

**Southwest LRT Community Works Steering
Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 17, 2014

1:30-3:00pm, St Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member

Linda Higgins, Hennepin County Alternate

Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis Member

James Hovland, City of Edina Member

Jason Gadd, City of Hopkins Member

Tony Wagner, City of Minnetonka Member

Jeff Casale, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Alternate

Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board Member

Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Southwest Transit Member

Other Attendees

Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Barry Schade (Bryn Mawr), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Kevin Locke (SLP), Cathy Bennett (ULIMN), Jeanette Colby (KIAA/CAC), Janet Jeremiah (EP), Vida Y Ditter (Bryn Mawr/ROC), Kathryn Hansen (SW LRT Project Office), Karen Lyons (Metropolitan Council), Sara Schmitt (KLD), Kathie Doty (KLD)

I. Welcome

Chair Jan Callison convened the meeting and offered an announcement that the grand opening of the Interchange (new Target Field station) will be held on May 17. She asked Minneapolis member Linea Palmisano for an update on getting an alternate for the Steering Committee from Minneapolis. Ms. Palmisano responded that an alternate would be named soon.

II. Approval of February 20, 2013 Minutes

Chair Callison asked for a motion on the minutes from the February 20, 2013 Steering Committee meeting. The minutes were moved by Jason Gadd and seconded by Anita Tabb, and passed on a voice vote.

III. Southwest Corridor Investment Framework

Chair Callison asked Katie Walker for an update. Ms. Walker reported that cities are presently reviewing the Investment Framework and considering action to formally accept this document. Jason Gadd asked if cities could suggest changes, and Ms. Walker said that staff will be

collecting recommendations for changes and the Investment Framework will be re-issued after changes have been incorporated.

IV. LRT New Starts Application Presentation

Kathryn Hansen, Southwest Project Office, presented key elements of the New Starts Application and an overview of the New Starts rating system. Key points of her presentation included: the Southwest LRT line (Green Line Extension) is a part of a regional system; key goals include increasing access to jobs and creating more affordable housing. Also, it will be emphasized that there has been considerable investment of time and funding to date for this transit project from the local level. Ms. Hansen outlined the application schedule, stating that today we are doing a high-level review, in May the draft document will be distributed for review, and in June, the application will be finalized.

Ms. Hansen then focused on the New Starts rating for Land Use and Economic Development, which will be 17% of the overall score. She outlined the specific elements of this rating and listed quantitative measures that would be analyzed. Chair Callison asked the Committee if they thought there were any key items missing in the overview provided by Ms. Hansen. Anita Tabb asked about low-wage workers and connecting them to jobs, specifically asking for numbers behind the table on low wage jobs/acre. Ms. Hansen replied that she would get these specifics to the Committee. Tony Wagner asked if there were other actions the cities could take to increase the SW LRT score, and also asked if input from outside consultants had identified ways to strengthen the application. Ms. Hansen said that input from G.B. Arrington and Mariia Zimmerman has been valuable, and specifically mentioned that cities have received input on affordable housing issues and possible zoning changes. Mr. Wagner asked if city comprehensive plans should be updated to reflect information in the application. Ms. Hansen replied that that would make sense after 2040 estimates included in ThriveMSP 2040 are approved by the Met Council this spring. Chair Callison asked if we have a strong story to make that will lead to a higher rating. Ms. Hansen replied in the affirmative, and offered that regional efforts including transit-supportive planning and zoning changes are moving us in the right direction. James Hovland expressed his appreciation for Ms. Palmisano's presence on this Committee, especially given the importance of Minneapolis in this process.

Chair Callison asked if a full application would be available for presentation in the May meeting and, after discussion, it was decided that Ms. Hansen would present on the final application at the June Steering Committee meeting.

V. Adjournment

Jan Callison adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on May 15, 2014.