



**Southwest Light Rail Transitway (SWLRT)
Joint Business and Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Blake School
School Library
110 Blake Road South
Hopkins, MN 55343
April 26, 2016, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Attendees: CAC Members/Alternates: Council Member Jennifer Munt (co-chair), Russ Adams (co-chair), Shirajoy Abry, Abdihakim Ereg, Melissa Everett, Mathews Hollinshead, Sara Maaske, Lee Munnich, Doug Peterson, Jeff Strate, Charles Weber, Craig Westgate

BAC Members/Alternates: Dan Duffy (co-chair), Will Roach (co-chair), Gary Orcutt, Dave Perner, Rick Weiblen

Agency Staff and Guests: Ann Beuch, Nkongo Cigolo, Sarah Ghandour, Sophia Ginis, Craig Lamothe, David Lindahl, James Mockovciak, Sam O’Connell, Bob Roster, Celeste Shahidi, Katie Walker

1. Welcome and Review of Meeting Summary

BAC Co-Chair Will Roach called the meeting to order. Members reviewed meeting minutes from the 1/26/2016 CAC and 1/27/2016 BAC meetings. No suggested changes; summaries approved.

Craig Lamothe presented the key 2016 Legislative session dates, the Governor’s budget proposal, including the 2017-2019 revenue forecast for the proposed ½ cent sales tax in 7-county metro area. There were three questions:

Question 1: Doug Peterson wondered how the revenue forecast was developed.

Answer: The forecast is based on current economic trends.

Question 2: Lee Munnich inquired about the timeframe to build future rail corridors.

Answer: There are other transit projects included in the plan to build the system out by 2040.

Question 3: Rick Weiblen inquired about the SWLRT state funding progress.

Answer: The latest 14-mayor conference echoed support for funding SWLRT, and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies drafted a letter in support of transit reiterating its value for their employees.

2. Business Case for SWLRT

BAC Co-Chair Will Roach presented the business case for Southwest LRT. See presentation <http://metro council.org/getdoc/398c5f4d-f28b-4846-8c5d-4d8d1a34fd8f/Presentation.aspx>.

3. SWLRT New Starts Update

Mr. Lamothe presented a New Starts update. He highlighted how competitive these projects are around the country and that President Obama's budget included 120 million dollars for the SWLRT in fiscal year 2017. In addition, he mentioned that SWLRT still retains its medium-high Federal Transit Administration rating.

4. Station Design update

Sarah Ghandour presented a station design update that highlighted the architecture and design of station panels ("wickets"). She also summarized a successful Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) workshop recently held at SPO. There were three questions and one comment.

Question 1: Mr. Peterson inquired about the maintenance plan of station wickets, specifically in case of graffiti.

Answer: Metro Transit will maintain station wickets and will also be in charge of graffiti removal. Cameras will also be installed for deterrence.

Question 2: Craig Westgate wondered whether design factors would increase light pollution.

Answer: Light pollution is taken into account in the design phase to minimize any additional impact.

Question 3: Jeff Strate wondered whether wickets could later be replaced with real art work.

Answer: Wickets have a lifespan of 10 years and there is a possibility that they could be replaced with art work in the future.

Comment 1: Mr. Weiblen stated that it was good that wickets give an identity to each station, adding that it provides a higher level of orientation.

5. Corridor Development Update

Kathryn Hansen presented an overview of corridor development associated with the SWLRT. There was one question.

Question 1: Mr. Peterson expressed concern that previous committee discussions about equity in SWLRT/TOD were no longer as important as they were in the past, and questioned the Project's continued commitment to affordable housing matters.

Answer: CAC Co-Chair Russ Adams and Ms. Hansen reassured him the Project's commitment to equity in development had not waned.

Ms. Hansen introduced the most recent Community Works video along the corridor highlighting the value of LRT in Eden Prairie. To view the Eden Prairie video click on the following link <http://www.swlrtccommunityworks.org/news/eden-prairie-video>.

6. SWLRT Next Steps

Mr. Lamothe presented the project next steps for the remainder of 2016.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Tour of Green and Blue Line Stations scheduled for May 17, 2016 at 6 PM (Meet at Target Field)

Next CAC meeting scheduled for May 24, 2016, at 6 PM.

Next BAC Meeting scheduled for May 25, 2016, at 7:30 AM.