

Southwest Community Works Steering Committee Survey

Prepared by Hennepin County
Center of Innovation and Excellence



Survey purpose

The Southwest Community Works Steering Committee survey was conducted as a tool to help shape the committee's work in 2015.

Steering Committee Charter

Committee actions have aligned with the committee charter.

Answer	Response N=17	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	6%
Disagree	0	0%
Agree	12	71%
Strongly Agree	4	24%

The majority of the respondents (95 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed that committee actions have aligned with the committee charter.

Steering Committee Charter

As currently written, the charter will serve the Southwest Community Works program as it transitions to a focus on implementation in 2015.

Answer	Response N=17	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	6%
Disagree	0	0%
Agree	13	76%
Strongly Agree	3	18%

A majority of respondents (94 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed that the charter will serve the committee as it transitions to implementation in 2015.

Steering Committee Charter

Would you recommend making changes to the committee charter? If so, what changes would you recommend?

Generally, respondents said the charter is strong with opportunity to improve in connecting planning and implementing. Respondents said the charter should ensure opportunities to connect people to transit and a focus on land use planning outcomes. (N=4)

Steering Committee Membership

What group or groups, if any, would you recommend be added to the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee to achieve the collective mission of the group?

Generally, respondents recommended adding:

- corporate/business leaders from employers along the corridor
- the Three Rivers Parks District
- other watershed districts
- foundations

N=8

Steering Committee Member Roles/Responsibilities

I share information from materials discussed at committee meetings with others in my organization.

Answer	Response N=16	Percent
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Disagree	1	6%
Agree	10	63%
Strongly Agree	5	31%

A majority of respondents (94 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed that they share materials discussed at the committee meetings with others in their organization.

Steering Committee Member Roles/Responsibilities

My role as a committee member is clearly defined.

Answer	Response N=15	Percent
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Disagree	5	33%
Agree	8	53%
Strongly Agree	2	13%

About half (53 percent) of the 15 respondents who answered this question agree that their role as a committee member is clearly defined.

Steering Committee Member Roles/Responsibilities

How would you describe your responsibilities as a member of the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee?

Generally, respondents said their responsibilities as members of the steering committee included:

- listening to information
- sharing information
- providing policy decisions
- learning
- advocating for the goals of the steering committee and member organizations

N=11

Organizational Structure

To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

The committee is well served by the Technical Implementation Committee (TIC).

Answer	Response N=15	Percent
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Disagree	1	7%
Agree	7	47%
Strongly Agree	7	47%

A majority of respondents (94 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed that the committee is well served by the TIC.

Generally, respondents said that the times the TIC presented to the committee were helpful and they would like to see them play a stronger role. Respondents recommended that the TIC improve their service to the committee by reporting more on their work, making more recommendations on projects to allow the steering committee to focus on policy. (N=6)

Organizational Structure

To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

The committee is well served by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

Answer	Response N=15	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	7%
Disagree	5	33%
Agree	8	53%
Strongly Agree	1	7%

About half of the 15 respondents who answered this question (53 percent) agreed that the committee is well served by the BAC.

Generally, respondents said the relationship between the BAC and the steering committee is not clear. Respondents recommended more clearly defining the relationship between the steering committee and the BAC and having a BAC member at the steering committee meetings to inform the committee around business interests near Southwest LRT and further align around collective action. (N=8)

Organizational Structure

To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

The committee is well served by the Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

Answer	Response N=15	Percent
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
Disagree	7	47%
Agree	7	47%
Strongly Agree	1	7%

About half of respondents (54 percent) either agreed or strongly agreed that the committee is well served by the CAC.

Generally, respondents said the relationship between the steering committee and the CAC was not clear and that they need to hear more from the CAC's perspective. Respondents recommended defining the relationship between the steering committee and the CAC. The CAC should begin regular reporting to the steering committee.(N=7)

Meeting Frequency & Duration

In 2015, how often should the committee meet?

Answer	Response N=15	Percent
Monthly	4	27%
Bi-monthly (every two months)	8	53%
Quarterly	2	13%
No longer needs to meet	0	0%

About half of the 15 respondents that answered this question (53 percent) said committee meetings should be held every two months in 2015.

In 2015, how long should the committee meet (at each meeting)?

Answer	Response N=15	Percent
1 hour	1	7%
1.5 hours	11	73%
2 hours	3	20%

A majority of the 15 respondents who answered this question (73 percent) said that committee meetings should last 1.5 hours in 2015.

2015 Focus Areas

In 2015, what are specific topics you would like to see addressed at committee meetings?

Generally, respondents said that they would like to see the following topics addressed:

- implementation
- funding
- public spaces access

Respondents recommended talking more about the next steps to the work the committee has done, how to get the funding needed to advance the next steps, and increasing public access to station areas. (N=8)

Priorities

Respondents were asked how the committee should prioritize the areas below based on importance to achieving vibrant connected communities.

Answer	Number of times chosen as most important N=13
Connecting infrastructure	6
Jobs/employment development	4
Transit oriented development	2
Housing	1

Respondents ranked connecting infrastructure followed by jobs/employment development as the highest priority for achieving vibrant connected communities.

2014 Achievements

What was the greatest success realized by the Southwest Community Works Project in 2014?

Generally, respondents said the investment framework and the five communities cooperating and building relationships between themselves, Hennepin County and other agencies were the greatest successes realized by the Southwest Community Works Project in 2014. (N=6)

What was your organization's greatest achievement in 2014 to further the goal of vibrant and connected communities?

Generally, respondents said station area planning/designing and progress/construction on the ARTery and creek/trail were their organizations greatest achievements in 2014 to further vibrant and connected communities. (N=6)

Benefits/Collective Action

What has been the biggest benefit to your organization as a result of your participation in the Southwest Community Works Project?

Generally, respondents said connecting with neighboring communities creating a platform for collaboration and investment framework leading to better station area planning and more interest in light rail was the biggest benefit to their organizations as a result of participation with Southwest Community Works. (N=6)

What activities/initiatives/projects can the collective committee complete that would be difficult for your organization to complete alone?

Generally, respondents said influencing and innovating around financing/funding, research and connecting stations were easier to address as a collective committee as opposed to their organizations alone. (N=7)

Participation

Why do you participate in Community Works?

Generally, respondents said they participate in Community Works as a way to align their mission and maximize benefits to the community by completing the Southwest LRT which will enhance the desire to live and work in their community. (N=6)

Is there anything else you would like to share about the Southwest Community Works Steering Committee?

Respondents said they enjoy and appreciate the work of the steering committee, look forward to the opportunity to recommend allocation of Community Works funds, and to work together to expedite the Green Line Extension by focusing on what is best for the corridor and entire region. (N=4)

Recommendations

Steering Committee Charter

- No modifications to Steering Committee charter needed at this time.

Steering Committee Membership

- Consider expanding membership to include the Three Rivers Park District, corporate/business leaders, watershed districts & foundations.

Organizational Structure

- Strengthen relationship with TIC through more frequent presentations & project updates.
- Clarify roles/responsibilities of the Business and Community Advisory Committees to improve service to the Steering Committee.

Meeting Frequency

- Meet every other month in 2015.

2015 Focus Areas/Priorities

- Update the 2015/2016 workplan to reflect prioritized focus areas - infrastructure connections, financing/funding, public spaces, jobs/employment development & collaboration.