



Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee

Minutes of the January 12, 2017 Meeting

Present: Adam Duinick, Lona Schreiber, Mike Opat, Jim Adams, Chris Berne, Peter Wagenius, Scott McBride, Tim Willson, Denny Walsh, Scott Schulte

Not in attendance: Myron Frans, Betsy Hodges, Brian Lamb, Regan Murphy, Gary Cunningham, Jeffrey Lunde, Andy Snope, Meg Forney, Marika Pfefferkorn, Shauen Pearce-Lassiter, Linda Higgins, Barbara Johnson

1. Call to Order

Chair Duinick welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 1:37 PM.

2. Approval of November 10, 2016 Minutes

Chair Duinick asked the committee to review the meeting minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting and asked if there were any edits or comments. Councilmember Schreiber made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Opat seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Update

Chair Duinick stated that CTIB has been meeting regularly over the last few weeks working closely with the Met Council. The legislature is back in session and the Governor is working closely with the Transportation Committee.

4. 2017 Project Activity Overview

Dan Soler, BLRT Project Director, discussed the completed 2016 milestones which include the Blue Line Extension project receiving Municipal Consent from the 5 corridor cities and Hennepin County in March. In July, the Met Council and FTA published the FEIS; and in August, 2016 the project received local funding commitments from CTIB, HCRRA, City of Brooklyn Park, MnDOT, and Hennepin County.

The Project Office completed the 30% Design in August, 2016 and submitted the FTA New Starts application demonstrating completion of the Project Development stage.

Mr. Soler added that in September we received the Record of Decision (ROD) and the Met Council determined the final EIS was adequate. The Met Council adopted the revised project scope and budget and the Met Council applied for entry into Engineering phase of the project. Mr. Soler stated 2017-2018 will be a heavy engineering phase, and the roadmap to FFGA will be coming soon. The timeline is set for a FFGA submittal date in September 2017.



Chair Duinick asked if there is an updated cost estimate. Mary Sue Abel responded yes, there will be at 60% Engineering, but it will be within the estimated budget, per Mr. Soler.

Councilmember Schreiber asked if, under the New Starts Activities, operating costs are part of the project's financial rating. Mr. Soler discussed the primary needs to submit application for FFGA: identifying local funding, major agreements to be completed and getting a Federal funding appropriation from the President and Congress' budget.

MarySue Abel reviewed the 2017 schedule. The Project Development phase is complete and the entry in the Engineering phase will hopefully be approved next week. 2017 will be the heavy engineering phase, and application for the FFGA is targeted for September 2017 with an estimated approval date of April 2018. Once approved, the kickoff of the construction phase follows, and the Revenue Operations date will be in 2021.

Ms. Abel reviewed the Environmental process that includes completing interpretive designs for 5 stations, completing the Construction Protection Plan that needs to be included as part of specs, and to consult to meet SOI design standards at 60%, 90% and 100%.

MarySue Abel presented updates on Wetlands permitting; staff are working closely with the US Army Corp of Engineers and local jurisdictions to complete permits prior to the advanced construction stage. Ms. Abel updated the committee on the RAP (Response Action Plan) that involves mitigation for hazardous and contaminated materials prior to early and major construction, with a timeline of February/March 2017.

Ms. Abel discussed agreements that are critical path and need completion, involving Railroads, Utilities and Construction cost participation agreements with MnDOT, Hennepin County and local municipalities to identify responsibility for funding shares.

Dan Soler added that a roadmap to FFGA will be an ongoing topic at future committee meetings. The timeline to submit FFGA is September, 2017.

MarySue Abel reviewed getting the Risk Assessment and Financial Capital Assessment completed and discussed status of the 60% design details that need resolution prior to 90% plan production.

Nick Landwer reviewed Design Advancement stages through ongoing DRT (Design Resolution Team) meetings. Mr. Landwer stated there are design details to resolve prior to 90% plan production. Key issues include the Robbinsdale and Oak Grove Park and Ride. The West Broadway streetscape and Olson Memorial Highway streetscape plans need final decisions. Drainage north of 610-the key issue has been storm water treatment, which needs to be done by June, 2017. A more detailed design plan will be ready for stakeholder review in March.

Mr. Landwer discussed the potential advanced construction activities that include MCES sewer relocation near the TH 55 bridge, floodplain mitigation in Theodore Wirth Park,



Theodore Wirth parkway bridge reconstruction, and the Bassett Creek tunnel. There is a large storm tunnel from the 1880's that conflicts with tracks. The goal will be to maintain traffic during construction. Some of these projects could start as early as fall, 2017.

Mr. Landwer explained what is included in the proposed construction packages. Civil 1 includes Target Field station through CSAH 81 flyover bridge, Civil 2 includes Jolly Lane to Operations and Maintenance facility in Brooklyn Park. The Systems construction package includes traction power, the overhead catenary system, communications and rail signaling.

Chair Duininck asked about the timeline of the advanced construction work to be done. Dan Soler responded that the work to be done would be mid-September, 2017 through June 2018. Mr. Soler went on to say that a letter of no prejudice is needed to be eligible to start ahead of major construction.

Commissioner Opat expressed concern over staging of the bridge on 36th Avenue North and its possible effect on the proposed HyVee in Robbinsdale.

Mr. Landwer stated that this is a critical path-pinch point and soils are being discussed. He clarified that the Golden Valley Road bridge would be staged before the 36th Avenue bridge.

Mr. Landwer discussed the BLRT/SWLRT joint contracting efforts that include SCADA and contractor Rockwell Collins (ARINC). There are traction power substations, Target Field station, light rail vehicles and fare collection as joint procurements with SWLRT.

Mr. Landwer reviewed the ROW and acquisition priorities that include MPRB property, property acquisitions regarding railroad parcels, and parcels that include relocation (would be a longer timeframe).

Dan Soler added that the goal is December, 2017 for construction plans to be completed.

5. Updated Corridor Flyover Video: Preview

Sam O'Connell presented a public involvement activity update that includes staff participation in 140 community events, meetings and advisory committee meetings. Outreach includes 2017 plans for 1:1 meetings, large format meetings and sharing project information through website and newsletters.

Ms. O'Connell presented a draft video that will be used in future presentations. The draft is at 85% completion right now. The committee reviewed the flyover video that shows the alignments, stations and proximity of all stations along the proposed line.

Peter Wagenius asked when this video was done. Ms. O'Connell stated that the current Google Earth was used.

Chair Duininck asked if the video could be divided up for each city's use, and Ms. O'Connell replied yes.

The 2017 CMC meeting schedule was reviewed.



6. Adjournment

Chair Duinick asked if there were any further questions or comments from the committee today. There were none. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

**Next CMC Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2017
Hennepin County Rockford Road Library
6401 42nd Avenue North
Crystal, MN 55427**