



Southwest Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015 – 1:30 – 3:00 PM, St. Louis Park City Hall

swlrtccommunityworks.org

Beyond the Rails

Meeting Attendees:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates:

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County member
Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis member
Tony Wagner, City of Minnetonka member
Linda Higgins, Hennepin County member
Dick Miller, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District member
Anne Mavity, City of St. Louis Park member
Kristi Halverson, City of Hopkins member
Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Southwest Transit member
Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie member
Mary Bridle, City of Edina alternate

Other attendees: Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Kathryn Hansen (SPO), Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Karen Lyons (Met Council), Janet Jeremiah (Eden Prairie), Greg Hunt (St. Louis Park), Meg McMonigal (St. Louis Park), John Doan (Hennepin County), Ray Hoover (Hennepin County), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County)

1. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Callison called the meeting to order and announced that Hennepin County recently approved TOD awards including three projects along the Southwest LRT line. These include \$470,000 to Eden Prairie for W. 70th Street expansion at the Golden Triangle station, \$400,000 to PPL for Oxford Village housing near the Blake station, and \$430,000 to Encore near the Beltine and West Lake stations.
2. **Approval of March 2015 meeting minutes:** Chair Callison requested action on the March 2015 minutes. Dick Miller moved approval; Linda Higgins seconded. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.
3. **Committee updates:** Katie Walker provided an update on the TIC activities which include continued work to identify funding sources for the Investment Framework infrastructure improvements, the Bike Facilities Assessment, the Corridor Wide Housing Strategy, and sharing lessons learned from TOD projects. No verbal updates from the BAC or CAC were provided, but copies of their meeting minutes were included in the packet.
4. **Southwest LRT Project Status Update:** Kathryn Hanson provided an update on the LRT project, including recent budget information. SPO is working on ways to trim the budget back to the previous \$1.65 billion dollar amount, which will result in scope changes that need to be communicated back to FTA. They will use the adopted scoping principles to inform this process. The project budget will be discussed at CMC meetings

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on 6/3, 6/24 and 7/1 with the Met Council taking final action on 7/8. In addition, the SPO will conduct a transit options review, a construction cost estimate review, and a technical capacity review.

5. **New Starts Application:** Kathryn Hanson provided information on the next New Starts application which will be submitted in September 2015. The current project rankings for land use and economic development are medium and medium-high, respectively. FTA provided guidance as to what should be included in the next update. Suggestions include: continue to document new development; continue to invest in pedestrian connectivity, document TOD implementation strategies building off of station area plans, document site plans and renderings depicting more urban character in station areas, especially in Minnetonka and Eden Prairie, document adoptions of transit supportive zoning, and document use of affordable housing tools and implementation of SW Corridor Housing recommendations. SPO will meet with the TIC in June to start collecting materials for an August draft and September submission. After September, the next submission is to request entry into engineering in Spring 2016.
6. **St. Louis Park Station Area Development Update:** Meg McMonigal and Greg Hunt from St. Louis Park provided an overview of current and future development at the Beltline, Wooddale and Louisiana Stations. At the Beltline station there are three active projects - Shorham, Elipse on Excelsior and E2. In addition, there is a potential FTA joint development project being planned for this station. At the Wooddale station area there is activity on the former McGarvey Coffee site. And the city continues to see redevelopment occurring along Excelsior Boulevard and at the West End. A question was asked about what tools were used to get affordable units in West End. Staff replied that the developer agreement called for affordable housing and that St. Louis Park has adopted a 10% minimum inclusionary housing policy. Anne Mavity noted that the inclusionary housing policy has been very successful and also that the city has been very aggressive in securing land to control what happens. She also strongly suggested that every development include art.
7. **Investment Framework Infrastructure Updates:** Katie Walker noted that the meeting packet included 3 handouts to update the group on the Bike Facilities Assessment, the Blake Road Corridor Study, and the West Lake Multimodal Transportation Study.