



Southwest Transitway Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Wednesday, March 25, 2009 - 6:00 to 8:00pm
Wolfe Lake Professional Building

Attendees: See member sign-in sheet

Southwest Project Team Staff

Katie Walker	Hennepin County, Project Manager
Oscar Gonzalez	HDR Engineering, Inc.
Mona Elabaddy	HDR Engineering, Inc.
Kathie Doty	KLD Consulting

Others

Paul Freeman
Mark Bishop
Cameron Slick, Transit for Livable Communities

Meeting Notes

I. Member Updates

Katie Walker opened the meeting by reporting on outreach to community groups over the past month or so to let them know about the route alternative introduced in the scoping process, LRT 3C subalternative. Ms. Walker described the route which travels on Blaisdell or 1st Ave So into downtown, then uses one-way pairs on 11th and 12th streets to travel north, then loop around to interline with Hiawatha. There were no member updates.

II. Legislative Update

Ms. Walker reported that the SW project has been included by Congressman Ellison's in the 2009 Federal appropriations bill for \$534,000. The project will be requesting \$9 million in 2010 which will be needed to keep the project on track. At the State level, the project is requesting \$5 million in the bonding bill for preliminary engineering and environmental work.

Ms. Walker distributed the SW Policy Advisory Group roster that had been requested by CAC members at the last meeting. With the roster, CAC members can determine with whom they should confer if there is a need to do so. Ms. Walker also followed up on a request for how much it cost the County to conduct analysis on the LRT 3E route alternative. Ms. Walker reported that it cost about \$40,000 in staff and consultant time to conduct this analysis.

III. Screening Criteria



Ms. Walker explained that the screening criteria will be used to narrow the route alternatives down to one preferred alternative. She reviewed the process of arriving at a locally preferred alternative, which starts with technical analysis being presented to the Southwest Technical Advisory Committee this summer, then the SW TAC recommendation will go to the SW Policy Advisory Committee, then their recommendation will be forwarded to the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority. By the end of the year, it is hoped that the HCRRA preferred route will be incorporated into the Metropolitan Council's long range Transportation Policy Plan.

Ms. Walker reviewed the document, Criteria for Screening Process with the CAC. Members raised several questions and made comments which were noted by the project team.

IV. Public Outreach Plan Update

Kathie Doty provided an overview of the public outreach plan to support the selection of a locally preferred alternative, and to ensure involvement of the public in the remainder of the DEIS process.

V. Open Forum

Cameron Slick asked questions about the Nicollet Ave/Midtown Corridor alternative, including where the tunnel portals on Nicollet would be located, and whether there are enough stops on Nicollet Ave. He expressed concerns about not enough stops, particularly along Nicollet and by the Mpls Convention Center. In order to get more stops, Mr. Slick advocated for an at-grade route on 1st Ave or Blaisdell Ave.