



## Meeting Minutes

Southwest Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

June 23 2010, 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Wolfe Lake Professional Center

### Meeting Attendees

#### CAC Members and Alternates

Paul Nelson  
Eric Lind  
Vicki Moore  
Art Higinbotham  
Vida Ditter  
Bruce Monson  
Rick Weiblen

#### Southwest Staff & Consultant Team

Katie Walker (Hennepin County)  
Adele Hall (Hennepin County)  
Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting)  
Ann Wolff (KLD Consulting)  
Dennis Gimmestad (MN Dept. of Transportation)

#### Other Attendees

Gina Bystedt (Eden Prairie)  
Brian Zachek (Safety in the Park)  
Larry McMullen (Lakes Cicithomes Association)

### **I. Updates**

Katie Walker, SW Project Manager, began with addressing agenda item three and informed the committee about the Community Members Working Group meeting for station area planning the evening before. She shared that there will be two open houses –July 13 at Bryn Mawr and July 14 at Kenwood Rec Center. Ms. Walker asked for member updates and Vicki Moore indicated that the ROC, Harrison, and Bryn Mawr groups have been working to learn more about train storage. Vida Ditter shared that they have talked about the stations being elevated to store the trains underneath.

Art Higinbotham shared information on a study group being formed on the impacts of light rail on parks. The group includes three city council members, a commissioner, and other officials. He will report back to the group when more information is known.

Ms. Walker shared updates to the project through the action on May 26 by the Metropolitan Council to select 3A, which officially amends the TPP, a step necessary for a project to apply for Preliminary Engineering. Ms. Walker indicated that the application will be turned in to the FTA in August and typically the FTA will review for three to six months. The project office with Metro Council and Hennepin County staff and consultants will likely be open in early 2011. Ms. Walker shared that the DEIS is now at FTA offices in Chicago and D.C. and they will have a sixty to ninety day review. The document cannot be released to the public until the FTA approves the release. There will be public outreach efforts at that time to encourage the public to read and comment on the document.

Ms. Walker shared that Hennepin County has designated the Southwest LRT as a Community Works Partnership. Ms. Walker also shared that the Met Council will be assembling a Corridor Management Group of elected officials in August/September.



## **II. 106 Update**

Dennis Gimmestad, MnDOT, introduced himself to the group and summarized the 106 review information he shared at the January meeting. Although the 106 review is happening at the same time as the DEIS, it is an independent process and will keep moving along while the DEIS is being reviewed. Mr. Gimmestad distributed a handout of historic properties/historic districts under review by segments and stated that there has been a recommendation of areas that need archeological survey and they are underway to contract an archeologist to do this work. A question was asked regarding the half-mile radius studied for station area planning versus the quarter-mile radius studied here. Mr. Gimmestad indicated that the station area plans were so conceptual that it was difficult to anticipate impacts at a greater radius. Mr. Gimmestad indicated that mostly historical documents have been studied at this time rather than land use planning studies sponsored by neighborhoods. These types of studies and comprehensive plans will be monitored and Mr. Gimmestad asked the group to bring to their attention any of which they may be aware.

The group discussed the archeological surveys and the possibility that none of the areas or very few will be found eligible. The group also discussed issues of sovereignty and the need to work with tribal groups to share information. Vicki Moore pointed out that Harrison is an original Finish settlement. Art Higinbotham asked if the bridge over the channel is an historic structure and Mr. Gimmestad indicated that it is not. Mr. Gimmestad indicated that the evaluation will continue throughout the summer.

## **III. 2010 Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Walker indicated that Met Council Chair Peter Bell would like to come to a CAC meeting to meet community leaders along the corridor. Members should keep an eye out for an email regarding a possible meeting in July. The October meeting should fall within the comment period for the DEIS which will serve as an opportunity to walk through the document, Ms. Walker stated that Kathie Doty will be working to have the document available in an executive summary format and the DEIS will be available at city hall locations, libraries, and online. Ms. Walker indicated that they are working to find a way to make the document easier to read and understand, and to be searchable in pdf format.

## **IV. Open Forum**

Mr. Higinbotham asked if HDR and the station area planning consultant (AECOM) will be in consultation with each other. Ms. Walker indicated that they will be sharing documents to make sure all elements of the project are understood.

Ms. Ditter asked about the anticipated rollout of the Community Works Project to the community and Ms. Walker indicated that they are working internally to work out timing issues, but hope to convene in August and then things should move along quickly. The group discussed the RFP regarding the rail relocation and that consultant Kimley Horn was chosen as the consultant. Ms. Walker indicated that the RFP is still online for information.

## **V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.