



Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

November 3, 2010 8:00-9:30 am

St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Gail Dorfman	Hennepin County	Member
Jan Callison	Hennepin County	Member
Anne Mavity	City of St. Louis Park	Member
Mary Brindle	City of Edina	Alternate
Rick Brausen	City of Hopkins	Member
Terry Schneider	City of Minnetonka	Alternate
Betsy Hodges	City of Minneapolis	Alternate
Steve Hogan	City of Minneapolis	Attended for Member Don Samuels
Janet Jeremiah	City of Eden Prairie	Alternate
Tony Wagner	City of Minnetonka	Member

Other Attendees

Phil Eckhert (Hennepin County), Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Patrick Connoy (Hennepin County), Adele Hall (Hennepin County), Carol Lezotte Anderson (Hennepin County), Dave Nuckols (Hennepin County), Kevin Locke (City of St. Louis Park), Meg McMonigal (City of St. Louis Park), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Steve Hogan (City of Minneapolis), Karen Lyons (Metropolitan Council), Susan Hoyt (Metropolitan Council), Craig Lamothe (Metro Transit), Larry Blackstedt (Three Rivers Park District), Dick Miller (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting), John Shardlow (Bonestroo), Barry Warner (SRF), Caren Dewar (ULI Minnesota), Cathy Bennett (ULI Minnesota)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Gail Dorfman (Hennepin County Member) opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. She asked staff to provide brief updates on various SW LRT project activities. Craig Lamothe reported that the application to enter preliminary engineering has been submitted to the Federal Transit Administration and there is dialogue underway. Katie Walker reported on the FTA review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, saying that the first round of review has been completed and the legal review is underway. It is expected that the DEIS document will be available for public review in late 2010 or early 2011. Adele Hall reported on station area planning underway for five proposed Minneapolis stations. The station area planning process will be completed by the end of 2010; public open houses will be held on November 17 and 18. Chair Dorfman reported that a letter has gone out from Chair Peter Bell, Chair of the Metropolitan Council, asking for appointments to the Southwest Corridor Management Committee (SW CMC). The Southwest Community Advisory Committee met last week and nominated member Bill James to represent that committee on the SW CMC, and member Vicki Moore to be the alternate. Craig Lamothe reported that Chris Weyer was named Project Director for the Southwest LRT project last week. Phil Eckhert reported that the region has received a \$5 million Sustainable Communities grant from HUD, and an \$18 million Living Cities

grant. Both of these grants include funding for the SW LRT project. Mr. Eckhert also reported that the SW LRT project is being talked about as a model for integration between the project office and the community works initiative. Anne Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) asked for updates to be distributed to members to help as the Steering Committee moves towards creating a vision for the Southwest Community Works initiative.

Chair Dorfman continued updates by reporting that a series of studies related to relocation of freight rail service are wrapping up. A joint meeting of the St. Louis Park City Council and School Board will be held at the end of November to hear reports on two of the studies. The MN&S study is expected to continue into early 2011.

II. October 6, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Chair Dorfman asked for review and action on the minutes from the October 6 Steering Committee meeting. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) pointed out that the discussion on the allocation of costs did not reflect city comments about the limitations of their ability to contribute given that their budgets and levies have been set for 2011. A maximum contribution of \$10,000 from each city was discussed. Mr. Schneider then moved the minutes as amended, and Ann Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) seconded this motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with Janet Jeremiah (Eden Prairie Alternate) abstaining.

III. Steering Committee Membership & Financial Contributions

2011 Member Contributions

Adele Hall reviewed a handout that outlined options for member financial contributions to basic administrative costs to support the Steering Committee work. The Committee discussed the handout and asked clarifying questions. Members asked about what was covered by this funding and also how other activities outside of administrative costs would be funded. Betsy Hodges (Minneapolis Alternate) said that she was interested in a broader discussion of funding in light of how multiple lines will be coming into Minneapolis. Members also expressed interest in exploring how grant funds might be able to support on-going administrative cost.

Chair Dorfman summarized that she heard the members say they wanted more time to discuss funding options with their various organizations and therefore no action would be taken at this meeting.

