



METRO Blue Line Extension Meeting of the Business Advisory Committee

November 9, 2021

8:00 AM

Webex

BAC Members: Candace Oathout, Felicia Perry, Jackson George, Ryan Borne, Mike Steinhauser, Jimmy Loyd, Tim Baylor, Chris Webley

Agency Staff and Guests: Sophia Ginis, Sam O'Connell, Becca Hughes, Andrew Gillett, C Terrence Anderson, Cathy Gold, Dan Soler, Nick Landwer, Kyle Mianulli, Kristine Stehly, Joan Vanhala, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Amber Turnquest, Jason Tintes, David Davies, Sarah Abe, Sam King, Trevor Roy, Jesse Struve, Jennifer Cutter, Liz Morice

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

2. Adopt Meeting Minutes from October

Mike Steinhauser asked to approve the meeting minutes. Felicia Perry moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

3. Anti-Displacement Working Group Update

Cathy Gold, Hennepin County, provided an update on the working group. C Terrence Anderson, CURA, provided an update on their team's recent engagement. They shared plans for the application for the anti-displacement table. They are planning to get that application out within a two-week time period. The membership will welcome members on an ongoing basis but are hoping for a diverse, representative group to begin with.

C Terrence provided an update on the research. They are working on filling out a research agenda and are welcoming questions and ideas from the committee. Felicia Perry asked if there was an email or ask for this. C Terrence said that he will put it out in a formal email. Felicia encouraged folks to touch base or have a one-on-one conversation with C Terrence or the group. It's helpful to clearly articulate or find out more about the team and how they do their work.



4. Minneapolis Design Update

Nick Landwer, Metropolitan Council, shared an update on the new designs that will be available at the community workshops. He shared that the feedback from the workshops will support the draft report and finding a community selected route for the corridor. He provided background on the sections of the Minneapolis (Area 3) and how they help organize the alternatives. Nick described how these alternatives and drawings are available online at BlueLineext.org.

Jackson George asked if there will be a time when these alternatives are chosen and/or set. He also asked about the 63rd Ave station. Nick said that the route will be selected during the March time frame. After the March time frame, the project will move into the design and environmental phase. Jackson was wondering about 63rd because he didn't see it in the last release of stations. Sophia Ginis shared it is available online. He will look at it online.

Nick provided a summary of how the comments submitted regarding the routes and designs will impact the route report and planning process. He showed how comments could be left online and how comments will be used. He provided an overview of the key for each drawing. Sophia addressed some comments in the chat. She said they can work on supportive materials for the interactive map so it's clear how to use it (addressing Felicia's comments in the chat).

Nick provided an example for the Lowry Route, showing Section 7 alternatives. He highlighted challenges of the route on Lowry. It is a residential area. It has few intersections. To create safe crossing for pedestrians, there will be more property impacts with those features. He showed a portion of 7A-a. He highlighted a connection to Fremont and Emerson Avenues. He highlighted building impacts. He showed that 7A-b has much fewer building impacts. However, the station would then be located at Lyndale Avenue not Emerson and Fremont Avenue.

Nick shared designs for Section 3, on the West Broadway Route. There are some straight forward examples that follow West Broadway Avenue that include a lot of impacts so there are also more out of the box concepts. Nick first described how traffic functions on West Broadway today. He showed examples of the center-running on West Broadway and the impacts they would anticipate.

Chris Webley asked about the 21st options. He was hoping to see all options for 21st. Nick further highlighted that as a route is chosen, this means making sure the designs are in alignment with Hennepin County and Minneapolis policies as well. Sophia Ginis pulled up PublicCoordinate to show all options for Section 3. Nick provided more detail on all the options for Section 3. Sophia highlighted that the pink building impacts in some cases involve a whole building, in others it could be only a few feet into the building. Chris asked if on 3D-a there would be any vehicle lanes. Nick confirmed there are vehicle connections but not thru traffic. Chris pointed out that it would be helpful to see levels of impact depicted by colors for example. Sophia confirmed they tried to do that originally, but the design needs more advancement and would continue to refine these options and show that detail as the designs advance.

5. Evaluation Criteria

Sam O'Connell, Metropolitan Council, provided an update of the Evaluation Framework. She highlighted that over a year ago they developed the Route and Engagement Principles. They operated in the framework of the



goals. These goals were updated throughout the year. Sam provided an update on the evaluation timeline. The focus of the next advisory committees will be on the report and the evaluation process. There will be feedback from the workshops incorporated in the initial draft and an opportunity to comment on this report and the evaluation criteria.

6. Next Meeting: December 7, 2021

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, highlighted that the project team would like to push the next meeting to December 14 so that the information is available regarding the evaluation process.

7. Adjourn

Mike Steinhauser moved to adjourn, and Felicia, seconded it. The meeting ended at 9:18 AM.

Chat

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:01 AM

Sounds good. Thanks Sophia

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:15 AM

Take it away Nick!

from Cathy Gold to everyone: 8:17 AM

Thanks, Felicia! Will follow up with group to provide contact information for any 1:1 requests/questions on the anti-displacement work.

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:32 AM

Where are the places you all are gathering community feedback? I know there is the interactive map and some of the engagement the cohort is doing. Are there other ways the project team is gathering community feedback to be included in draft report?

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:34 AM

I'm also wondering if there is a possibility of creating a "how to" video for folks on how to use the interactive map? I find myself going over how to use it with staff as well as reviewing it periodically for updates and to better learn to use it. While there is text explanations, they are in English initially. It took me a few months before I realized there was a language option in the top right corner.

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 8:36 AM

Thanks Sophia! That covers it.

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:04 AM

I find the text (in the white box) very hard to read on the graphics when we click them in the interactive map. Is there a way to put that text in the caption as well?

from Felicia Perry WBC to everyone: 9:08 AM

Thanks so much Nick.