

## **METRO Blue Line Extension Project Decision Board Meeting Minutes**

Date & Time	January 15, 2025     9:00 am-10:30 am
Location	Blue Line Extension Project Office, North Conference Room, 6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 600, St Louis Park, MN 55426
Members	Charlie Zelle, Irene Fernando, Jeff Lunde, Marion Greene, Lisa Cerney, Peter Hanf, Ben Schweigert
Project Staff	Dan Soler, Nick Thompson, Shahin Khazrajafari, Nick Landwer, Kelcie Young, Jer Yang

### **1. Call To Order**

Charlie Zelle, Chair of the Metropolitan Council called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Project Decision Board (PDB) meeting to order at 9:08 am. Chair Zelle welcomed members to the meeting and allowed members to introduce themselves.

### **2. Minutes from December 18, 2024 Meeting**

Chair Zelle asked for a motion to approve the December 18, 2024 PDB Meeting Minutes.

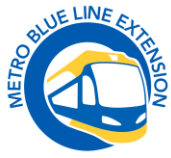
Irene Fernando, Hennepin County Commissioner made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Jeff Lunde, Hennepin County Commissioner. The minutes were officially approved.

### **3. Environmental Mitigation Measure Update**

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council reported that the draft of the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) has been submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). She mentioned that this marks the beginning of the next phase of the FTA's review process.

Ms. Young provided updates on the project's mitigation measures and commitments, emphasizing that they require FTA approval. She also highlighted that, in the area of Environmental Justice (EJ) Mitigation, several federal executive orders guide agencies in developing mitigation measures. Ms. Young noted that the latest order focuses on fostering meaningful engagement and collaboration with EJ communities.

Dan Soler, Hennepin County inquired about the extent of the corridor subject to Environmental Justice (EJ) mitigation. Ms. Young explained that EJ communities are defined based on geographic criteria and noted that nearly the entire corridor qualifies as EJ communities. Ms. Young shared some of the mitigations that is included in the SFEIS for



consideration. These includes: Off-street parking at Penn Avenue and West Broadway Avenue, Cultural Placekeeping Design Groups, Public realm improvements, Storefront space for project and partner resources, Workforce – Local Hiring Preference Program, and business support during construction.

#### **4. 2025 Early Construction**

##### **a. Target Field Station Bridge Connection**

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, emphasized the importance of advancing construction to minimize impacts on communities, other ongoing projects, and the BLE project's schedule. He highlighted the focus on Target Field Station, including the need to add a two-direction switch to the existing tail-end tracks to connect with the future northbound BLE track. Mr. Landwer noted that construction for the BLE is planned to begin in 2027. Additionally, he mentioned that testing for the Green Line Extension (GLE) Project is scheduled for Spring 2026. To align with the GLE's timeline and minimize disruptions to its revenue operations, the BLE project aims to reduce construction-related impacts as much as possible, by implementing advance construction work.

Mr. Landwer described the design layout for connecting the northbound and southbound tracks at Target Field Station, including the integration with the new GLE tracks. He also reviewed the advance work plan for the turnout on the northbound track, noting that this element is not yet included in the current design plan.

Mr. Landwer reviewed other consideration for mitigation measures for both BLE and GLE projects for the works on Target Field Station.

Mr. Landwer stated that the next step is to package together a contract for procurement to review.

#### **5. Next Meeting: February 19, 2025**

#### **6. Adjourn**

Chair Zelle concluded the meeting and adjourned it at 9:53 am.

##### Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda and PDB PowerPoint Presentation January 15, 2025

Meeting Minutes, December 18, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead