



**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)
Community Advisory Committee Meeting
February 28, 2017
Southwest Project Office
6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 500
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

CAC Members/Alternates: Co-chairs Jennifer Munt, Brian Kirk, Andrew Pieper, Charles Weber, Craig Westgate, Jamil Ford, Janet Weivoda, Jeff Strate, Jody Strakosch, Lee Munnich, Sara Maaske, Shirajoy Abry, Vida Ditter

Agency Staff and Guests: Sam O'Connell, Dan Pfeiffer, Nkongo Cigolo, James Mockovciak, Sophia Ginis, Eden Prairie's David Lindahl

I. Welcome and Review of Meeting Summary

Co-Chair Munt called the meeting to order. No changes to last meeting summary.

II. Project Update

Dan Pfeiffer gave the project update. Invitation for bid was issued las week. Bids are due on May 2. Shared information regarding the upcoming contract/DBE meet and great scheduled for March 3. The project is encouraging DBE firms to attend the pre-bid meeting for an opportunity to interact with interested contractors. In addition, Mr. Pfeiffer informed the group about the LRT Build Program that is being designed for training the workforce and linking them up with contractors.

There was a question about how information would reach interested parties. The project will distribute materials once the program is set up.

A question was raised about participation of some local training schools such as The Dunwoody College of Technology. The program is being set up as an apprenticeship preparatory program in collaboration with local unions. The program will also involve high school students to give them the benefit of pursuing a construction career if interested.

A concern was raised about accessibility to training facilities and followed by a request to have the training facilities located in the metro area to enable interested low-income and transit dependent communities to attend the training sessions. Concern and request were noted. Co-Chair Munt stated that she hopes that the demand meets the 32 percent set goal for people of color and women to work on the SWLRT project.

Co-chair Munt wondered whether it would be possible that SWLRT workforce could also work on the BLRT project as well. There is a possibility for that to happen.

A committee member commented that it would be useful to track workforce that will be trained through the LRT Build Program. Mr. Pfeiffer stated that the first cohort would be 40 trainees and the next would be the same number of trainees.

III. Community Advisory Committee Recap/Celebration

Sam O'Connell recapped what the committee has accomplished since it was formed in 2012. The committee conversations have shaped the outcome of the project. The group had 37 meetings with 92 members that have contributed and advised on 23 technical issues, including Eden Prairie alignment, freight relocation/co-location and the location of the Operations and Maintenance Facility.

Mrs. O'Connell went over the requirements set forth while picking out a site for the location of the future SWLRT Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF). Thanked the committee for having looked at evaluation criteria for the OMF site. The committee had also sent a recommendation to the Corridor Management Committee during the budget reduction exercise. In addition, the committee spent time on the Hennepin County Community Works program and participated at several community meetings, discussing issues with neighbors.

Mrs. O'Connell went over the next steps for the committee. Explained that now that design issues have been resolved at 100 percent, the committee will be dissolved as the project focuses on construction outreach and communications. The committee will be replaced by construction information workgroups.

A question was raised about who would be involved in the construction information workgroups. It would comprise some of the previous advisory committee members, community/neighborhood groups, city staff, project office staff and the contractor.

A question about whether a group similar to the construction information group was used on the Green Line in St. Paul. Yes, there were similar local groups. The construction information work groups will be set by city.

A question about heavy work in the Bassett Creek Valley and how would the project deal with design changes later in the project. There typically would not be changes to the current design, and if there were any information that warranted the involvement of the Bassett Creek Valley, community members from affected cities sitting on the construction information work groups can help address those appropriately.

Mrs. O'Connell advised that if members were interested in being a part of the construction information work groups, to please inform their outreach coordinator.

A comment about whether the workgroups would be local to where the work is happening. It was effective while building the Green Line as it helped the communication process. In addition, there will be a construction hotline, and call logs will be shared with the group for their review and to help identify improvement opportunities.

A comment about making sure that if there would be significant noise to make sure that residents are aware and that times are communicated in advance.

A concern was raised about damages during construction. Pre-construction surveys along the alignment for various types of work will be conducted to document existing conditions; this will protect both the property owner and the contractor should a claim arise.

There was a question about meeting times for information work groups. Information work groups will set up their meeting times according to what works with everyone.

VI. Member and Committee Reports/Public Forum

Jody Strakosch stated that the neighborhood is concerned about noise and potential damages.

Vida Ditter stated that with the confirmation that there will be a station at the Bassett Creek Station, developers are now coming to ask about the availability of land.

Brian Kirk advised that he would be using the alignment to get to work as their corporate office is moving to Minneapolis.

Co-Chair Munt advised that the committee took in a lot of information and thanked the group for attending the meetings.

VII. Meeting Adjourned