



Southwest Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2016

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

Meeting Attendees: Steering Committee Members and Alternate

Chair Jan Callison, Hennepin County member
Tony Wagner, Minnetonka member
Kathy Nelson, Eden Prairie member
Kristi Halverson, Hopkins member
Russ Adams, Community Adv. Comm. (CAC) member

Dick Miller, MCWD member
Linea Palmisano, Minneapolis member
Will Roach, Business Adv. Comm. (BAC) member
Anita Tabb, MPRB member

Other attendees: Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Meg McMonigal (St. Louis Park), Julie Wischnack (Minnetonka), Michele Schnitker (St. Louis Park), Viyda Ditter (Bryn Mawr neighborhood), Allyson Lueneburg (Hennepin County), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Janet Jeremiah (Eden Prairie), Larry Blackstad (MCWD), Robin Kaufman (SPO), Ann Beuch (Blake Road Corridor Collaborative), Ray Hoover (Hennepin County), Brian Shekleton (Hennepin County), Alisha Gray (Minnetonka)

1. **Welcome and Announcements:** Chair Callison called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. She announced that the Southwest LRT project received a rating from the FTA of Medium-High for the overall project. The overall project rating did include a High score in the area of Housing. The FTA reviewers stated that the communities have demonstrated commitment to affordable housing and coordinating it with transit. They also recognized the high level of collaboration and extensive inventory of available tools. With the recent completion of the Southwest Corridor Housing Strategy and progress by Southwest partners to take action it is expected that the High rating will be retained.

The Chair also announced that on February 24th, the Met Council took action on the proposed station renaming for Southwest LRT. Four station names were changed. The Royalston station added “Farmers Market”; the Van White station was changed to “Bassett Creek Valley”; the Penn station was changed to “Bryn Mawr” and the 21st station was changed to “West 21st Street”.

2. **Approval of January 2016 meeting minutes:** Chair Callison requested action on the January 2016 minutes. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.
3. **Committee updates:** Will Roach, Business Advisory Committee (BAC) co-chair and Russ Adams, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) co-chair provided an update on the joint BAC/CAC meeting in February. The joint meeting included presentation of the overall project update, the business case for the SW LRT project, station designs, and station area development updates. The BAC and CAC will be jointly attending a Green

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Line LRT Tour on May 17th. The next meeting of the BAC will occur on May 25th at 7:30 AM and the next meeting of the CAC will occur on May 24th at 6:00 PM.

4. **Marketing/Communications:** Kathie Doty, KLD Consulting, who is under contract for assistance with marketing and communications for the Southwest LRT Community Works program shared two new communications tools, which will assist in highlighting the opportunities in the Southwest communities. Ms. Doty shared with the group the 2015 Southwest LRT Community Works Annual Report and the Eden Prairie Station video. Both of these are accessible on the Southwest LRT Community Works website at www.swlrtccommunitywork.org
5. **Legislative Update:** Will Roach, Minneapolis Regional Chamber, and Robin Cauffman, Southwest LRT Project Office, provided updates on the 2016 legislative session and the request for \$135 million in state funding for the Southwest LRT project.
6. **Resolution: Support SW LRT State Funding.** Chair Callison introduced a resolution drafted by staff to provide support for state funding for the Southwest LRT project. Member Wagner proposed an amendment to the resolution to add, "to the region and Greater Minnesota". Member Adams moved the resolution as amended with Member Halverson seconding. The resolution as amended passed on a voice vote with Member Tabb abstaining.
7. **Finance Tools:** Julie Wischnack, Community Development Director for the City of Minnetonka, provided an update to the group on work being conducted collectively by the partner cities, Hennepin County and ULI-MN related to finance tools. This work builds off of work conducted back in 2012 by Ehlers and Associates. Staff will return at the September meeting with a draft recommendation and plan for 2017 legislative action.
8. **Community Development Update:** Julie Wischnack, Community Development Director for the City of Minnetonka, provided a brief update on development activity within Minnetonka around the Opus and Shady Oak stations.
9. **Adjournment:** The Committee adjourned at 3:05 PM. The next Southwest Community Works Steering Committee meeting will be on May 19, 2016.