



# Corridor Management Committee

May 2, 2012





# Today's Topics

- Legislative Update
- SWLRT Project Office Update
- Staffing Update
- Engineering Services Procurement Update
- Communications and Outreach Update
  - New American Academy Update
  - CAC Report
  - LPA Alignment Video



# Legislative Update



# SWLRT Project Office Update



# Project Office Timeline

- Lease executed – 2/16/12
- Begin demolition of interior – February
- Build out and finishes – March
- Move in – April



# Project Office

## Park Place West

6465 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park







# Southwest Project Office (SPO)





# Southwest Project Office (SPO)

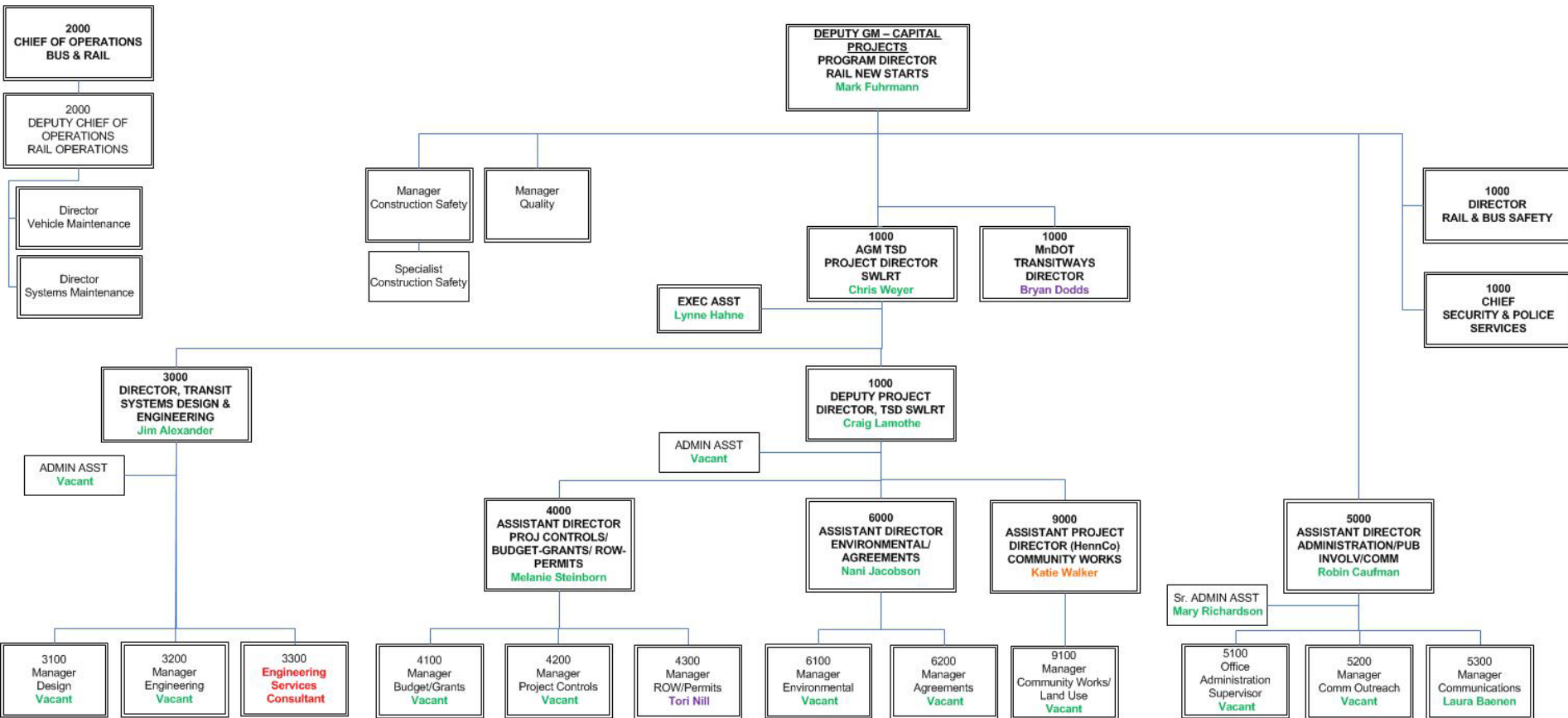






# Staffing Update

# SPO Organizational Chart

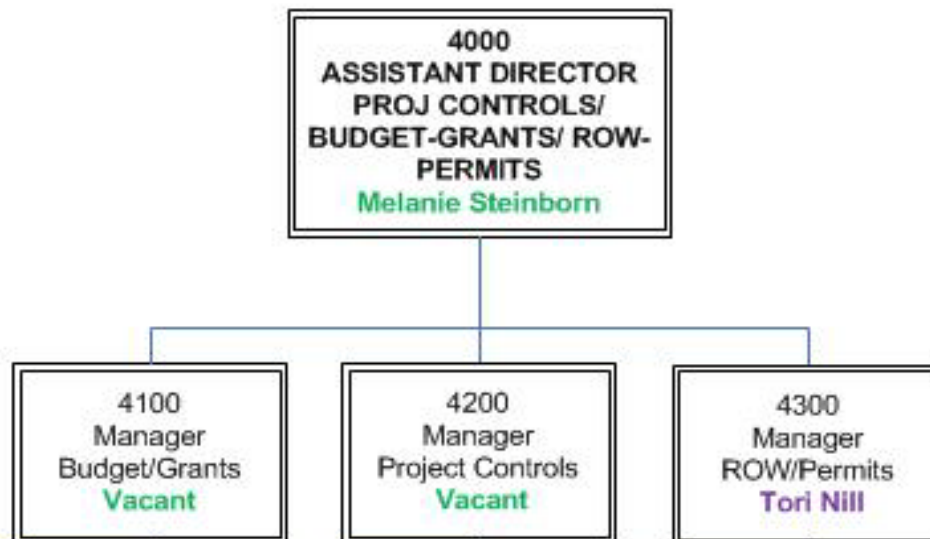


# Asst. Director, Project Controls/Budget-Grants/ROW-Permits– Background

- Significant & Relevant Experience
  - Metro Transit - Engineering & Facilities, Northstar, CCLRT
    - Developed and monitored project schedule, budget and scope for various construction projects
    - Coordinate projects with regulatory agencies (local, city, county, state and federal)
    - Participated in contract and agreement negotiations with public and private entities
- Education
  - M.S., Technology Management, University of St. Thomas
  - Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Minnesota
- License
