



SOUTHWEST LRT community works

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Southwest Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19 – 1:30 – 3:00 PM St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees:

Steering Committee Members and Alternates

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County member	Meg Forney, Minneapolis Park & Rec Board
Mary Brindle, City of Edina, alternate	Dick Miller, MCWD member
Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis member	Will Roach, BAC member
Linda Higgins, Hennepin County member	Kristi Halverson, City of Hopkins member
Terry Schneider, City of Minnetonka alternate	

Other attendees: Kerri Pearce Ruch (HC), John Doan (HC), Dan Pfeifer (SPO), Sarah Ghandour (SPO) Julie Wischnack (Mtk), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Janet Jeremiah (Eden Prairie), Meg McMonigal (SLP), Larry Blackstad (MCWD), Barry Schade (Bryn Mawr neighborhood), Molly Koivumaki, (Eden Prairie), Marissa Bayer (Eden Prairie), Andrea Brennan (Minneapolis), Meg Beekman (Hopkins), Allyson Sellwood (HC), Sean Walther (SLP), Patricia Fitzgerald (HC), Kevin Locke (SLP), Kathryn Hansen (SPO)

Welcome and Announcements: Chair Jan Callison called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. Chair Callison noted that the 2017 meeting schedule and steering committee roster were included in the meeting packet. She also mentioned Hennepin County funding opportunities with upcoming deadlines – TOD, AHIF and HOME applications are due February 9th and pedestrian and bike capital project applications are due March 1st. Eden Prairie was awarded funding through yesterday’s regional solicitation at the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) meeting.

Approval of November 2016 minutes: Chair Callison asked for approval of the minutes. Meg Forney moved approval; Terry Schneider seconded. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Committee Updates: Kerri Pearce Ruch provided an update on the Technical Implementation Committee (TIC). The TIC met in December to review a potential work plan for 2017. Key items include greenspace, bike infrastructure and parking needs along the corridor. Will Roach provided an update on the most recent Business Advisory Committee (BAC) where project risks were discussed and the group agreed to move to quarterly meetings in 2017. Dan Pfeiffer provided an update on the upcoming Community Advisory Committee meeting. The CAC will meet in January and discuss project updates and construction communications and outreach.

Overview of local contributions to SWLRT project: Sarah Ghandour from SPO provided the committee with an overview of local city and Hennepin County contributions to the LRT project. She noted that project support fell into three separate categories – funding needed to preserve the scope of the LRT project, additional base project elements, and work requested by local partners but to be completed by the LRT construction contractor. Funding





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for the scope of the LRT project came from Eden Prairie (\$2.5 M), Minnetonka (\$2 M), Hopkins (\$500,000), St. Louis Park (\$2 M), Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund (\$5 M) and Hennepin County Community Works (\$3 M). Base project additions include: Blake trail underpass (Hopkins - \$30,000); Wooddale Ave underpass, stairs at Beltline trail bridge, trail underpass at Louisiana station and the Lynn Ave extension (St. Louis Park - \$2 M); grade separated trails at Blake, Wooddale and Beltline stations (HC - \$2.6 M). Locally funded work, which is requested and funded completely by partners, includes elements outside of the project scope and budget. These include: catenary poles, street lighting, fencing upgrades, landscaping and other reconstruction (EP \$4.5 M); 17th Avenue roadway extension, retaining walls, rail and fence upgrades, storm sewer casings (Minnetonka \$1.5 M); water and sewer main along 17th Ave. extension, traffic enhancements, upgrades at station plaza (Hopkins \$772,000); pedestrian and road improvements, lighting and railing upgrades (SLP \$1.6 M); new trail along Flying Cloud Drive, fiber optic along the entire alignment (HC \$3.95 M); and road and trail reconstruction and bridge work along Flying Cloud Drive (MnDOT \$1.2 M)

Shady Oak Joint Zoning District Overview: Kersten Elverum (Hopkins) and Julie Wischnack (Minnetonka) provided an overview of how the two cities are working together in the Shady Oak station area. The cities are working together on a joint development strategy and zoning for the 200 acre study area, as the jurisdictional boundary runs through the Shady Oak station area. The two cities hope to have a final document within 6 months. The cities wanted to have a plan for 17th Avenue to Excelsior Blvd. to address development and zoning, bike facilities and parking. The zoning approach builds off of the development strategy of a business district – looking to create an “innovation district”, with limited office and retail, some residential. Standards include rooftop open spaces to create park/greenspace, district parking with minimums and maximums and bike parking requirements. They were careful to not create a new “downtown” area here but want to support mixed use. Minnetonka and Hopkins have differences in zoning ordinances and this work seeks to create a unified vision and guidance for the Shady Oak station area. Cities anticipate about 1200 units of housing, 1.24 million square feet of other development space.

Investment tracker overview: Kerri Pearce Ruch walked the committee through work that the TIC is doing on an Investment Framework tracker. The Investment Framework was developed to provide an implementation plan for public and private investments. It was funded primarily through a Sustainable Communities grant and Hennepin County Community Works funding and included 17 Transitional Station Area Action Plans (TSAAPs). TIC members are looking at the document to identify projects that have been completed, those that are no longer needed and remaining projects that need to be completed by opening day but are as of yet unfunded. The tracker can help target areas for further work and identify funding needs.

The Steering Committee adjourned at 2:44 PM