



**Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 20, 2015

1:30 – 3:00 pm

St. Louis Park City Hall

**Meeting Attendees**

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member  
Linnea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis Member  
Nancy Tyra-Lukens, SouthWest Transit Member  
Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie Member  
Tony Wagner, City of Minnetonka Member  
Kristi Halverson, City of Hopkins Member  
Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Member  
Marion Greene, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority Member  
Dick Miller, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Member  
Caren Dewar, Urban Land Institute (ULI) - MN Member  
Anne Mavity, City of St. Louis Park Member  
Will Roach, Business Advisory Committee co-chair, Member

**Other attendees**

Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Janet Jeremiah (City of Eden Prairie), Meg McMonigal (City of St. Louis Park), Kersten Elverum (City of Hopkins), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Vita Ditter (Bryn Mawr), Elise Durbin (City of Minnetonka), Hannah Pritchard (Toole Design Group), Kevin Locke (City of St. Louis Park), Barry Schade (Bryn Mawr), Kathryn Hansen (Southwest LRT Project Office), Larry Blackstad (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), James Wisker (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Meg Beekman (City of Hopkins), Amy Morgan (City of Hopkins), Mark Fuhrmann, (Southwest LRT Project Office)

**I. Welcome and Announcements**

Chair Jan Callison called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

**II. Approval of the May 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Callison requested approval of the May 2015 Minutes. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.

**III. Committee Updates**

Will Roach, Business Advisory Committee (BAC) co-chair, reported that the BAC met on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The BAC meeting topics included a review of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee's discussion of potential scope and cost reductions; a presentation on construction cost estimating; and a review of the transit options report. The next meeting of the BAC is scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup>.



No member of the Southwest Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was present to provide an update on the CAC activities.

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, provided an update on the Southwest Technical Implementation Committee (TIC) activities which have included the Southwest Bike Facilities Assessment, the Southwest Corridor-wide Housing Strategy, and transit oriented development updates.

#### **IV. Southwest LRT Project Status Update**

Mark Fuhrmann, Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO) provided a status update on the LRT project. Mr. Fuhrmann walked the group through the process by which the scope and budget for the Southwest LRT project were reduced. He also covered the revised project schedule which anticipates opening day for the project in 2020. Committee members had questions regarding what items were removed from the current scope and how those items might be restored either through the use of unneeded contingency or outside funding sources.

#### **V. Southwest Corridor Bike Facilities Assessment**

Hannah Pritchard, Toole Design Group, provided a presentation on the Southwest Corridor Bike Facilities Assessment. The assessment was conducted to further define and prioritize bike investments identified in the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework. The assessment included creation of bikesheds and prioritization of bicycle facilities (parking, storage, rental and sharing systems) for each station. The document will be finalized by the end of 2016, after which staff will pursue funding to implement the identified projects.

#### **VI. Southwest Community Works Funding Commitment**

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, provided an update on the Southwest Community Works funding pledge to the LRT project. In July 2015, the Hennepin County Board took action to pledge up to a total of \$3 million in Southwest Community Works funding to assist in closing the funding gap subject to certain criteria including, but not limited to, securing the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Staff will work to identify candidate projects which will be shared with the Steering Committee prior to official Hennepin County Board action. The group discussed focusing on financing tools and strategies in 2016 and requested that staff provide an overview and recommendations in 2016 for consideration.

#### **VII. Hopkins Station Area Development Update**

Kersten Elverum, City of Hopkins, provided an overview of development around the Blake, Downtown Hopkins, and Shady Oak stations. For the Blake Station, she discussed the Cottageville Park improvements which created a neighborhood amenity and a catalyst for development; the PPL affordable housing development on Blake Road; and work that has begun to analyze the development potential, timing and phasing of the Cold Storage, 43 Hoops, and other sites in close proximity to the future LRT station. For the Downtown Hopkins Station, she reported that redevelopment of the Johnson building by Doran Companies is underway and will include underground park/ride with housing above. She also mentioned the ARTery experiment held in July which provided a great venue for community feedback on the future of the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue ARTery. For the Shady Oak Station, she discussed the collaboration that is occurring between Hopkins and Minnetonka to facilitate and expedite redevelopment through station area analysis and consideration of joint policies/procedures for the station area which lies in both cities.