



**METRO Blue Line Extension**  
**Meeting of the Corridor Management Committee**  
**November 12, 2021**  
**9:00AM**  
WebEx

**CMC Members Present:** Abdi Salah, Bridget Rief, Mike Barnes, Denise Butler, Felicia Perry, Irene Fernando, Nichole Buhler, Tonja West-Hafner, Bill Blonigan, Charlie Zelle, Jeff Lunde, Jeremiah Ellison, Mike Opatz, Reva Chamblis, Ricardo Perez, Jason Greenberg, Mike Steinhauser, George Selman, Robert Lilligren

**Meeting Summary**

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Zelle, Metropolitan Council, called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2021**

Mike Steinhauser, BAC, moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lunde seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**3. Committee Reports**

Jason Greenberg, CAC, shared an update about the items at the last CAC meeting, including anti-displacement work and design updates. One question that came up was if this project will be using Reconnecting Communities money. Chair Zelle said that certainly is an opportunity, but it is early to know because the criteria for that funding needs to be determined and the money needs to be appropriated.

Felicia Perry, BAC, shared a report on the Business Advisory Committee. They had an update on the Anti-Displacement working group. They also spent time on the Minneapolis design updates. She said that as a community member, the amount of information is overwhelming. She heard the same things from community members who have gone to the workshops. She said this is a process and appreciates the project team for holding that space. In the last meeting they also reviewed some of the project evaluation criteria and that process. Mike Steinhauser, BAC, confirmed this report.

**4. Update on the Anti-Displacement Working Group**

C Terrence Anderson, CURA, shared an update on the work. In the past month the team has been onboarding with Hennepin County and the project. They are beginning to connect with



community members on this topic. They are developing a proposal for the composition and application process for the anti-displacement table. They are also developing a research and engagement plan. They are welcoming input from the committees and community regarding.

Chair Zelle highlighted an exhibit at the Hennepin County History Museum happening now that shows the impacts of the construction of 35W.

Ricardo Perez, Blue Line Coalition, asked a question about the short- and long-term consequences of displacement. C Terrence talked about what was known from the existing Blue Line and Green Line and confirmed that potential displacement would be examined as part of their research.

## **5. Project Evaluation Criteria**

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, provided an update on the design process. He confirmed that this work is building up to a final report in March. He provided an overview of how the routes are being sectioned to better organize challenges and opportunities. He reviewed the changes to the routes including refining the links near downtown and adding 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to the West Broadway Route.

Councilmember Selman asked about the opportunity for communities to comment on the route. Nick Landwer shared the timeline and comment periods for the reports. Chair Zelle commented on the Municipal Consent process. Mike Steinhauser, BAC, asked if they have discussions with city leaders and staff. Sam O'Connell, Metropolitan Council, said that the team meets regularly with the city leaders and staff, so they have input on the concepts. They are at about 4% design. There will be multiple check in points with cities with increasing levels of design, and there will be also a process of Municipal Consent. Commissioner Fernando commented on how the final report in March will graduate this process to the environmental process. This process is about getting to an alignment that can be further reviewed. Commissioner Fernando asked the team to clarify what the next environmental phase will focus on. Sam O'Connell highlighted that environmental process allows the project team to understand the positives and impacts of a project and take the steps necessary to mitigate the impacts. The environmental process will take about a year to year and a half, and the project team will be working with the community throughout this process. Commissioner Fernando clarified that environmental process involves community input. Sam confirmed that yes, the project will follow the NEPA and MEPA process, which includes public comment.

Nick provided some example options for Sections 7 and 3. He provided an overview of the legend to describe how to read information. He reviewed Section 7, highlighting challenges including impacts with station area placement at Emerson/Fremont versus less impacts on



the Lyndale Avenue station. He discussed how the station at Lyndale would have less connectivity to existing METRO lines. He also pointed out the need for additional pedestrian crossings that will add additional property impacts.

He provided an overview of Section 3 options. He emphasized there are multiple options that use 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue paired with West Broadway in various ways changing the alignment of traffic or the train. He showed the existing traffic structure. He also showed center running on West Broadway and an option that uses 21<sup>st</sup> for light rail. Nichole Buhler, Blue Line Coalition, asked what the timeline is for outreach to impacted properties. She asked because she has an impacted property and was not contacted. Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, said that she they mailed letters and left flyers at doors. Sophia said that she would follow-up with her on that.

Felicia Perry, BAC, asked how the Met Council is preparing to resource the ongoing engagement. She said that even though the report has a deadline, the engagement work does not. The community cohort contracts are coming up. How will there be ongoing outreach and resources for this important work in this generational investment. Sophia highlighted that there has been excellent work happening and thanked the WBC. She confirmed that they would be looking into a next round of contracts. Dan Soler, Hennepin County, shared that if anything, public engagement becomes more involved. He highlighted that using outside organizations in this engagement process, has truly been a success and are looking forward to Community Cohort 3.0.

## **6. Evaluation Timeline**

Sam O'Connell, Metropolitan Council, provided an overview of the report that describes the evaluation of the routes. She confirmed that this will be the focus of the December advisory committees. She said they will be seeking more comments on the draft report in December. There will be another review period in March after the final report.

## **7. Next Meeting: December 9\***

The next meeting may need to push back to 16<sup>th</sup> or 17 to coincide with release of the Draft Report.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Zelle announced Sam O'Connell was promoted to Director of Community Outreach for the Metropolitan Council. Chair Zelle adjourned the meeting at 10:22 AM.

**Next CMC Meeting: Friday, December 17, 2021\***