



SW Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2015

1:30 – 3:00 PM, St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates:

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member

Dick Miller, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Member

Jeff Casale, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Alternate

Caren Dewar, Urban Land Institute – Minnesota Member

Marion Greene, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority Member

Kristi Halvorson, City of Hopkins Member

Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie Member

Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis Member

Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Southwest Transit Member

Tony Wagner, City of Minnetonka Member

Other attendees: Katie Walker (Hennepin County) Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Janet Jeremiah(EP), Meg McMonigal (SLP), Julie Wischnack(Minnetonka), Elise Durbin(Minnetonka), Kersten Elverum(Hopkins), Kerri Pearce Ruch(Hennepin County), Dan Pfeiffer(SPO), Michael Krantz (SPO), Cathy Bennett (Urban Land Institute), Barry Schade (BMNA), Larry Blackstad (MCWD).

I. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Callison called the meeting to order and began with a number of announcements. It was announced that President Obama included \$150 million in his 2016 budget for the Southwest LRT project and the project's New Starts rating also improved from a medium to medium high due in part to the work done by the Southwest Community Works partners in the areas of land use, economic development, and housing. Funding applications were submitted under the regional solicitation process for three trail grade separations and a park/ride at the Beltline station. The proposals have ranked well and staff are cautiously optimistic that they will received the requested funding.

II. **Approval of October 2014 Minutes:** Chair Callison requested action on the October 2014 minutes. Jeff Casale moved approval, Nancy Tyra-Lukens seconded. Minutes from October meeting were approved on a voice vote.

III. **Committee updates:** Katie Walker, co-chair of the Southwest Community Works Technical Implementation Committee (TIC) provided an update on committee activities. The TIC is working on identifying funding sources to implement the infrastructure projects contained in the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework as well as sharing information on development projects.



Dan Pfeiffer, Southwest Project Office (SPO) provided an update on the Business and Community Advisory Committees. The two committees have been reconstituted now that the Southwest LRT project has progressed into advanced design. The committees will meet monthly for the next two years and will advise both the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee and the Southwest LRT Corridor Management Committee. A member from each committee will be appointed to serve on the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee. Those appointments are expected prior to the March meeting of the steering committee.

IV. **Survey Results and Recommendations:** Katie Walker, Hennepin County staff, reviewed the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee survey results. Members were asked to complete an online survey to help inform future activities. The general conclusion from the survey and the committee discussion is that the committee is well served by their current charter and the Technical Implementation Committee and that their focus areas are and should remain continuing to work collectively to achieve their stated vision and goals. The committee did identify infrastructure connections, financing/funding, public spaces, and jobs/employment development as their priority focus areas for 2015. The committee also discussed expanding their membership to include the Three Rivers Park District and business/corporate interests. The committee also expressed an interest in strengthening their relationship to and clarifying the roles of the Business and Community Advisory Committees. Staff was asked to reflect these priorities in the proposed 2015 workplan which will be discussed at the March meeting.

Member Tony Wagner requested that Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO) staff be asked to attend the March meeting to discuss their approach to LRT station design with an emphasis on how the SPO will respond to comments and concerns about passenger comfort, protection from the elements, and integration with the character of the broader station area and development. Staff was asked to invite SPO staff to present at the March meeting.

V. **Future March meeting topics:** Chair Callison announced that the March meeting topics will include LRT Station Architecture, the Downtown Hopkins station video, the draft Corridor Wide Housing Strategy, and the 2015 Workplan.

VI. **Adjournment:** Chair Callison adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM