



**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)
Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

March 31, 2015

**Southwest Project Office
6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500**

St. Louis Park, MN 55426

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Meeting Summary

CAC Members/Alternates: Council Member Munt, Russ Adams, Amanda Kappes, Andrew Pieper, Bill James, David Greene, Ian Kees, Jamil Ford, Jeff Strate, Kathryn Campbell, Kevan Hanson, Lee Munnich, Mathews Holinshead, Melissa Everett, Sana Elassar, Shirajoy Abry, Vida Ditter, Hildy Shank, Janet Weivoda, Sarah Maaske.

Agency Staff and Guests: Sam O'Connell, Peter Kivimak, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Doug Cook, Ken Rodgers, Ryan Fox, Alysene Nesse, Ann Beuch, Jim Alexander, Ryan Kronzer, Sarah Ghandour, Dan Pfeiffer, Sophia Ginis.

1. Welcome and Introductions

CAC co-chair Munt opened the meeting with a round of introductions. No edits to the February 24 meeting summary were noted.

2. Community Works Update

Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County) presented a background on the Hennepin County Community Works Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is looking for closer collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee. The adopted 2015 workplan includes; Investment Framework, Corridor Wide Housing Strategy, Finance Tools, Transit Oriented Development (TOD), and Strategic Marketing and Communications.

David Greene asked if Community Works is looking at connecting services. Jim Alexander responded that the Southwest Project Office coordinates with Metro Transit bus operations and with Southwest Transit. Metro Transit anticipates conducting a corridor sector study to look at bus routes along the corridor and their interface with the LRT stations. The study would begin approximately two years before passenger operations begin on Southwest LRT and the changes would be implemented with opening. This study involves outreach to the communities to identify route changes and potential new routes.

Co-chairs Munt and Adams discussed the “What does success look like” exercise that occurred at the first meeting in February. Co-chair Munt discussed the ½ mile around the station and that Community Works is looking to maximize the opportunity in that area. Co-chair Adams mentioned looking for ways to bring the Community Advisory Committee together with the Community Works Steering Committee.

3. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum

Co-chair Adams gave a report on the last Community Works Steering Committee meeting which included information on the Housing Strategy work that Community Works is focusing on. Co-chair Adams noted that voluntary housing goals take work to achieve and that this committee may want to hear a report.

Ken Rodgers spoke about the challenges faced by the ADA community and shared a video created by the District Council’s Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (<http://dcc-stpaul-mpls.org/>). Video available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cmt-lylByFs. Ken stated that it takes every bit of energy to move forward and to make the best possible project. Ken discussed his involvement in the METRO Green Line (Central Corridor) Project and expressed his hope to bring these challenges to the committee’s awareness. During design they focused a lot on the layout of the station platforms and standard locations for ticket vending, shelters, trash cans, etc. which is a beautiful thing for the visually impaired community, however in so much focus on the platform they failed to think about where it sits in relation to the street and getting from the platform to the sidewalk. Another issue that Ken mentioned was the Nicollet Mall Station, there is nothing to indicate that it is safe to cross the active tracks and with the long periods of no vehicle traffic on Nicollet it is difficult to identify when cross traffic has a green light. Ken asked that the committee keep these things in mind. Two other issues that Ken identified was snow removal on the station platforms and the location of the push buttons to activate the doors on the light rail vehicle during cold weather.

Andrew Pieper asked Ken about the effort to lay out all the stations the same. Ken noted that on Central Corridor there are three station types; center, side, and side-split platforms. Jeff Strate asked how other cities with LRT have dealt with the challenges. Ken mentioned that in some locations the trains stop in the same place with barriers to indicate the location of the doors. Jamil Ford asked whether snow melt systems have been installed on any of the stations. Jim Alexander stated that it has been implemented on a handful of stations and Metro Transit is evaluating.

4. Station Open House Preview

The committee previewed the open house boards for the upcoming Station Design Open Houses. After the viewing, the committee reconvened to provide thoughts on the boards. Katy Campbell asked what the plans were for publicizing the open houses. Sam O’Connell responded that the project is still getting the word out through mass communications, twitter, and website. The materials will be posted online along with an online comment form. Jim Alexander stated that the project is looking for community input on everything; on the suggested station type at a location, on the four prototypes, on anything else the project should think about at a location. Ken Rodgers suggested that the project develop tactile models for public events.

5. Adjourn