



SW Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2015

1:30 – 3:00 PM, St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates:

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member

Russ Adams, Community Advisory Committee Member

Will Roach, Business Advisory Committee Member

Dick Miller, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Member

Jeff Casale, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Alternate

Cathy Bennett, Urban Land Institute – Minnesota Alternate

Marion Greene, Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority Member

Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie Member

Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Member

Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis Member

Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Southwest Transit Member

Terry Schneider, City of Minnetonka Member

Other attendees: Katie Walker (Hennepin County) Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Janet Jeremiah(EP), Elise Durbin(Minnetonka), Kersten Elverum(Hopkins), Ryan Kelley (St. Louis Park), Kerri Pearce Ruch(Hennepin County), Dan Pfeiffer(SPO), Barry Schade (BMNA), Larry Blackstad (MCWD), Ryan Kronzer (SPO), Sarah Ghandour (SPO), Kim Koempel (SPO), Allyson Luenenberg (Aide to Commissioner Callison), Nathan Koster (Minneapolis), Tara Beard (Met Council), Karen Lyons (Met Council).

I. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Callison called the meeting to order and began with a viewing of the Downtown Hopkins Station, which was produced by KLD Consulting to promote and broaden communications about the opportunities presented by the introduction of LRT to Hopkins. It was then announced that the City of St. Louis Park recently acquired the McGarvey Coffee site at the Wooddale Station, and the City of Hopkins was awarded \$517,000 from Minnesota Housing for improvements to the DOW Tower building near the Downtown Hopkins Station. Chair Callison also announced that the City of Minneapolis will be conducting a Multi-modal Study of the West Lake Station to assess opportunities to improve safety, access, connectivity, and mobility for all modes of travel surrounding the West Lake Station area.

II. **Approval of February 2015 Minutes:** Chair Callison requested action on the February 2015 minutes. A movement was made and seconded, and the minutes from February meeting were approved on a voice vote.

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III. **Committee updates:** Katie Walker, co-chair of the Southwest Community Works Technical Implementation Committee (TIC), provided an update on committee activities. The TIC is working on identifying funding sources to implement the infrastructure projects contained in the Southwest Corridor Investment Framework as well as sharing information on development projects.

Chair Callison introduced Will Roach and Russ Adams from the Business and Community Advisory Committees (BAC/CAC). Will Roach has served as the co-chair of the BAC since July 2012, and he is currently with Baker Tilly. Russ Adams was recently appointed co-chair of the CAC, and he is the executive director of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability. Will Roach and Russ Adams each provided an update on the current activities of the BAC/CAC, and both stated that they are interested in further solidifying the relationship between the BAC/CAC and the Steering Committee.

IV. **Membership Nominations:** Katie Walker, Hennepin County staff, updated the Committee on the process for nominating new members noting that the membership nomination form was included in the packet.

V. **LRT Station Architecture:** Sarah Ghandour, Southwest Project Office, provided an overview and update on the SPO's Station Architecture process. Ms. Ghandour spoke to site elements that will be present on station platforms, station design goals and approaches, and gave an overview of the four types of station architecture that are being considered along the line. Member Tabb asked whether there was potential for the LRT to skip stations at certain times of the day, like late at night. Ms. Ghandour stated that she would take that question back to staff at SPO, and provide more information at the next meeting. The SPO will be hosting community meetings in early April to solicit input into the station architecture process, and a list of those meetings was shared with the Steering Committee.

VI. **Draft Corridor Wide Housing Strategy:** Elise Durbin, City of Minnetonka, provided an overview of the draft Corridor Wide Housing Strategy. Ms. Durbin described each section of the Housing Strategy, with a focus on the goals, targets, objectives, implementation strategies, and next steps. Member Palmisano supported the Housing Strategy and noted that the document should maintain flexibility to allow a focusing of efforts on stations that have the most opportunity for housing development. Chair Callison requested action to accept the draft and direct staff to conduct outreach activities over the next few months. A motion to accept was made, seconded, and passed on a voice vote. Staff will conduct outreach and return with a final draft at the August Steering Committee meeting.

VII. **2015 Workplan:** Katie Walker, Hennepin County staff, provided an overview of the proposed 2015 Steering Committee Workplan. Focus areas include the Investment Framework, Housing, Finance Tools, Transit Oriented Development, and Strategic Marketing and Communications. Chair Callison requested action to adopt the workplan. A motion was made, seconded, and the 2015 Workplan was adopted on a voice vote.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Chair Callison reminded the group that the next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2015, and then adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.