



**METRO Blue Line Extension
Business Advisory Committee Meeting
September 12, 2017
Blue Line Project Office
5514 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 200
Crystal, MN 55428
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM**

Meeting Summary

BAC Members: Ben Colglazier, Josh Cramer, Staci Horwitz, Charlie Jacobson, Aiysha Mustapha, Candace Oathout

Agency Staff and Guests: Mary Sue Abel, Rachel Auerbach, David Davies, Peter DeMuth, Andrew Gillette, Sophia Ginis, Nick Landwer, Shelley Miller, Dan Pfeiffer, Juan Rangel, Jim Toulouse

1. Call to Order/Introductions

No new members were introduced.

2. Approval of Minutes

March 2017 and June 2017 minutes were approved.

3. Hennepin County Update, Grants – Andrew Gillette

Perkins and Will has been hired to assist with housing, zoning and marketing analysis.

Comment: Because Perkins + Will was involved in station area planning before, will they be able to think broader? Some of the work came back in earlier phases of station area planning was status quo; there should be some bigger thinking here.

Community engagement and wayfinding work RFPs are in the works. A \$550,000 grant was awarded in May 2017 for focusing on arts & placemaking, small business support, tying theory to practice.

We are in the final year of a 5-year grant program under Blue Cross Blue Shield. The result has been three bike and pedestrian demonstration projects in Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, and Brooklyn Park. A couple of other potential future projects in Minneapolis and Crystal have also been identified.

Comment: Very concerned about Hwy 81 intersection in Crystal; so far what she's seen in the planning process will not address the problem. Crossing 8 lanes of traffic and 3 lines of track is a long way for someone who is disabled. We need to prioritize this intersection. If we can't get an overpass, need to do something else that provides safety for pedestrians but also doesn't congest traffic further.

Question: For the grant from McKnight, who has access to the grant and what is the grant for?

Gillette: County will likely coordinate with an arts organization for the arts and placemaking piece, MCCD and neighborhood development organizations for small business support. ULI is also involved. Some work is not yet contracted.

4. New Starts Update – Mary Sue Abel

We submit a New Starts rating application every year, which includes project and financial justification information to receive a rating. Last year we received a Medium-High rating. This is the first step in being able to apply for our Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) application. The New Starts rating application was recently updated, and we expect a new rating by February. It is expected to remain Medium-High. The summary rating elements include project justification and financial ratings.

New submittal changes included:

- Advancements in land use and economic development since 2016
- Changes to financial management plan – CTIB dissolution, full local funding commitment
- Revised project schedule – reflects shift in FFGA application from September 2017 to May 2018
- Ridership adjusted for reduction of Robbinsdale Park & Ride (550 spaces to 400 spaces)

Question: Is everyone feeling comfortable that the budget is adequate, given some of the problems with SWLRT?

Abel: We are not concerned with our budget at this point, but our biggest area of focus is BNSF. We have significant contingencies, but it's hard to tell because we can't engage in full discussions with BNSF at this point. It's a timing issue; SWLRT is the priority right now so we need to wait until those negotiations are finished.

Question: Is there still land acquisition from BNSF?

Landwer: Yes, we require permanent easement.

5. Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Update – Peter DeMuth

Peter is acting as the designated Council representative for construction. Bassett Creek Storm Sewer is the first project out of the gates. Utility installation across Olson Memorial Highway will begin in Fall 2017. Full closure of Olson Memorial Highway is required and will occur sometime after October 27th. This date lines up with various other projects in the area being completed. In Winter 2017/2018, there will be some work on the outside lanes of Olson Memorial Highway and the frontage road on the south side. Cleanup and restoration will occur in Spring 2018.

The engagement process will include an open house in October, and a video describing the work. Sophia Ginis is the outreach coordinator for Minneapolis.

Question: Any intention of doing a direct mailing to residents? Coordination with Seed Academy may be a good conduit into the community.

Pfeiffer: We don't have a plan for direct mailing, but Sophia has been working with the Heritage Park organization to determine best way to get the word out.

Question: What will be the remnants that wait six months (after winter) to get cleaned up?

DeMuth: Landscaping, sod, any cracked sidewalk or curb

6. West Broadway Station Design Update – Shelley Miller

All 11 stations are center-running and same elements on the platform. Differences include more visual or outside treatments. Station design was established in 30% plans and details are being finalized as we enter 90% plans.

93rd Avenue Station Site Plan

- Pedestrian access on north side is via traffic signal, on south side RRFB
- Coming into station from shared use trail changes from bituminous to concrete so people know they are coming into station area
- Canopy is reflective on context and character workshop – industrial, job center, etc.
- Ends of canopies lit at night
- Streetscape – Brooklyn Park has added landscaping and light spires to add identity
- Canopy underside treatment reflects color choices
- Adding “between the car barriers” – allows sight-impaired people to avoid the spaces between cars

85th Avenue Station Site Plan

- Pedestrian access on north side is via traffic signal, on south side RRFB
- Canopy fits into activity center motif with color taken from college

Brooklyn Boulevard Station Site Plan

All three of these stations have a unique visual look while still being visually compatible.

Question: How do these designs take into account wind and heat?

Miller: Yes – there will be heaters installed in the canopy, and architects actually do wind studies to determine placement of glass. Customer comfort is a high priority.

Landwer: Fine line between making it comfortable for passengers, but not making it too comfortable that people want to hang around.

Question: Do we have updated stations for Minneapolis?

Miller: Yes, we’ll be bringing these stations forward in future meetings.

7. Adjourn

Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 10th.