



Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT) Community Advisory Committee Meeting

January 10, 2013

Southwest Light Rail Project Office

6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500

Conference Room A

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

CAC Members and Alternates: Art Higinbotham, Barry Schade, Bill James, David Green, Derek Gunderson, Donald Eyberg, Elizabeth Ryan, Jami LaPray, Co-Chair Jeanette Colby, Jeff Ylinen, Co-Chair Jennifer Munt, John Erickson, Kandi Arries, Kelly Nelson, Kim Kang, Matt Flory, Matthew Fyten, Meg Forney, Neil Trembley, Rolf Peterson, Vida Ditter, Steve Cramer, Linnea Sodergren, and Tom Jenny.

Agency Staff and Guests: Mark Fuhrmann, Robin Caufman, Sam O'Connell, Dan Pfeiffer, Jim Alexander, Nani Jacobson, Katie Walker, Sean Walther, Dale KenKnight, Jeff Peltola, Kathy Doty, Beth Elliot, Kerri Pearce Ruch and Chris Weyer.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chairs Colby and Munt

Co-Chairs Colby and Munt called the SWLRT Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Co-Chair Munt asked if there are any comments or changes to the October 2012 meeting minutes. One change was made to the draft meeting minutes:

- David Green asked the minutes be amended to reflect his question about transit dependent populations was for the whole corridor, not just for Minneapolis.

The CAC approved the October 2012 minutes as amended.

2. 2013 Project Look Ahead

Mark Fuhrmann provided a look ahead for the Southwest LRT in 2013. Highlights include continued work in preliminary engineering, commencing work on the Final Environmental Impact Statement, continued work on station area planning by Hennepin County and public involvement. Key issues and decisions in 2013 include freight rail co-location and relocation, Eden Prairie alignment adjustments and the placement of an operations and maintenance facility. In addition, the SWLRT Project Office (SPO) will be submitting a revised New Starts application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and updating ridership and financial forecasts.

3. Preliminary Engineering Consultant Contract Awards/Next Steps

Jim Alexander provided an overview of the preliminary engineering (PE) consultant selection process including membership of the evaluation panels, contract award amounts, and disadvantage business enterprise (DBE) hiring goals. Jim also reviewed the focus of PE activities and reviewed key tasks

including survey work, identification and resolution of technical issues, development of Municipal Consent plans, and the preparation of 30% plans and specifications. Questions raised during the presentation:

- How was the east and west boarder established? In consultation with the cities of Hopkins and Minnetonka with particular attention to the Shady Oak Road station.
- Could firms submit for both west and east segments or just one? Firms could submit for both segments.
- Did the request for proposals set requirements for how the two teams will work together? Yes; coordination was emphasized during the interviews and subsequent contract negotiations. The two teams need to work together as well as Transitional Station Area Action Plan (TSAAP) consultants.
- Does the location of the operations and maintenance facility (OMF) impact the contracts? Both contracts have OMF activities; once the location is identified then that particular contractor will complete design plans.
- Will the consultants attend CAC meetings? Yes.
- How will PE be coordinated with the environmental work? SPO staff and consultants will be working together to address technical and environmental issues as PE work moves forward.
- There is distrust with Kimley-Horn given their previous work; how will you address this? The consultants work for SPO; we don't work for them. We will bring our work to you to review and comment. We are taking a fresh look as we move forward with PE. It will be clear to the public how we arrive at decision.
- Are you aware of existing shoreline ordinances that may impact such features as park & ride? Yes. We are developing design criteria for such elements and park board staff will be reviewing these technical aspects.

4. Peer Review Consultant Contract Request for Proposals (RFP)

Mark Fuhrmann reviewed the schedule for selecting a consultant for peer review. The peer review consultant (PRC) will complete engineering reviews on plans, calculations and specifications at 30, 60 and 90 percent design. In addition, spot reviews will be conducted. There will be a firewall in place to manage the work of the PECs and the PRC; the PRC will be precluded from participating on any other contracts. Questions raised during the presentation:

- If a firm submitted a bid for the PEC work and was not selected, could they bid on the PRC? Yes.
- Are there conflicts of interest because all of these firms work with each other? The SPO takes this work very seriously and has designed firewalls to prevent conflicts of interest.
- Do this PECs look at what things cost? Primarily their work will be focused on design and design calculations.

5. Environmental Program Update

Nani Jacobson provided an environmental summary on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) public hearings, comments received and highlighted major themes from the comments received. On December 31, the Responsible Government Unit Authority was transferred from the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to the Metropolitan Council and a noticed was published in the

Environmental Quality Board Monitor on Jan. 7, 2013. Nani also reviewed the anticipated schedule and scope of work for the FEIS consultants. In 2013, environmental tasks include preparing the FEIS, conducting Phase I environmental site assessments, a Phase II archaeological survey and an architecture and historic structures survey. Questions raised during the presentation:

- Who is putting the information together that was submitted? The SPO is entering the comments into a database and they will be organized by theme.
- Can we see the comments? The comments will be posted on swlrt.org for public access.

6. Community Works Update

Katie Walker provided an overview of the SWLRT Community Works workplan activities. The focus will be the TSAAP process and it will look to bring jobs and development into the corridor. Another key focus will be developing a housing strategy for the corridor to link those who want to live and work in the corridor. Katie also provided a summary of the ULI/Southwest LRT Corridor Community Work developer workshop held in December 2012. Community Works is also planning on revamping their web site. Questions raised during the presentation:

- What were the criteria for selecting the stations for the workshop? Cities nominated a station area to study.
- In the future, how will Corridors of Opportunity be involved in TSAAP? An outreach plan will be developed and it will address how stakeholders will be involved in the process.
- How will all the improvement identified through TSAAP will be funded? Creative solutions will be sought to fund projects as well as looking at existing revenues. It is anticipated that improvements are done over time and not all at once.
- Community Works is focused on stations; how will the freight decision impact the planning process? Community Works will coordinate with SPO to ensure that all options are being looked at and that nothing is being ruled out prematurely.

7. Station Focus: St. Louis Park's Louisiana Station

Sean Walther, with the City of St. Louis Park, highlighted plans and activities around the SWLRT Louisiana Station. Methodist Hospital is a major employer and land owner in St. Louis Park. The land use in city is transitioning with recent developments and with the clean-up of two superfund sites. Additional plans include re-meandering creeks, providing more biking and pedestrian facilities, and potential canoeing facilities. Highway 7 and Louisiana will be upgraded to incorporate roundabouts. Comments raised during the presentation include:

- The plans are great and would like to see more north and south connections in the city for bikes and pedestrians.
- Good to see the city is thinking about trail connections in the area.
- Looks like there are areas to add both housing and new commercial development.

8. SWLRT Committee and Member Reports: Co-Chairs

Sam O'Connell reported on the results of the BAC survey on topics of interest. Sam also shared with the CAC the need to move meetings to the last Thursday of the month to better align with the decision-making process for the project. The CAC agreed to move its meeting date starting in March and would be willing to meet until 8:30 PM if the need arises.

9. Public Comment Forum:

Co-Chair Munt invited members of the public to address the CAC; Jami LaPray asked if a Supplemental DEIS (SDEIS) will be completed before Municipal Consent as TC&W has indicated they need a larger footprint and they have veto power. Mark Fuhrmann answered the SPO is aware of TC&W's DEIS comments and will address their issues during PE. The Federal Transit Administration will decide if a SDEIS will be needed.

8. Adjourn: Hearing no further items, the meeting adjourned 8:15 PM.