

Metropolitan Council
Crystal City Hall, Lower Level, 4141 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN 55422
Meeting of the METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee
November 12, 2014

Members Present	Chair Susan Haigh	Brian Lamb	Shauen Pearce
	Jim Adams	Jeffrey Lunde	Marika Pfefferkorn
	Shep Harris	Scott McBride	Lona Schreiber
	Linda Higgins	Regan Murphy	George Selman
	Betsy Hodges	Mike Opat	Andy Snope
Members Absent	Gary Cunningham	Meg Forney	Scott Schulte
	James Schowalter		

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susan Haigh called the November 12, 2014 meeting of the METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee to order at 12:30 p.m. at the Crystal City Hall. Chair Haigh stated it was an exciting day for the first meeting of our Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee.

2. CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Haigh asked those members in attendance to indicate their name, organization or group they represent, their title and what is exciting from their perspective about the Blue Line Extension. All above members present participated in the introductions with the exception of Jeffrey Lunde, who arrived later. Chair Haigh then announced those who were not present today.

Commissioner Higgins asked if the Park Board had appointed Meg Forney, since the line is outside her district. Chair Haigh advised that we would look into this.

3. CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Chair Haigh gave an overview of the Charter of the CMC and why it is important. The CMC is advisory to the Metropolitan Council. The advisory role is to help identify and make the right choices about design and construction. This committee is going to be advisory to the project, throughout the project. The CMC will get reports from the project office and the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Business Advisory Committee (BAC). Representative for these two committees still need to be appointed.

Chair Haigh acknowledged that everyone is really busy and appreciated everyone's participation. Alternates are welcome to attend meetings to understand what is going on and stay up to speed. If the alternate is going to be in your place, please let staff know ahead of time, particularly if they haven't had a chance to get to meetings or have missed a few and need to get updates prior to the meeting.

Chair Haigh then asked for any questions about the charter. There were no questions.

4. FTA NEW STARTS OVERVIEW

Mark Fuhrmann welcomed the Chair and CMC members. Mr. Fuhrmann provided a background on the New Starts program stating it is a program sponsored by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), part of US DOT. There are currently 13 New Starts projects in the US authorized to go into the federal process and pursuing federal dollars from FTA. Historically there has been approximately \$1.9B that FTA awards to the most highly meritorious projects. Mr. Fuhrmann noted on a map of the US that there are three states that have two New Starts projects, one of which is MN with the SWLRT and BLRT projects.

FTA rates projects on two criteria; project justification criteria (with six sub criteria) and financial criteria. FTA ensures the project sponsors have the financial capacity to actually deliver these projects.

Commissioner Higgins asked if Chair Haigh saw the CMC meeting through the entire project.

Chair Haigh responded with “Yes, through opening.”

5. STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Mark Fuhrmann introduced himself as the Deputy General Manager, Program Director of Rail New Starts and stated the Blue Line Extension New Starts project will be the ninth in his career. Mr. Fuhrmann noted he was raised in Golden Valley and graduated of Robbinsdale Senior High School.

Christine Beckwith reviewed the project office organizational chart and introduced staff who then provided their background.

- Deputy General Manager – Capital Projects, Program Director Rail New Starts - Mark Fuhrmann
 - Assistant Director Administration/Public Involvement/Communications – Robin Kaufman

Ms. Robin Kaufman works on both the Southwest and Blue Line LRT projects. She has been with Met Council since 2001. In 2006 she moved to the Central Corridor Light Rail Project as the Manager of Public Involvement and in 2011 promoted to Assistant Director for all Light Rail projects. Ms. Kaufman oversees three departments: administration, public involvement, and communications. Ms. Kaufman has a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of MN, and a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from UofM, Humphrey Institute.
 - Manager, Public Involvement – Sam O’Connell

Ms. Sam O’Connell is the Manager of Public Involvement. Ms. O’Connell stated she is looking forward to working with the communities. Ms. O’Connell has been with MetroTransit for two and a half years. Prior to that she worked for Dakota County for six years, focusing on Transit and Transportation Planning, the Red Line, and BRT Line. She was also with

MnDOT for approximately 10 years working on high speed rail and commuter rail.

- Deputy Program Director – Christine Beckwith
Ms. Christine Beckwith, with three weeks of service as the Deputy Program Director. This will be her third New Starts Project. Ms. Beckwith has been with MetroTransit working on Central Corridor for a little over six years. She was a Project Controls Manager, moved up to Deputy Project Director and has been the acting Project Director for the last year of the project. Prior to MetroTransit she worked at MnDOT for more than 10 years. Ms. Beckwith has a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration.
- Project Director – Dan Soler
Mr. Dan Soler has been in this new position about four hours. Mr. Soler worked as an Engineer and Project Manager for Ramsey County Public Works for approximately 25 years. While working at Ramsey County he had the opportunity to work on the Green Line through the Technical Advisory Committee until 2007. Mr. Soler then moved over to MetroTransit and continued working on the Green Line as Director of Design and Construction.
- Executive Assistant – Sandie Cagaoan – previously introduced.
- Hennepin County
Ms. Beckwith expressed gratitude to Hennepin County on delivering such a well planned project to the MetCouncil. There will be many staff from Hennepin County who will continue to work in the project office and help us advance this project.
- Director, Transit Systems Design & Engineering – Currently Vacant
Ms. Beckwith advised these two vacant positions will be the next to fill. She also thanked MnDOT for their partnership in working on the Green Line, Blue Line Extension and the Green Line Extension.
- MnDOT Transitways Director – Tori Nill
Ms. Tori Nill introduced herself as having a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of MN. She started working at MnDOT in 2001, but has been working in the MetCouncil project office since 2007. She had worked on Northstar, the Green Line, the Green Line Extension and now the Blue Line Extension.
- Deputy Project Director – Currently Vacant
- Project Controls Manager – MarySue Abel
Ms. MarySue Abel is Manager of Project Controls at Central Corridor and will be serving in that role on the Blue Line Extension to manage the engineering services contract. Ms. Abel has 22 years of experience as a Civil Engineer. She has a Bachelors Degree from Michigan Tech, and a Masters from Virginia Tech. Ms. Abel has been with MetroTransit eight years and has also worked for a Disadvantage Business Enterprise before coming to MetroTransit.
- Assistant Director, Environmental/Agreements – Kathryn O'Brien
Ms. Kathryn O'Brien manages the Environmental Review Process and Agreements. She also grew up on the corridor.
- Manager, Planning & Agreements – Alicia Vap
Ms. Alicia Vap is the Manager of Planning and Agreements, coming to the Council in 2008. Ms. Vap has a Masters Degree in Planning from the University of Kansas, moved to Minnesota in 1998. She worked for MnDOT for a couple

