26.6%.
- ii. Brian showcases Painting by Nakasone as LS Black's DBE highlight. Their scope of work is Paint & Intumescent Fireproofing. Their DBE commitment is \$734,884. Completed to date, they have done 3% of work or \$20,000.
- iii. Brian shows the anticipated DBEs list for their one month lookahead.
- iv. Comment:
 - 1. Christa: "It's great to see the workforce participation growth in LS Black! Great job"

4. Workforce Participation Reporting by Elaine Valedéz (Slides 28-33)

a. Civil Workforce Participation Percentage:

- i. November 2020: 62,677 hours with a civil construction total of 928,900 hours. Women is 8.47% to date and POCI is 21.42% to date. Unspecified is at 0.31% to date. Their goals are 20%, 32% and N/A respectively (Women, POCI and unspecified).

- ii. Hours worked by category out of 62,677 hours: white men were at 68%, PCOI men 22%, POI women 2%, white women 7% and unspecified 1%.
- iii. Trucking participation on project being counted is MBE (17,246 hours), ZTS (3,293 hours), and Rock-On Trucks (585 hours) based on project to date.
- iv. Salima displays handout on Opportunity Analysis based on total hours completed.
 - 1. Barb Lau expresses concern about the handout due to someone not being able to take in and understand all the nuances of the data provided.
 - 2. Ashanti mentions that both the Council/MDHR knew that there were nuances that come with this structuring of data, but it's just a way to look at it. Especially since we live in an area that is woefully underperforming when considering equity. The point is to discuss methods/strategies to get to those numbers.
 - 3. John O 'Phalen mentions that this is a call to action. This committee comes out with best models/practices in the Twin Cities metro area and can be used as a way to look into what the economic impact loss of POI and veterans and if due diligence is not made. It can be used as an opportunity to look at the data, especially since it does call out that POI and women are economically impacted negatively.
 - 4. Christa mentions that we need to focus on our outreach efforts to increase our numbers and make sure they meet the goals that are reflected on the handout.

b. Systems Workforce Participation Percentage:

- i. Workforce participation percentage: November 2020: 0 hours. System Construction total is 223. Women are at 34.53% contract-to-date and POI are at 29.6% contract-to-date. Their goals are 20% and 32% respectively (women and POI).

c. Franklin Workforce participation Percentage:

- i. Workforce participation percentage: November 2020, 5280 hours. Construction total is 11,361 hours. Women are at 8.19% contract-to-date, POI are at 27.7%

contract-to-date and unspecified is at 1.59% contract-to-date. Their goals are 20%, 32% and N/A respectively (women, POCI, unspecified).

5. Civil: LMJV Workforce Activities by Christa Seaburg (Slides 34-36)

- a. Monthly GFE meeting with MDHR & Met Council, Monthly subcontractor workforce participation meeting, SWLRT meeting with leadership regarding upcoming winter workforce – potential outreach efforts during slow hiring time, continued brainstorming with internal team on creating a potential Lunda pre-apprentice program, and meetings with individual subcontractors regarding GFEs. They had a meeting with Sowles to bring them up to compliance. They continued work on field anti-harassment training documents, they are working with HR and corporate to finalize those details. They also reviewed and updated SWLRT electronic workforce files.

- i. Total new hires for LMJV is 0.

a. Systems: APJV Workforce Activities by Mike Toney (Slides 37-38)

- a. APJV craft labor will not begin until April 2021, held meetings with Locals 292/160/49, worked to identify opportunities to increase POCI and women participation on the project through workforce retention, held a meeting with Ramsey County workforce, met with Building Strong Communities cohort in October, participated in mock interviews at Summit Academy on Nov 12th 2020 and Jan 8th 2021, working on ACE mentoring program that holds volunteer mentors and summer internships for high school students, and have an upcoming kick-off meeting with Meyer & Lower Tier Subs.

b. Franklin O&M: LS Black Workforce Activities by Brian Leitch (Slides 39-41)

- a. Contract workforce activities: LSB scheduled a “member mingle” with AWC where they will network and promote female hiring opportunities and female workforce retention (ACTUALLY DBE PARTICIPATION). The LSB Director of Field Operations plans to schedule a call with Workforce Development at the Metropolitan Council and Building Strong Communities, the goal is to identify POCI and Women hiring opportunity for LSB workforce in early 2021. LS Black has monthly conversations with Local 563 and Local 322. LS Black will be scheduling meetings with Summit Academy, Urban League and St. Paul College. They scheduled monthly GFE meetings with Joseph Serr at MDHR, their next

meeting is scheduled on Jan 20th to review previous workforce reports, GFE and upcoming activities. They are working with major subcontractor partners to identify opportunities to increase subcontractor POCI and Woman participation.

6. Office of Equal Opportunity Leadership by Cyrenthia Jordan (Slide 42)

- a. Cy introduced herself and wanted to make space for the members to express their concerns. Some members were shocked about the recent staffing changes, but appreciate the efforts made by Ashanti Payne stay committed to the equity goals. Members were also concerned about the Council's commitment to DBE, Workforce and overall equity plan for our region. Ashanti shared that if the members desired, we could set aside time and space to present on the equity plans. John O'Phelan expressed a desire to understand about OEO's equity plan and the Council-wide equity plan.
- b. Marvin Smith requested that someone connect with him outside of the meeting to get caught up on the changes and Salima acknowledged the request and agreed that one of the Co-chairs will follow up with him. Cy also expressed that having good data will help us in advancing the equity work in our region moving forward.

7. Building Strong Communities Update by Aaron Koski (Slides 43-46)

- a. **Larger update postponed to February DWAC meeting as there was not sufficient time for Aaron Koski to provide his updates.**

8. Adjourn

Next Scheduled Meeting: February 18, 2021 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm