



**METRO Blue Line Extension  
Business Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 12, 2016  
Blue Line Project Office  
5514 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 200  
Crystal, MN 55428  
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**

**Meeting Summary**

**BAC Members:** Randy Boushek, Ben Colglazier, Alison Pence, Denny Walsh, Jeff Washburne, Jim White

**Agency Staff:** Mary Sue Abel, Sophia Ginis, Nick Landwer, Kathryn O'Brien, Dan Pfeiffer

**1. Approval of May 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Approved

**2. Adjusted Project Scope and Cost Estimate Recommendation**

Mary Sue Abel reviewed the proposed changes to the project's scope and cost estimate in preparation for project office's New Starts submission.

Cost sharing with MnDOT, Hennepin County and Brooklyn Park was also reviewed. MnDOT is helping to cover costs along Olson Memorial. Brooklyn Park and Hennepin County are helping to pay for improvements near the Oak Grove Station.

Abel explained the three primary cost drivers for the changes in the project's scope and cost estimate: advancing design, environmental mitigation, and scope additions. In the discussion of scope additions, the 63<sup>rd</sup> crossing and possible pedestrian bridge at Bass Lake Road were reviewed, including the tours conducted with the two City Councils to help develop a direction at both locations.

The current proposed budget of \$1.536 billion was reviewed, including the new breakdown of project funding sources. The role of contingency was also addressed. Abel explained that we are proposing to reduce the contingency to 28%, though given the current construction environment, including Southwest LRT starting construction a year before the Blue Line Extension, holding funding to cover extra expenses is necessary.

There were no questions from the committee.

**3. Environmental Update**

Kathryn O'Brien informed the committee that we anticipate the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on July 15. It will be available at corridor libraries and city halls.

She reviewed the steps that have occurred in the environmental process to completing the FEIS and the final steps to come: the Federal Record of Discussion and the Minnesota Determination of Adequacy.

A brief overview of the topics included in the FEIS was presented and a couple of the topics were pulled out for a deeper review with the committee.

O'Brien reviewed the Environmental Justice section of the FEIS. She explained how the project looks at whether there would be a disproportionately adverse impact on minority or low income communities. She gave the example that if we looked at all the properties that were being acquired and the acquisitions all impacted Environmental Justice populations then the FTA would want an explanation as to the decision making.

Next O'Brien explained the Section 4(f) evaluation, which pertains to park lands. She reviewed the preliminary determinations of effect on the various parks along the alignment. She went into greater depth to explain the impacts on Theodore Wirth Park, as the project will need approximately two acres of the park. While there is a use it is expected to be *De Minimis* as the project would need a very small portion of the overall park and the land that is needed doesn't take away from the main functions of the park. The Project Office will be seeking concurrence from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) on August 3, 2016.

**Boushek:** Does that include temporary use?

**O'Brien:** Yes.

**Colglazier:** Do we anticipate issues with MPRB?

**O'Brien:** We believe the staff will give a positive report to the board and we are optimistic that we will get concurrence. We have been developing a good working relationship with the board and many see the benefits, such as a station to access the park.

Finally O'Brien reviewed Section 6(f) of the Law and Water Conservation Fund Act. There is a former roadside reststop with beehive ovens in Robbinsdale that was built as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that can be used as a replacement for the temporary occupancy of Sochacki Park.

**Boushek:** Because of the temporary use Robbinsdale gets an increase of park area?

**O'Brien:** Yes

Committee Chair Walsh asked if there were any other questions or comments.

**Boushek:** Can you remind me of the terminus of the project?

**O'Brien:** Oak Grove Station, then the Operations and Maintenance Facility.

**Landwer:** Reviewed locations on map

**Boushek:** So the land is secured?

**O'Brien:** No, we can not secure land until after the Record of Decision.

**White:** Where is the rail control center? Cedar Riverside?

**Landwer/O'Brien:** Yes. We also have a back-up location.

**4. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum**

No comments.

**5. Adjournment at 8:56 AM**