

Metropolitan Council  
St. Louis Park City Hall

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Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee  
December 4, 2019

Members Present	Interim Chair Molly Cummings Deb Barber Mike Barnes Jan Callison Dan Duffy	Christopher Ferguson James Hovland Wes Kooistra Will Roach Jake Spano	Brad Wiersum Brian Hunke (Alt) Robin Hutchison (Alt) Kathy Nelson (Alt)
Members Absent	Asad Aliweyd Debbie Goettel	Ron Case Marion Greene	

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Interim Chair Molly Cummings called the December 4, 2019, meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee to order at 10:05 a.m. at the St. Louis Park City Hall. Introductions were made since there are many new members.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Interim Chair Cummings presented the June 5, 2019, SWLRT Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. Mayor Wiersum made a motion to approve, Mayor Spano seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

**3. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

Interim Chair Cummings reported that Chair Slawik has stepped down, and she thanked her for the work she has done to keep this project moving forward. Interim Chair Cummings and the Met Council will continue to support and move this project forward as the Governor appoints the new Met Council Chair.

**4. PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Jim Alexander, SWLRT Project Director, provided a project update. We have submitted materials for the FFGA, which is now being reviewed by FTA. We have had two Letter of No Prejudices (LONPs), which allows us to get into construction before our FFGA. The LONPs covered Civil and Systems. The LONP allows that any money spent on construction using local funds will be proportionally reimbursed by FTA once the FFGA is received. If the FFGA slips in timing, we will need to apply for a third LONP.

Mr. Alexander went through some of the major milestones in 2019, including issuing LNTPs; awarding the Systems contract; awarding the SCADA contract; and issuing an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the Franklin O&M contract.

Mayor Hovland asked about the amount of local funding spent to date, and do we anticipate another LONP? Ms. Joan Hollick, Deputy Project Director, reported that to date, we have spent a little over \$500M, with additional authority to spend \$200M on construction through the March timeframe. The next LONP depends on the receipt of the FFGA.

**5. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Brian Runzel, Director of Construction went through the 2019 Construction progress. Photos were shown of the Civil construction along the line. To date there is construction and utility work occurring all along the line. A high-level overview of the 2020 construction work was shown.

Interim Chair Cummings asked about the impact of winter with the work. Mr. Runzel stated that we do plan to work through the winter as much as possible. In general, the contractor will pour as much concrete as they can. Construction will be at a slower pace depending on weather conditions. Once the frost gets too deep the groundwork will likely stop for the season.

### Light Rail Vehicle Update

Mr. Alexander went over the production progress for the light rail vehicles. We have a contract with Siemens to build a total of 27 vehicles, with the first vehicle to be completed and delivered during the first quarter of 2020. All the vehicles are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2021 and will be stored at the Franklin O&M facility. Photos were shown of the vehicle production.

Mr. Dan Duffy asked if anything is new on these vehicles since the last ones were produced. Mr. Alexander said we reviewed accessibility, and some extensive modifications were made to the C car, which is the mid-section, allowing more room for wheelchair access. Also, it is a lighter weight vehicle, with more robust components underneath, including items to help prevent rust build up.

### Systems Contract

Mr. Runzel reported the Systems contract was awarded to Aldridge/Parsons Joint Venture (APJV) in September 2019, with a contract value of \$194M. Mr. Runzel went through the scope of work, which includes 20 traction power substations; overhead contact system; tunnel facilities; communication; wayside signaling system; and the testing and implementation of the line.

APJV's bid included a 12.19% DBE commitment, meeting the procurement goal of 12%. Mayor Hovland asked how the DBE vendors know about the work needed. Mr. Runzel said the Council sponsored DBE mixers during the procurement where DBE vendors met with the prime contractors. Also, the Council's Office of Equal Opportunity staff met with prospective contractors regularly during the procurement to help them connect with DBE vendors.

Mayor Spano mentioned that in his position with the Secretary of State's office, he is aware of information that is available free to government entities listing the breakdown of businesses that filed with the Secretary of State's office.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH**

Ms. Sam O'Connell, Manager of Outreach, presented an overview of communications and outreach activities for the project. Some of the highlights that the Outreach staff have been working on include: the weekly Friday GovDelivery, which is an email with the latest construction updates. We also communicate on Twitter, Instagram, Met Council's Facebook page and Flickr. On our website, we show a variety of videos of the work. A recent video is on the Cedar Lake channel work and preservation efforts. Station renderings are also available on the website, along with committee information.

Ms. O'Connell shared the metrics for the GovDelivery email, the website, and Twitter. The GovDelivery email is sent to over 16,000, with an open rate of 49%, which is very high for this type of communication. Construction photos are also being saved on a Flickr account, which anyone can access.

The Construction hotline went active on May 15, and to date we have received about 425 calls. The main themes of these calls are on trails, detours and work hours. Other outreach activities include open houses, trail pop-ups, walking tours, neighborhood meetings and community events. These activities will continue into 2020 along with updated project videos.

## **7. DBE & WORKFORCE UPDATE**

Mr. Jon Tao, DBE Specialist for SWLRT Project presented. Mr. Tao welcomed Mayor Spano's information on the Secretary of State Office's survey. Met Council is also a part of a four-agency committee called MN Unified Certification program, where we certify DBEs in the state. Mr. Tao will follow up with Mayor Spano on his list, which will be a great resource to this group.

Mr. Tao went over the DBE participation to date, broken down for professional services and construction. Professional services have a combined goal of 18.38% and are doing very well with their DBE participation currently at 19.03%. For construction, the combined goal is 15.96% and participation is currently at 15.01%. Overall for the project, participation is at 17.57%, compared with the goal of 16.37%.

Council Member Ferguson asked for these DBE percentages to be broken down in the future by people of color and women. Mr. Tao said these breakdowns have been made for the Advisory Committees and he will provide them for future CMC meetings.

Council Member Nelson asked how people of color or women are actually counted as employed by the contractors. Mr. Tao reported that we work closely with the Dept. of Human Rights, which keeps track of this information. The contractor reports monthly to the Dept. of Human Rights on these numbers.

Mr. Tao went through some of the data that is shared by the Dept. of Human Rights, showing the workforce data for the month of September. The Dept. of Human Rights adds up the hours, which provides the current status and allows us to work with contractors on areas that need improvement.

Mr. Tao showed the trendline for women and people of color over the past six months and how it is moving. As more construction occurs, these numbers are expected to increase. A map was presented showing where construction workers reside within the state. Council Member Ferguson asked how we help the contractor achieve their goal. Mr. Tao responded that LMJV has shared their strategies for meeting these goals, which include partnering with unions, community-based organizations, government entities, along with participating in career fairs, mock interviews, guest speakers at graduation and conducting project tours for students participating in apprentice programs.

Mr. Tao mentioned the DBE and Workforce Advisory Committee has been meeting since May of this year. In these meetings they have covered DBE & workforce achievement, workforce development, pay cycles, retainage and change orders. The SWLRT website includes a page covering DBE and Workforce Advisory Committee meeting material.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Roach asked if the vehicles have any new technology that addresses safety? Mr. Alexander said we continue to address this topic; one item is the call out button on the vehicles. Mr. Wes Kooistra mentioned we are also installing additional lights on the vehicles and side strobes to address the issues of safety. Council Member Nelson asked about the side strobes, and how will they impact the neighborhoods when the trains get close. Mr. Alexander said the strobe light is a feature we have on our existing fleet. Council Member Ferguson added that there were very few if any strobe light complaints from hotels and businesses along University Avenue with the Green Line trains.

Mayor Spano said a lot of work has been done throughout the years to get us to this point. He would like to acknowledge current and past CMC members for their work. He reminded members that this process started years ago with help from many, and we are at a good point right now.

Interim Chair Cummings thanked the presenters and thanked the members for their attendance.

## **9. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary