



Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

October 6, 2010 8:00-9:30 am

St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

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| Gail Dorfman | Hennepin County | Member |
| Jan Callison | Hennepin County | Member |
| Peter McLaughlin | Hennepin County | Member |
| Bob McFarlin | Metropolitan Council | Member |
| Don Samuels | City of Minneapolis | Member |
| Anne Mavity | City of St. Louis Park | Member |
| Phil Finkelstein | City of St. Louis Park | Alternate |
| Jim Hovland | City of Edina | Member |
| Mary Brindle | City of Edina | Alternate |
| Rick Brausen | City of Hopkins | Member |
| Terry Schneider | City of Minnetonka | Alternate |
| Kathy Nelson | City of Eden Prairie | Member |

Other Attendees

Phil Eckhert (Hennepin County), Patrick Connoy (Hennepin County), Adele Hall (Hennepin County), Carol Lezotte Anderson (Hennepin County), Dave Nuckols (Hennepin County), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Katie Hatt (Hennepin County), Mark Fuhrman (Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit), Karen Lyons (Metropolitan Council), Susan Hoyt (Metropolitan Council), Kevin Locke (City of St. Louis Park), Meg McMonigal (City of St. Louis Park), Kersten Elverun (City of Hopkins), Randy Newton (City of Eden Prairie), Karin Berkholtz (Minneapolis), Jeff Casale (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Dick Miller (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Chuck Salter (Hennepin County Attorney), Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting), Caren Dewar (ULI Minnesota), John Shardlow (Bonestroo), Jay Demma (Bonestroo), Bill Clements (Finance & Commerce)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Commissioner Gail Dorfman (Hennepin County Member) opened the meeting of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Community Works Steering Committee with introductions. Commissioner Dorfman then provided an update on the Southwest LRT project: the application to enter Preliminary Engineering has been submitted to the FTA; the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been submitted and is expected to be released for public comment next month (a request is being made to the FTA to extend the public comment period to allow for time after the holidays); Station Area Planning for Minneapolis stations is underway and work is expected to be completed by early 2011; the Minneapolis Park Board has convened a community advisory group to develop comments for the DEIS. Commissioner Dorfman also reported that three studies are underway regarding location of freight rail service presently in the Kenilworth corridor. One of these studies, the MN&S study, includes a detailed analysis of the impacts of relocating freight rail to the MN&S line in St. Louis Park and a project management team with community members. This work is expected to be completed early in 2011. She also reported that there had been a derailment of a TC&W train in the corridor owned by the County on the previous Saturday. No one was hurt in the

derailment, most trains were empty, and the County is conferring with TC&W to learn more about what caused the derailment. Phil Eckhert reported that an independent consultant has been hired to conduct a detailed analysis of the condition of the rails in this corridor.

It was also reported that a number of funding opportunities to support work on transit oriented development are about to become available including the recently awarded Sustainability Grant, funding from the McKnight and Ford Foundations, and potentially a Living Cities grant.

II. September 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Dorfman asked the Committee to take action on the meeting minutes from the September 8, 2010 meeting. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) motioned to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Peter McLaughlin (HCRRRA Member), and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

III. Steering Committee Organization and Leadership

Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) nominated Gail Dorfman (Hennepin County Member) to chair the Steering Committee and Jim Hovland (Edina Member) seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Terry Schneider nominated Jim Hovland to act as vice chair to the Steering Committee and Don Samuels (Minneapolis Member) seconded this motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Chair Dorfman then reviewed the draft charter for the Steering Committee and asked the Committee to approve the draft. Kathy Nelson (Eden Prairie Member) moved to approve the charter and Anne Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) seconded this motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Chair Dorfman asked Adele Hall to review the results of a survey on possible meeting dates. The consensus position of the Committee was to meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month.

With regard to adding members to the Steering Committee, several points were made. There was consensus that the process to add members would be to amend the existing committee charter. It might make sense to add a business member eventually, but the committee needs to coalesce a bit more before such action would be taken. Also, there could be a subcommittee structure that might offer more effective ways to engage business interests. Some members felt that the Three Rivers Park District should be added now. Chair Dorfman indicated that the topic of adding members would be an action item on the agenda for the November meeting.

With regard to distribution of meeting materials and other web postings, Adele Hall reported that there is now a Community Works page on the Southwest LRT website where materials will be posted.

IV. Necessary Partnership Agreements

Chair Dorfman introduced this agenda item saying that the Committee would hear from staff today but that no action would be requested at this time. Chuck Salter from the Hennepin County Attorney's Office distributed a handout showing statutory language applying to joint powers agreements and other multijurisdictional agreements. He summarized options including Cooperative Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, and the possibility of having no agreement. He recommended consideration of a joint powers agreement due to the fact that legislation to grant joint powers authority limits liability for the participants.

Chair Dorfman asked members what they thought would be required by cities with regard to joint actions. Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member) asked Mr. Salter how a joint powers agreement would work if new partners were to be added. Mr. Salter will give that some thought and report back to the Committee. Other members described various cooperative agreements that they have participated in including the Hwy 169 Coalition. They agreed that city councils would need to take formal action to participate in any such cooperative agreement. Don Samuels (Minneapolis Member) asked whether there would need to be additional approvals from cities related to specific projects as such are developed through the Southwest Community Works process. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) indicated that cities are fairly comfortable with joint powers agreements, but that cities would still need to take action before any city funds are committed to a specific project. It was generally agreed that more work needs to be done to better understand what work might occur under this initiative before the structure can be nailed down. Peter McLaughlin suggested that the Committee concentrate on creating a mutually defined vision and then work on the logistics of how to achieve that vision.

Chair Dorfman asked if Mr. Salter had enough input to further develop options. She suggested the Committee discuss partnership agreements again at the November meeting and consider taking action in December. City representatives said that they needed some sense of what they will be asked to contribute in 2011 since their budgets will be finalized in early December. Additional discussion regarding the role of the Steering Committee continued around the question of how cities might want to approve projects as they are developed – would projects be approved through some municipal consent process or would there be a more regional approach. Peter McLaughlin (HCRRA Member) expressed his view of the Steering Committee's role, saying they should first be the creators and keepers of the development vision for along the Southwest corridor, and secondly, they will need to be responsible for figuring out what it will take to make development projects happen.

V. Professional Support & Staffing Needs & Resources

Chair Dorfman asked Phil Eckhart to outline options. Mr. Eckhart said there were two kinds of staff support needed: 1) administration and policy support, and 2) field work such as the work Bonestroo has presently underway. He outlined four options for handling the first category. Kathy Nelson (Eden Prairie Member) indicated support for having the County continue to provide administrative and policy support through the end of the year at which time the workload could be re-assessed. Also, grant funding could provide additional resources. Terry Schneider indicated that he thought it was important for cities to be making at least a nominal contribution at this point, and others volunteered information about possible ways to design the payment allocation. It was noted that, since cities are making budget decisions for 2011, this matter needs resolution quickly and some cities may have a limited ability to contribute given that their budgets and levies have been set for 2011. Chair Dorfman agreed to work with staff to further develop options and distribute such to Steering Committee members within the next two weeks.

VI. Establish a Budget

Chair Dorfman asked County staff to prepare a budget proposal to cover mainly administrative support. Mr. Eckhart agreed to work with city staff on this.

VII. 2010 & 2011 Workplans

Chair Dorfman asked Adele Hall to review a table showing the preliminary task list for the Community Works initiative. Ms. Hall noted that work is on track and all initial tasks identified will be completed by the end of 2010.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40. The next meeting of the Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee will be Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at the St. Louis Park City Hall.