



# **METRO Blue Line Extension**

## **Meeting of the Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**October 6, 2021**

**6:01PM**

**WebEx**

**CAC Members:** Jason Greenberg, Catherine Fleming, Ellis Beck, Ken Rodgers, John Wolhaupter

**Agency Staff and Guests:** Sophia Ginis, Dan Soler, C Terrence Anderson, Greg Ricci, Cathy Gold, Andrew Gillett, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Kristine Stehly, Kyle Mianulli, Liz Morice

### **Meeting Summary**

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Sophia Ginis, Metropolitan Council, Welcomed the group. Jason Greenberg began the meeting at 6:06 PM.

**2. Adopt July 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

Jason Greenberg asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Catherine Fleming made a motion to approve the minutes. H Ellis Beck seconded the minutes, and the minutes were approved.

**3. Check-in: any additional feedback from last month's County Road 81 Update**

Jason Greenberg gave the group an opportunity to comment on the last meeting and ask any questions about the information provided for County Road 81. Catherine Fleming asked what was covered. Jason reviewed some of the items including designs for Robbinsdale, Bass Lake Road and Minneapolis.

**4. Introductions & Anti-Displacement Discussion with CURA**

C Terrence, CURA, introduced himself and reviewed some of the materials with the group. C Terrence shared some content for CURA's approach to research including a reparative justice framework. C Terrence identified that CURA's Theory of Change which includes working directly with the community to influence policy makers and building community power around issues that are significant to them. This also informs their methods of research. Their research features shared expertise and providing tools to the community to share in that work. Jason Greenberg asked what happens (referring to the theory of change) when there isn't consensus or a common theme in community? C Terrence said that there is often a lot of different interests and issues. Those can coexist together. He said when there is disagreement, that is an

opportunity to dig further into the issues. Ultimately, the community and committees will be making the decisions (not CURA).

Catherine Fleming said her concern is that regardless of this effort the policymakers will not make it happen and will not move the recommendations forward. C Terrence shared that ultimately their work is meant to build a shared understanding and support organizing for change that creates a shared demand for changes. They also aim to build a system of accountability between the agencies to support the policy recommendations being enacted. C Terrence described how sometimes there is separation between the discussions had and the final recommendations and that sometimes makes implementation difficult.

Dan Soler, Hennepin County clarified if Catherine Fleming is referring to the project or the anti-displacement workgroup. He highlighted that they have the full support of Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council. That will help with implementation. This work is not being done to check off a box, but to make the project more successful. Catherine said she understands that but her community would be more than disappointed and impacted in many ways if nothing happens. She is skeptical that the recommendations this group makes will be implemented. Sophia confirmed her personal commitment and the work they want to do with the project.

C Terrence shared a graphic that identified gentrification in Hennepin County and Ramsey County. He discussed past work and the history of the Blue Line in the corridor communities. The idea of displacement and gentrification is not new to this community. He discussed the formation of the anti-displacement work group. He asked the group what they would like to see in the process to form that group. Catherine Fleming said that it should include someone who has been displaced and someone who is homeless. It should also include people who are at risk of displacement or fearful of it. Jason asked how many people should be included. C Terrence said there should be representation of each corridor cities. There should also be both residents and business members. Jason wondered about scale and C Terrence said he thought it was 15-20 people. Sophia said, think a true work group where people can talk but there is also enough representation. Dan also pointed out there could be subgroups. Catherine said there will be some displacement regardless. She wondered if there should be private housing representatives to tap into an option available to people who will be displaced. Jason pointed out that the members should also have the expectation or ability to reach out to a constituency. C Terrence confirmed that was something shared by a BAC member, that there should be accessible materials and an upfront understanding of commitment.

C Terrence shared a list of tangible actions for equitable decision making. Ultimately, they view their work as ways to resource the community. They want to build capacity to understand transportation more complexly. They want to provide ample time for the community to make decisions and comment. He shared an overview of the research plan which included a review of best practices in anti-displacement policy, locally and nationally. It also includes reviewing case studies. They will be researching a needs assessment.

C Terrence emphasized that the work will be contextualized with the understanding of the history and people of the corridor. The work will be community-centered and reparative. The outcomes of the report and plan will be achievable and actionable. They have the Housing Justice Center in their team to help with implementable recommendations.

Catherine asked about funding sources for the businesses. She said there is a lot of funding available from the federal government and elsewhere. The businesses on West Broadway for example might be at a disadvantage to get some of that funding but there is an opportunity to assist and serve some of these businesses in this process. C Terrence said it should be a part of the thinking and plan to consider that as a strategy. Catherine said this is also not a short-term/18-month need. It should be 5 and 6 years from now still working. Dan said that while the project may have millions of dollars some of it can't be used for this part of the work. There needs to be funding from other sources and this process should help find those opportunities. Catherine said for example there could be coordination for a cultural corridor across cities.

C Terrence said they are doing more than just working with 15 people but working with a whole community. He reviewed the plan outcomes and schedule. He emphasized that there are gaps in the schedule to intentionally slow down and give space to things that are outside of the plan. In the first month they want to work on getting the Anti-Displacement Work Group started and get the work plan confirmed. Catherine asked who is making the ultimate decision about the recommendations. C Terrence said that ultimately the project team will have the recommendations. Dan pointed out that many of the recommendations will not be for the project, but the project team will have to make sure they are brought forward in their agencies. Catherine asked about who would be sharing the information. Sophia said that the hope is that the Community Advisory Committee will have all the information they need. C Terrence said that the project wants to do this, its not the FTA who is requiring it. C Terrence said he wanted to hear from people and meet with them individually.

Catherine asked about the decision between the routes and the timeline. Dan confirmed the hope is to make the decision in early 2022.

## **5. Project Evaluation Criteria**

Dan Soler provided an update on the evaluation framework. He reviewed the route principles and engagement principles and how that relates and informs the evaluation process as well as the goals. He started with the example of Goal 1 and how that will be evaluated with data. The information will be used to compare the route options and see how they serve the project goals. He provided another example of historic red lining and racial covenants and how that shows disinvestment in some areas. Catherine asked about going past West Broadway to get to Lowry. Sophia share that they will dive deeper into the route links in the future. Dan confirmed it is not easy to get to Washington Avenue from Target Field.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

Sophia Ginis shared some dates of upcoming community meetings.

- Robbinsdale Open House: Wednesday, October 27 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Elim Church.

- Minneapolis Community Workshops & Office Hours
  - Lunch Hour Workshop: Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Episcopal Church.
  - Office Hours: Friday, Nov. 12 from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Episcopal Church.
  - Virtual Workshop: Monday, Nov. 15 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.
  - Evening Workshop: Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, Capri Theater.
  - Office Hours: Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 9:30 AM – 4: 30 PM, North Regional Library.

Sophia emphasized that this will be the beginning of digging into information. They are planning to be able to use this time to introduce and get feedback and use that feedback to continue to evolve the plans.

**7. Next Meeting: November 10, 2021**

The regular scheduled meeting would be November 3<sup>rd</sup> however the BAC meeting is changing due to the election.

**8. Adjourn**

Jason Greenberg adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.