Steering Committee 2011 Administration

Chair Dorfman asked for action on whether Hennepin County should continue with the administration of the Steering Committee. Tony Wagner (Minnetonka Member) made a motion that Hennepin County continue provide administrative services, Mary Brindle (Edina Alternate) seconded this motion, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Future members & process for adding members

Adele Hall reviewed the discussion of the Committee from the last meeting and opened it up for further discussion. Several possible additions were mentioned at the last meeting including the Three Rivers Park District, the Minnehaha Watershed District, union and business representatives. Chair Dorfman outlined a variety of issues with regard to membership, including whether all members would contribute to funding, whether voting would be based on funding participation, etc. She mentioned that the Metropolitan Council will be forming a Business Advisory Committee, and that we might ask for that group to have a member on the Steering Committee.

Mary Brindle (Edina Alternate) offered that it would not be useful to have the Committee become unwieldy and that perhaps the current membership works for now. Janet Jeremiah (Eden Prairie Alternate) suggested that the SW Transit agency be added as a member. Tony

Wagner (Minnetonka Member) agreed with Ms. Brindle about the need to avoid having the group become overly broad. He suggested that there may be other ways to engage a range of stakeholders beyond adding members to the Steering Committee. Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member) stated that, for 2011, it will be important to get this existing group to gel. She also raised an issue about the name of the LRT corridor, saying that there is confusion about SW Transit and the SW LRT line. She encouraged the group to address this issue soon, saying that the longer this is put off, the harder it will be to make a change.

Chair Dorfman reflected that the Committee was not ready to finalize a process for adding new members. Ms. Callison added that it is most important to get consensus on what the work of the Committee will be, then the issue of membership can be better addressed. Anne Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) agreed and said it is important to keep the focus on land use planning and on providing meaningful ways to engage other organizations.

IV. TOD Investment Framework Update

Chair Dorfman asked John Shardlow, Bonestroo, to provide an update on the TOD Investment Framework. Mr. Shardlow presented a PowerPoint presentation and handed out maps. He repeatedly indicated that the maps shown reflect the use of tools for discussion of options, and that no decisions about land use have been made. Station area planning continues and there is a difference that needs to be recognized between local land use authority and a discussion of concepts for future development. Mr. Shardlow talked about the purpose of the TOD Investment Framework and how transit can increase property values and enhance development potential. He also reviewed a chart showing process steps and timelines and focused on 2010 activities underway. Changes will be expected to happen over time and based on decision of the private market. Mr. Shardlow emphasized that he was showing *possible* investment opportunities. He indicated that Shelley Poticha, Director for U.S. Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities has publicly stated that the Twin Cities metro area is on the right track, specifically with regard to the Central Corridor. The collaborative work we are doing will improve our chances of competing for federal grant funding for projects. Mr. Shardlow also outlined 2011 work that will be contingent on funding; a Corridor Implementation Tool is on the list of possible 2011 projects.

V. Steering Committee Visioning

Chair Dorfman stated that creating a vision needs to come first for the Steering Committee. Adele Hall reminded the Committee that the vision for SW LRT Community Works should inform the preliminary engineering work that could be underway as early as the first quarter of 2011. Given this, it would be useful to have visioning work well underway by the end of 2010. Ms. Hall asked the Committee for ideas on how to proceed with creating a vision. Caren Dewar asked for the floor and provided an update on the ULI tour of the corridor that will be held next week. At the workshop that will be held after the tour, there will be a focus on vision and goals, then strategies and implementation activities.

Chair Dorfman indicated that the Committee needed to get started on development of vision, and suggested that the focus of the next Steering Committee meeting be on the vision. Mary Brindle (Edina Alternate) agreed, stating this will help the Committee be more productive. Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member) said that it will be important to create a vision for both the Community Works initiative and for the Steering Committee itself. She said it would be helpful to learn more about how other projects have organized their work. Chair Dorfman asked staff to explore bringing on a trained facilitator to lead the discussion. It was noted that a new meeting date would be found for December, as the regularly scheduled meeting conflicts with an event.

Commissioner Dorfman thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting. The Steering Committee will meet next in December; date, time, and location to be determined.