years, and then Ramsey County for nine years working on traffic studies. While working for MetroTransit on the Green Line she has worked with the design group, working on station planning/art/streetscape/agreements. She has already began working with partners at Hennepin County as they start the community works and station area planning.

Ms. Beckwith described the project office structure that includes project staff, as well as consultants, Hennepin County and MnDOT. The organizational chart will grow over time as we bring in more planners, architects, and other technical experts to fill out those roles in the project office. Ms. Beckwith asked if there were any questions. There were none.

6. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Dan Soler presented an overview of the project using a PowerPoint presentation which included a project description, funding sources and schedule. A short project visualization video was shown of the BLRT alignment.

Mr. Soler noted that issue resolution teams for things such as track alignment, station locations and operations and maintenance facility design will be formed. Project Development activities will include environmental review process, municipal consent, local funding commitments and the project office.

Chair Haigh asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Shep Harris asked if municipal consent would be just station locations and when station design would occur.

Mr. Soler responded that there will be more than just station locations. We'll know where the station is, the configurations, access to the stations, how folks will get there. We might not know if we are going to have colored concrete or pavers, or are we going to have this shelter or that shelter. Those specifics will come under final design. But where is the station, what is the access, park and ride issues associated with the station – all of those kinds of elements are what is put together in Municipal Consent.

Chair Haigh asks for any other questions. None are asked.

7. OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Robin Cauffman stated that in early 2015 we will hire a couple outreach coordinators. We also have additional resources through our engineering consultants. We plan on holding public meetings, meet one-on-one with business owners, property owners or open houses.

Ms. Cauffman shared that the BLRT web site is up and active. CMC meeting agenda and minutes will be posted on this site, as well as upcoming meeting dates. Staff will be preparing newsletters that will be distributed through GovDelivery. We also have a twitter account. She asked CMC members to update their website with links to the project website and follow the project on twitter. We will also be preparing other materials such as fact sheets, brochures, boards, PowerPoints, visualizations, etc.

We will be forming the Community Advisory and Business Advisory Committees. There will be two members, one representative from each of the committees that will be joining the Corridor Management Committee. They will be providing monthly updates on the CAC and BAC discussions. We plan on seating those committees next year. If there are special issues that come up, we may create an advisory committee for those as well.

Mayor Harris – The community action committees, how many of those are there going to be? One per community or one corridor wide?

Ms Caufman responded that there is one Community Advisory Committee and one Business Advisory Committee corridor wide. We are preparing a proposal to present at the December or January CMC meeting.

Mayor Lunde asked how we communicate with non-English speaking residence?

Ms. Caufman responded that we are in the process of drafting our public involvement plan. We will have a master purchase order with a translation company so that if we need to have a meeting or do a presentation or translate materials into another language, we will be able to do so. We will translate some materials into the common languages along the corridor. Some of your staff has already reached out and I am working on setting up a meeting with Kim to start talking about communications and how we can coordinate efforts. We will have meetings monthly to help coordinate meetings and communications, Ms Caufman noted that she is interested in any feedback or suggestions such as specific languages that are spoken in the community or meeting locations. Ms. Caufman noted that we will need meeting locations that can accommodate a small meeting all the way up to 500+.

Chair Haigh stated that there will be a lot of opportunity for the CMC members to provide input on community outreach, including the makeup of Community Advisory Committee and Business Advisory Committee.

Chair Haigh advised that she understands the time of this meeting is not good for some people and asked the CMC members to send us any for other meeting times or locations in the corridor. The location should have transit access, ADA accessibility, parking.

Commissioner Higgins noted that the next meeting on the agenda is Dec 10 conflicts with the Hennepin County Board meeting.

Chair Haigh asked for other questions or comments. We will try to have these meetings no longer than 1.5 hours. If we need them longer because of a topic, we will make sure to let you know in advance.

Mayor Harris thanked Chair Haigh for organizing the CMC and said where we can work as a team, please let us know, especially when it comes to local funding, especially at the state level, where we can partner as a team working with our legislators, by all

means, please feel free. He has good relationships with the Mayors and local legislators in terms of trying to address those issues up at the capitol, working with MetCouncil and Hennepin County.

Chair Haigh appreciated the comment and noted that transportation funding will be an important topic at during the 2015 legislative session.

Councilmember Snope asked if presentation could be distributed electronically.

Ms. Cauffman advised that the meeting materials are posted online under a section called "Committees"

Mayor Opat noted that it's hard to believe we actually got this far. When George [Selman] talks about serving on the advisory committee for 12 years, it's scary to think it has gone on that long, but we really have crossed a threshold now it is time to start getting excited about the plan and each station.

With no further discussion, adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.