

Metropolitan Council

St. Louis Park City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee

November 2, 2016

Members Present	Chair Adam Duinick Asad Aliweyd Jan Callison Jason Gadd Linda Higgins James Hovland	Brian Lamb Scott McBride Peter McLaughlin Jennifer Munt Will Roach Terry Schneider	Nancy Tyra-Lukens Molly Cummings (Alt) Marion Greene (Alt) Peter Wagenius (Alt)
Members Absent	Russ Adams Steve Elkins Keith Bogut	Betsy Hodges Matt Look	Denetrick Powers Jake Spano

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Adam Duinick called the November 2, 2016 meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Louis Park City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Duinick presented the September 7, 2016 SWLRT Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Linda Higgins made a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Will Roach seconded it, and the motion was then unanimously approved.

3. CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Duinick welcomed CMC members and reported that we will continue to work in helping pass a full transportation bill next session, which we may enlist the help and support of CMC members. The Certificates of Participation (COPs) are not set to be issued until next summer, so if a better funding source is approved with the next session, the COPs won't even be needed.

4. PROJECT READINESS UPDATE

Mr. Jim Alexander reported on the five main contracts for this project, with the primary contracts for construction including civil, systems and the operations and maintenance facility. These will all be design, bid, build contracts. We are currently working on the civil package, with a goal to have this contract go out for bid in the January 2017 timeframe. The other two large contracts other than construction are fare collections and light rail vehicles. Authority was just received from Met Council to award a contract to Siemens for 27 vehicles, with an option of 50 additional vehicles.

Mr. Alexander reviewed the procurement look ahead schedule. The Full Funding Grant Agreement is anticipated to be received in the July 2017 timeframe, which is dependent on critical agreements being finished in the late January timeframe, so that the application for the FFGA can be made in February. Heavy construction will be from 2017 – 2020, with revenue service in 2021.

Mr. Alexander introduced an animation video, which highlights the Downtown Hopkins Station, Excelsior Bridge and Blake Road Station. This type of video will also be created for the other areas of the project. Ms. Sam O'Connell mentioned that the final editing of this video should take about two weeks. Following that, we will send an email to CMC members with a link to the animation that will be also posted on the website.

5. CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING OVERVIEW

Mr. Alexander reviewed the objectives of the construction sequencing and phasing, which include maintaining safe construction sites; providing sufficient work areas for the contractor; and maintaining reasonable access to businesses and neighborhoods. There will be an outreach process in place for this which will be ongoing through the construction phase.

The typical LRT construction sequence includes utility work; moving through site prep; structures and track work; systems work and testing. Mr. Alexander went through these five stages of construction. For the site prep, there are approximately 20 buildings that will need to be removed; six for the OMF and 14 for the alignment. The heavy construction will be for the structures, track work and stations, and will also include the tunnel and bridge work. Following this is the work on the systems, which includes the catenary system, tunnel support systems, communications, and signaling. Following the construction there will be a six month period for testing.

Images were shown on the timing and locations of the structure work. Mr. Alexander went over the type of work in each of the five cities. Most of this heavy construction work will start in mid-2017 and be completed in mid-2020. Once the construction contractor is on board, a more detailed schedule for this work will be put together.

Councilmember Jennifer Munt mentioned that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) received this presentation, and they asked to be provided a problem solving check list before construction begins, along with a communication tool such as a magnet with contact information on who to call during construction. The benefits to this upcoming construction project is that we already have good connections and relationships along the corridor. The SWLRT outreach team has been out there with their contact information.

Mayor Schneider mentioned Minnetonka uses an electronic list that people sign up for where the city then pushes the information out electronically, which has been very helpful and is well used. Ms. O'Connell mentioned that we will present to the CMC in early 2017 the tools that we plan to use for communicating. We have heard many good ideas from CAC and BAC. Along with the website, people like the information electronically.

Mr. Peter Wagenius asked when Glenwood would be shut down for the construction, and will it prevent a delay in the C Line? Mr. Alexander said this work could be as early as late 2017, but may be in the 2018 timeframe. A more refined schedule will be developed after the contractor is under contract. Mr. Brian Lamb mentioned that currently we are planning to move ahead with C Line as scheduled for 2018, with an interim alignment going down Highway 55.

SouthWest Transit Station Construction Planning

Mr. Alexander reviewed the SouthWest Station work. The existing bus activity in this area will continue during construction. Good coordination will be needed, as this is a small, confined area. Images were shown of the location and what the new station will look like. It will include a 450-space ramp to the existing 925 space park and ride ramp. There will be a new station platform that will accommodate both bus and LRT. This work is envisioned to be done in five separate phases, which were shown on maps. The first phase will include removal of both the Culvers building and SouthWest Transit building. There will be a temporary indoor waiting area and drop off area constructed for use while the work is being done. Another reason this site is challenging is due to poor soil conditions. Staff continue to work closely with the SouthWest Transit staff on this work.

6. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) AND WORKFORCE PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

Mr. Andrew Larson, from the Met Council's Office of Equal Opportunities and the Small Business Coordinator for the SWLRT project presented. Mr. Larson reported on the DBE and Workforce plans for the SWLRT project. DBE is the federal government's disadvantaged business enterprise program that helps small businesses owned by female and minority owners. There are subcontracting DBE goals set on a contract by contract basis. There is a 16% DBE goal set in the civil contract. The Workforce goals are set by the State of Minnesota, which are currently 32% minority and 6% female of total hours worked on the project.

The DBE contract monitoring system includes a website that was put together for each contractor's monthly reporting requirements. This is a new reporting process which combines the former paper processes into a more streamlining way to report. This website connects with the DBE small business database. Contractors will do monthly billing and payment reporting on how much is going to the DBE subcontractors.

Mr. Larson reported on upcoming events which include: December 5 Contractor Kick Off event, which will include DBE outreach. The civil contract pre bid meeting, which is targeted for early February, where firms interested in working on the project can hear about the project and learn about contractor requirements and forms. This will be coordinated with a DBE mixer, where interested contractors can meet interested DBE firms. There will be an outreach job fair event held in March, which will be coordinated with unions, schools and training organizations to promote labor opportunities.

The Great Minds Retreat, which is an activity to promote DBE engagement on the project is targeted for the week of January 9. This includes representatives from each of the cities along the line, small business assistance organizations, community organizations, union representation, training centers and schools, along with small business owners. This group will discuss the barriers facing small business owners and job seekers, and also discuss lessons learned and brainstorm for strategies to help meet the DBE goals. From this group, volunteers will then be recruited for the various committees, such as the joint DBE/Workforce Oversight Committee.

Mr. Larson introduced Mr. Gary Courtney, who is the workforce program administrator in the Met Council's Office of Equal Opportunity. Mr. Courtney will be working on the initiative of the LRT Minnesota Construction Apprenticeship Program (MnCAP), which is a training program with the goal of putting 40 new apprentice level laborers to work on SWLRT. It involves job readiness, hands on craft training at a technical college and an introduction to labor unions. The Job Seeker database will also be used. For CCLRT, it was called the LRT Works system, which will be replicated for SWLRT. This database is a website where job seekers can register. The SPO is also hiring a workforce specialist for day to day compliance, helping with the MnCAP program and monthly reporting responsibilities.

Mr. Asad Aliweyd asked what the qualifications are to be a DBE contractor. Mr. Larson responded that for the DBE program, the requirements are that the business owner must be female or minority with at least a 51% majority ownership of the company, and have a personal net worth under \$1.32M. If any individuals are interested in this program, they can call Mr. Larson who will further explain the program to them.

Mayor Schneider asked about the funding for the outreach training and the data base program. Mr. Larson said both of these items are dependent on funding. For the MnCAP program, there is a grant application in to McKnight, which is scheduled for award in February. For the Job Seeker database, we are looking for funding elsewhere in the Met Council, as this would be utilized across Met Council projects. For CCLRT, the Job Seeker database was funded by Central Corridors Funders Collaborative.

Councilmember Munt mentioned with the 7,500 construction jobs, it will be a payroll of 32% going to people of color and 6% going to female, which is a large opportunity. Members of the CAC expressed interest in helping with the construction and hiring outreach.

Chair Duinink reported that this workforce goal will be double that of CCLRT, so he would like to hear more in the future on how we plan to meet this goal and what lessons can be learned from Mortenson's success on reaching their workforce goals on the US Bank Stadium. Mr. Larson responded that the US Bank Stadium did exceed the 32% and 6% goals. The strategies we use will be discussed at the upcoming Great Mind Retreat.

Commissioner McLaughlin mentioned the CTIB Risk Assessment that was recently completed identified a supply of labor as a potential risk. The 40 apprentices doesn't seem like a large number. We should look at the US Bank project and what mechanisms were put in place that helped them reach their goal.

Mr. Aliweyd suggested at a future meeting to have a presentation on the land use plans for affordable housing along the SWLRT line, for the working class people who will use this line. Chair Duinink said this will be offered in the first quarter of 2017. Commissioner Callison also requested this be presented to Community Works.

7. CONSTRUCTION OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sam O’Connell provided a report on the upcoming outreach activities for the hiring of the upcoming construction activities. There will be approximately 70 positions brought in the next year to help with the construction portion. Ms. O’Connell asked CMC to help spread the word on getting these positions hired. We have a construction tab on the website that has the information on the types of jobs, and their summaries. A flyer was in today’s packet to advertise for the positions. This flyer will be available at employment centers and community centers to help get the word out.

SWLRT hosted a Career Fair in October at the SWLRT Project Office, which was geared for construction management professionals. There were approximately 30 in attendance at this event.

8. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR EVENT: MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

There will be a Construction Contractor event held on December 5. A similar event was held last year and was very successful with over 200 in attendance. This year it will be held at Minnetonka Community Center. There will be a DBE contractor mixer following this event.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Will Roach reported that at the recent BAC meeting, they recognized the importance of the communications over the next three years during construction. The BAC discussed the key risks of the Kenilworth tunnel, the FFGA, bridges, and the demand on labor and materials. The BAC will be moving towards quarterly meetings.

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Todd Klingel, past president of the Downtown Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Klingel was a great supporter of regionalism, transit and transportation.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary