

## METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee (CMC)

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| Date & Time              | August 8, 2024 1:30 – 3:00 PM  |
| Location                 | F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis  |
| Members                  | Chair Zelle, Irene Fernando, Reva Chamblis, Leslie Kandaras, Yassin Osman, Jeremiah Ellison, Bill Blonigan, Rebecca Fabunmi, Jonathan Hansen, Molly McCartney, Meg Forney, Dan Doerrler, Jeff Lunde, Jay Stroebel, Jim Adams, Tara Watson, Shoua Salas, Meg Forney, (Comm Greene alt name) |
| Project Staff/ Presenter | Nick Thompson, Kelcie Young, Eric Gustafson  |

### 1. Call to Order and Welcome

Charlie Zelle, Chair, Metropolitan Council, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meeting to order at 1:31pm. Chair Zelle extended a warm welcome to the CMC members and members of the public. Chair Zelle asked CMC members to introduce themselves.

Chair Zelle shared that today's meeting materials are available on the BLE project website at [bluelineext.org](http://bluelineext.org). Chair Zelle mentioned that members of the public are welcome to submit their comments to Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council by August 16, 2024, and will be part of today's meeting minutes record.

Chair Zelle announced that in today's meeting, members will receive updates on three very important topics in the following order Supplemental Draft Impact Statement (SDIS), Anti-Displacement efforts, and conclude with the Municipal Consent process.

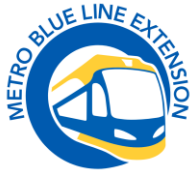
Chair Zelle reminded members that today's meeting will not be taking public testimonies.

### 2. Approval of July 18, 2024, BLE CMC Meeting Minutes

Chair Zelle asked for a motion to approve the July 18, 2024 CMC Meeting Minutes.

Meg Forney, President, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) noted that she had requested to get the number of full property acquisitions and had not received the information. Chair Zelle acknowledged the request and will have the project staff follow up on this request.

Jim Adams, Mayor of city of Crystal motioned to approve, and the motion was seconded by Irene Fernando, Commissioner, Hennepin County. The minutes were officially approved.



### **3. Community and Business Advisory Committee Reports**

Tara Watson, Co-Chair, Business Advisory Committee (BAC), shared that several topics were discussed at the recent BAC meeting held on August 6, 2024. Co-Chair Watson mentioned that there is currently no process in place to address issues unrelated to design, and there is interest in establishing a platform for concerns involving non-design elements. Additionally, BAC members felt that the municipal consent process is highly focused on engineering and inquired whether a process exists to address non-design elements alongside the actual requirements. Another discussion centered on the role of the CMC Board as the governing body for the project, with BAC members expressed a desire to strengthen the influence of the CMC Board. Many members also highlighted the need for better coordination efforts. Co-Chair Watson noted that one of the action items from the meeting was a request to meet with the Anti-Displacement Working Group (ADWG).

Jonathan Hansen, a member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), reported that the CAC met the previous evening on August 9, 2024. During the meeting, they discussed the SDEIS and addressed concerns about misinformation circulating about the BLE project, exploring ways to counter these false claims. Mr. Hansen also mentioned that CAC members are eagerly anticipating the upcoming release of the Anti-Displacement report.

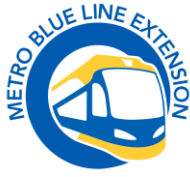
### **4. Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Summary of Comments**

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council reported that the SDEIS comment period officially closed on August 6, 2024. Ms. Young noted that the BLE project staff are currently reviewing and preparing responses to the comments received.

Ms. Young reported that a total of 251 comments were received during the public comment period and provided a breakdown of the various methods used for submission. She explained that the comments will be categorized and shared by related topics. The feedback covered key themes, including both support for and opposition to the BLE Project, concerns about mitigation such as Anti-Displacement and safety, impacts on natural resources, project costs, and suggestions for maximizing the project's benefits. Ms. Young also noted that a recurring theme was the expressed need for light rail expansion.