  - Professional Engineer



# Assistant Director, Project Controls/Budget-Grants/ROW-Permits





# Asst. Director, Project Controls/Budget-Grants/ROW-Permits – Roles

- Collaborates on project scheduling, cost estimating, change controls, document and contracts management, and organization controls
- Monitors, reports, and makes recommendations related to overall project budget, schedule, and their associated contingency
- Serves as liaison with Metropolitan Council finance, grants, and audit departments
- Manages change management processes and procedures
- Develops and oversees Risk and Contingency Management Plan
- Leads activities associated with acquisition of necessary right of way by private and public parties



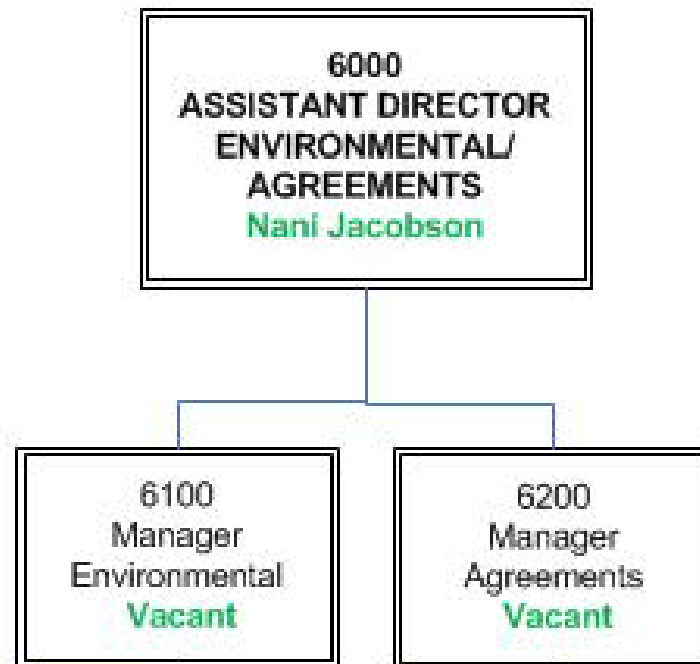
# Assistant Director, Environmental & Agreements – Background

- Significant & Relevant Experience
  - 14 years in the environmental science and policy field
  - Department of Defense
    - Environmental Compliance – NEPA, Natural & Cultural Resources, Military Munitions Response, Restoration
    - Strategic Planning & Communications – Joint Basing, Public Affairs, Conference Management, Community Outreach
    - Contract & Project Management - 40 contracts, \$10M/annual
  - Environmental Protection Agency & DOT
    - Regulatory Information Specialist
- Education
  - M.S., Environmental Sciences & Policy, Johns Hopkins University
  - B.S., Biology, Virginia Tech





# Assistant Director, Environmental & Agreements



# Assistant Director, Environmental & Agreements - Roles

- Manage Environmental Program
  - NEPA process for Final Environmental Impact Statement & Record of Decision
  - Archaeological Surveys
  - Environmental Site Assessments
  - Programmatic Agreements
  - Environmental Mitigations
  - Consultant Contracts
- Manage Agreements Program
  - Develop ~150 interagency, municipal, and other agreements
    - Cooperative Agreements, MOUs, Funding Agreements
  - Coordinate federal reporting requirements for all agreements



# Engineering Services Procurement



# Communications and Outreach



# Community Engagement Team Grants

- Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board designated \$750,000 for grants to community organizations to engage underrepresented communities around transitway and land use issues
- Policy Board created Community Engagement Team to advise the grant program.
  - Repa Mekha, Nexus Community Partners
  - Russ Adams, the Alliance for Metrostability
  - Margaret Kaplan, Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing



# Community Engagement Team Grants

- Grants awarded in two rounds
  - November 2011: \$397,000 awarded to 10 groups
  - Spring 2012: Seek applications for remaining \$323,000
- Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board awarded grants to two groups along Southwest LRT in 2011
  - New American Academy in Eden Prairie
  - Blake Road Community Collaboration in Hopkins



# Corridors of Opportunity Outreach and Engagement

**Asad Aliweyd**

*Executive director*

*New American Academy*

*BS Mathematics teaching*

*MBA*

# Background of NAA

- New American Academy established because of growing needs, issues, challenges and demands of ever-growing Somali immigrants of Eden Prairie and Southwest area of the Twin Cities
- NAA has been reaching out and connecting its members to one another to preserve the fabric of their culture while assisting them in adjusting to their new lives, new language, new social institutions, and healthy integration into the larger American society

# **New American Academy's Community Engagement and Outreach activities**

- ✓ Organized community gatherings for SWLRT projects
- ✓ Formed Southwest immigrant community council (SWICC)
- ✓ Developed business entrepreneurship classes/trainings
- ✓ Partnered with local government and other nonprofits for the project
- ✓ Immigrant and historically underrepresented community to participate the decision making of the project

# NAA formed “Southwest immigrant Community Council” (SWICC)

- ✓ 9 immigrant members in Southwest including a physically handicap man, elder, female, high school student, business man, university student and NAA staff/volunteers compromise the members
  - They set the time of the community meetings
  - Does outreach for low-income community
  - Report to the NAA executive director

# Organized community gatherings for SWLRT

- ✓ Organized varieties meetings (28 meetings) for small groups and large groups to engage and educate for the immigrant and other low-income community in the SW.



Chris Weyer SWLRT project





# Saturday, March 24, 2012

## 360+ attended the community engagement event





# Community Engagement event on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012



Eden Prairie Mayor and City Manager



Hennepin Co. Commissioner Dorfman



Elder Speaking on benefits of LRT



Repa Mekha Speaks to the community

# Good Engagement = Better Results

- When we start effective community engagement program together early on, the outcome for the project would be a successful one because it:
  - Empowers local neighborhood for giving them an opportunity to participate the discussion making process.
  - Builds trust and ease tensions
  - Encourages grassroots organizations to thrive
  - Makes local government, metropolitan council and public jobs easy by structuring foundations

# How We Engage?

- Two different strategies that are effective and work well for our community
  - Word of mouth/traditional way of communication. That is. If and when we want to have a meeting, we have to personally invite the members one to one bases
  - Distribute Flyers to the local shopping malls, mosques, and other gathering places such as new American Academy (NAA). At NAA, community members come for resources/services, share stories and socialize

# Benefits of LRT

- ✓ Connects the cities and benefits for all communities
- ✓ Brings low-income/mix income housing along the corridor
- ✓ Benefits all communities including the minority community at each station with business development
- ✓ Brings more jobs to the community
- ✓ Makes it easy for immigrant communities in the SW to connect with the other parts of the Twin Cities
- ✓ Allows college students to travel safely, cheaper and faster

# Thank you

On behalf of the community Engagement Steering Committee, we appreciate the Metropolitan Council and Chairwoman Sue Haigh for their listening and working relationships with us. Specially, we are thankful for the Chair's time and effort to meet with us and take our recommendations wholehearted about a month ago.



# Communications and Outreach Update

- CAC Report





# Communications and Outreach Update

- LPA Alignment Video



SOUTHWEST

Green Line LRT Extension



LPA Alignment Video



## More Information

Online:

[www.SWLRT.org](http://www.SWLRT.org)

Email:

[SWLRT@metrotransit.org](mailto:SWLRT@metrotransit.org)

