

Metropolitan Council

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
December 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m., St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates Present	Acting Chair Molly Cummings Mike Barnes Debbie Goettel Chris LaTondresse	John Pacheco Nick Thompson Brad Wiersum	Tim Brausen (Alt) Dave Lindahl (Alt) Suzanne Sobotka (Alt)
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Cummings called the December 7, 2022, meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee to order at 10:05 and welcomed attendees. Members introduced themselves. Acting Chair Cummings announced that Metro Transit held its grand opening of the D Line recently, which was well attended. Metro Transit recently adopted an administrative policy on Transitway implementations. This requires the Council and local sponsors to establish roles and responsibilities in addressing project risks. There is a lot of support for this, and Cummings thanked everyone for their support.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acting Chair Cummings presented the October 5, 2022, SWLRT Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes for approval. Council Member Brausen made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner LaTondresse seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Michael Kranz, Acting TOD Project Manager presented. The development trend report was presented, which looked at both permitted and planned development in the high frequency transit routes and planned transitways. This report tracks about \$13.7 billion development, which was permitted along high frequency transit routes since 2009. This represents about 36% of the total regional development. Four in ten development dollars are spent along high vehicle transit routes.

The development along the Green Line Extension project was shown on a map. The tracking for the Green Line Extension started back in 2011. There have been over 4,700 residential units built along the corridor, with a value of \$731M. Including commercial and residential, there is over \$1.8B permitted development occurring along the corridor.

Planned development figures were also shared. The bulk of development is residential and mixed use, with approximately \$760M in planned development along the Green Line Extension. There was a significant jump in 2019, when heavy construction began on the Project. There was a decline in 2020 coinciding with the pandemic, and a rebound in 2021.

Michael shared maps showing the difference from 2010 and 2022 in development figures. Maps were shown for Downtown Hopkins, Shady Oak, Wooddale and West Lake station areas.

Commissioner LaTondresse appreciated the information that is being pulled together. He asked why the dip in the development analysis in 2020? Also, if there is any information for 2022. Michael said the dip in 2020 was driven by the pandemic, especially for multifamily construction. Quarter two of 2020 saw the greatest dip, which then rebounded at the end of 2020 and looked stronger in 2021. Michael stated his department will be assembling 2022 numbers mid-year 2023.

Mayor Wiersum commented that he sees how transit lifts the economy throughout the entire metro, not just the area around the corridor. Michael agrees and has seen data that shows that economic benefits are elevated for the entire region, not just the region around the Project.

4. PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director provided an update on the Project. The Project is about 70% complete overall and we continue to look to 2027 for revenue service. To date, 8 of the 16 track segments have been turned over for Systems work. We are currently working with the Systems contractor, Aldridge Parsons, on a settlement agreement. Commissioner Goettel asked where are we at with this Systems settlement? Jim said the goal is to have a change order completed in the first quarter of 2023 which will establish a re-baselined schedule in the contract and provide a process to resolve costs associated with the additional time required to complete.

Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager of Metro Transit Capital Projects, reported on Project funding. We have been working with our funding partners all year on this and added \$80M earlier this year. We continue to make good progress in filling the funding gap.

Jim reviewed the number of construction workers on the Project. There have been 3,885 individuals who have worked on the Project through October 2022. These workers are coming from 69 of the 87 Minnesota counties.

Commissioner Goettel asked about worksite safety numbers. Jim does not have these numbers available, but we will pull these together and have this presented next meeting.

Photos were shared of the construction. Jim reviewed highlights of the work, which include:

- LRT track has been placed from SouthWest Station to just north of Opus Station.
- Secant wall work is approximately 86% complete.
- Corridor protection wall is nearly complete.
- The Excelsior Boulevard LRT bridge structure in Hopkins is nearly complete, and the roadways are back open.
- Good progress has been made on the three bridges in the Glenwood Avenue area and Glenwood Avenue is scheduled to open in 2023.
- Kenilworth tunnel construction work continues.

Photos were shared of the Systems work.

Trails. Jim reported that the bicycle/pedestrian trail from Blake Road to just west of Louisiana Avenue is anticipated to open in the Spring. The Opus area trails are scheduled to open in 2023. We continue to look for opportunities to open the trails when safe to do so.

Public Involvement. Jim reported we are well over 2,000 public meetings held since Preliminary Engineering. In 2022, we held over 250 stakeholder meetings and conducted 33 tours. We will start the tours back up in 2023.

Acting Chair Cummings appreciates the road and trail openings. She also mentioned the tours that were held have been very valuable. The Project Office staff is very accommodating with these tours. If there are any groups that need a tour, let the Project Office know.

Commissioner LaTondresse asked about the timing for future closures of Excelsior Boulevard. Nic Dial, Director of Construction, stated the roadway will be closed to complete painting activities. There will be brief, one- to two-day closures in 2023.

Mayor Wiersum commented that he appreciates the presentation and photos and realizes there are a lot of challenges to face, especially with the Kenilworth tunnel area.

5. DBE/WORKFORCE UPDATE

Jon Tao from the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity reviewed the DBE achievement numbers as of September 30, 2022. The construction and systems contractors are both exceeding their goals. As the Project continues, DBE participation increases in some areas. Disaggregated data was shared. We are currently at 17.97% DBE total based on the contracts in place. We continue to work with the contractors on their DBE participation along with looking into payment concerns that DBE vendors may have.

In October, Minnesota held a Construction Inclusion Week event which we participated in. The Civil contractor LMJV had a booth there to inform people about the Project and the construction industry. Photos were shared of this event.

The Systems contractor, APJV partnered with the local community-based organization Summit Academy OIC. APJV brought their safety trailer out to the school in northeast Minneapolis and provided safety information. This outreach provided students a chance to learn about the work that APJV does on the Project.

A summary was shown of the workforce participation for the Civil, Franklin and Systems construction contracts. Systems contract will ramp up more in 2023. Cumulative workforce disaggregated numbers were shared. When comparing the Project numbers with other projects in the region, such as with MnDOT, we are on par. We do continue to hold conversations at the DBE Workforce Advisory Committee on how to increase our numbers.

Council Member Brausen would like to hear best practices of other organizations, so we can learn from some of these challenges. Jon reported we would like to carry our momentum onto future projects. Council Member Brausen mentioned local levels can also learn from this.

6. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. The next meeting will be in February.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Hoffner, Recording Secretary