Ms. Young mentioned that the comments received on the SDEIS will guide the next steps in the process and contribute to the development of the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS). She explained that the SFEIS will incorporate any analysis and design changes. Ms. Young also provided an overview of the upcoming steps and potential mitigations. She noted that soil testing is scheduled for this fall and acknowledged the increased requests for outreach and community engagement.

Ms. Young explained that the SFEIS will include more concrete mitigation commitments. Ms. Young shared that this fall, the environmental team will focus on the initial commitments and how they will be integrated into the SFEIS. Ms. Young also mentioned that the SFEIS is expected to be published in the summer of 2025, with the amended Record



of Decision (ROD) and the conclusion of the Section 4(f) process anticipated around the same time.

Co-Chair Watson inquired about the process for prioritizing mitigation efforts. Ms. Young responded that the prioritization will be guided by outreach engagements and an understanding of community support.

## **5. Anti-Displacement Update**

Eric Gustafson from Hennepin County provided an update on the Anti-Displacement Board and its workgroup. He noted that Hennepin County continues to support the outcomes identified in the Anti-Displacement report. In collaboration with the Metropolitan Council, the corridor cities, and the MPRB, they are developing a Coordinated Action Plan (CAP). This plan compiles programs and activities aimed at supporting the strategies and outcomes outlined in the Anti-Displacement report. Mr. Gustafson mentioned that the CAP includes over 70 existing and proposed programs, with more than 50 of these already implemented in some form within the municipalities.

Mr. Gustafson also shared that the draft CAP is currently under review by the Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program Board (ADCPPB) and will be published next week for public review and comments.

Mr. Gustafson reported that Hennepin County is continuing to move forward with Anti-Displacement planning and implementation efforts. He mentioned that the ADCPPB has met three times since the legislative session in June 2024.

Commissioner Fernando clarified that while Hennepin County is responsible for administering the Anti-Displacement Committee Board, the board itself operates independently.

Jeff Lunde, Commissioner, Hennepin County acknowledged the complexity of the various components and processes involved, along with the many questions that arise. He expressed his appreciation for the ADCPPB and the ongoing work being done on Anti-Displacement efforts.

Rebecca Fabunmi from the City of Minneapolis expressed excitement about the project and emphasized that both businesses and communities will benefit and thrive from the BLE project.

Co-Chair Watson added that there is a need for effective business and community engagement to understand their needs and emphasized the importance of intentional planning before securing funding to ensure it reaches the businesses and communities most affected.



## **6. Municipal Consent Update**

Nick Thompson from the Metropolitan Council provided an update on municipal consent, noting that the BLE project submitted the design plans to each city and Hennepin County as required on July 26, 2024. He mentioned that these design plans are available at several locations, including public libraries, and online.

Mr. Thompson explained that the submission date of July 26 initiates a 30-day period for the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County Board, and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) to hold a Municipal Consent Public Hearing, scheduled for August 26, 2024, at 6 p.m.

He also noted that each city and Hennepin County has provided their dates and processes for public hearings to gather community input.

Mr. Thompson explained that following municipal consent, coordination with corridor city partners will continue as the project progresses to 60% design. He noted that the 30% design phase involved 2D design, while the 60% design phase will transition to a more detailed 3D design approach.

Mr. Thompson highlighted that there are five upcoming public hearings where the public will have the opportunity to provide their input. He also shared that the BLE Project has begun its communication and marketing efforts regarding the Municipal Consent process.

Bill Blonigan, Mayor of Robbinsdale, announced that the city will hold a Light Rail Transit (LRT) work session on August 21, 2024, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Mayor Blonigan emphasized that this event is not a formal public hearing but rather a walk-in session designed to gather input from the community.

Reva Chamblis, Council Member, Metropolitan Council, shared that letters will be sent to communities informing them of the Metropolitan Council's support. He noted that the letters should be arriving soon.

## **7. Next Meeting: September 12, 2024 – Tentative**

Chair Zelle mentioned that September 12, 2024, is being held as a tentative date in case any important information arises between now and then.

## **8. Adjourn**

Chair Zelle concluded the meeting and adjourned it at 2:15pm.

Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda, August 8, 2024

CMC Presentation, July 18, 2024 CMC Minutes

Respectfully submitted, Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead