

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Meeting Notes Bottineau Community Works Steering Committee September 19, 2022 – 10:30 PM – 12:00 PM Brooklyn Park

1. Welcome & Introductions

Members present: Jeff Lunde, Hennepin County; Jeremiah Ellison, Minneapolis; Pat Backen & George Selman, Robbinsdale; Gillian Rosenquist, Golden Valley; Bill Emory (for Irene Fernando), Hennepin County; Sam O'Connell (for Charlie Zelle), Metropolitan Council; Suzanne Sobotka (for Jacob Frey), Minneapolis

Staff present: Paul Mogush, Brooklyn Park; John Sutter, Crystal; Andrew Gillett, Kerri Pearce Ruch & Ryan Kelley, Hennepin County; Rattana Sengsoulichanh, Minneapolis; Tim Sandvik, Robbinsdale

Others present: Cathy Gold, Dan Soler, Patricia Zagaros & Sam King, Hennepin County

2. Administrative Items

Approval of Minutes

Council Member Backen moved and Council Member Ellison seconded approval of the minutes from the May 16 Steering Committee meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Proposed Membership Changes

Kerri Pearce Ruch presented on proposed changes to membership of the Bottineau Community Works Steering Committee. Current membership is two members and one alternate from each city and Hennepin County. The proposed change is to move to one member and one alternate for these jurisdictions. It has been a challenge to get two policy makers for some jurisdictions that do not have full time policy makers. This change will also make it easier to reach quorum when the Steering Committee transitions back to meeting in person.

Another suggested change is moving Golden Valley to ex-officio status since changes in the LRT alignment move it away from Golden Valley. Council Member Rosenquist stated that Golden Valley does not raise any objections to moving to ex-officio status. She went on to state that transit improvements are vital to Golden Valley.



Commissioner Lunde moved and Bill Emory (sitting in for Commissioner Fernando) seconded a motion to approve the membership changes. The changes were unanimously approved.

3. Partner Updates/Announcements

Cultivate Arts

Sam King provided an update on this item with some images of recent events. These events included work by Kulture Klub Collaborative which works with youth experiencing homelessness, an Open Streets event in Minneapolis with an artist specializing in mural painting and a mobile robot dance party. For 2022, there are 23 Cultivate Arts events from mid-July to late October.

Council Member Rosenquist stated that the Perpich Center for the Arts would be a good place to make a connection. The school serves a broad area and not just students in Golden Valley. Sam O'Connell asked how the project connected to the community. King responded that Hennepin County's large communications team provides support for outreach.

Anti-displacement Working Group

Cathy Gold provided an update on this item. The first workshop was in June and was mainly an introduction for the members and provided data review and background information. The general theme of this workshop was lessons learned. This included examining areas where there was a market shift from infrastructure investment and learning what national policies may have come out of this and what other agencies have done to prevent displacement.

The second workshop is Saturday and will focus on housing. This will include quantitative research data on housing and presentations on current policies, programs, and investments. From this, there will be a discussion of local policies and how to develop a structure for making recommendations.

Council Member Backen asked who represented that the government agencies. Gold responded that each government body appointed a representative and Robbinsdale's is Tim Sandvik.

Station planning & design

Kerri Pearce Ruch introduced this item by stating that station area planning which is conceptual in nature was completed for the previous alignment. This work was followed by the planning funded through an FTA Pilot TOD grant that brought elements of the conceptual work to the 60% level. Much of this earlier work is still valid with the proposed changes to the alignment, except for Minneapolis where the alignment has changed greatly. For the stations in Robbinsdale and Crystal, there will need to be some adjustments. Planning for Minneapolis station areas will have to wait until the new alignment is adopted.

Ryan Kelley presented on the planning work to happen in Robbinsdale and Crystal. Separate RFPs for planning services have been posted for both cities with proposals due on September 29. The planning work for Robbinsdale will include analysis of station location options, redevelopment opportunities, and evaluation of park and ride sites. The planning for Crystal will contain similar tasks but will focus more of the wedge of properties between the BNSF rail corridor and County Road 81.

Partner updates

Council Member Rosenquist stated Golden Valley appreciates ongoing partnership with Hennepin County and other cities to discuss a bus rapid transit option for Highway 55 as well as partnership with Three Rivers Park District to discuss trail connections and expansion.

Commissioner Lunde stated Hennepin County will be starting its budget process and he recognizes the nation could soon be entering a recession and that it's important to keep in mind that people could be hurting financially. A down market could also make it easier for investors to buy up large amounts of rental property.

Sam O'Connell stated that Metro Transit has implemented a micro transit service that door-to-door service.

4. Discussion: Workshop topics for shared learning series

Kerri Pearce Ruch presented on this item. The BCW workplan developed with the BTIC has a category of shared learning that included such topics commercial affordability, environmental sustainability, and arts and culture. Pearce Ruch stated that workshops could be held in the evening since most policy makers have day jobs.

The item was open to discussion. Bill Emory suggested community ownership as topic and went on to say the cultural displacement is a big issue. Commissioner Lunde suggested the topic of how to protect businesses during construction. Council Member Ellison suggested creative funding sources to encourages community ownership and commercial affordability. Council Member Selman stated that Robbinsdale worked very hard to encourage a cluster of small businesses, some of whom will leave when LRT comes. Council Member Backen suggested examining what has and has not worked well for other transit lines. Bill Emory suggested studying safety issues. Council Member Ellison spoke of predatory lending and investment and stated that wealth creation is important. Large property owners buying up large amounts of rental properties.

5. Deep Dive: building wealth through commercial affordability

Ryan Kelley presented on this item. Equitable economic recovery has three main parts: strengthen small businesses; focus on place-based disparities; and economic mobility and wealth building. Economic recovery investments totaled \$19 million through pandemic response funding and had the primary goals: address negative economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic; advance small business and nonprofit recovery, resilience, and innovation; and support populations and communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This initial funding was for the start-up of the Elevate Business program and the Community Investment Initiative (CII). These programs can also be employed to address place-based disparities by investing in long term affordability of commercial space, providing business incubator and start up space, and investing in key cultural and community institutions.

The CII program's primary goals are to improve long term economic opportunity in communities hardest hit by the pandemic; address pre-existing, place-based disparities exacerbated by the pandemic; and stimulate investment of over \$30 million. So far CII has leveraged over \$273 million in

total development cost with 79% of funding invested in low-income communities, and/or communities of color. It has provided roughly 315,000 square feet of affordable commercial space and 522 business incubation/start-up/innovation spaces and 30 affordable commercial spaces including 18 ownership opportunities. Five development projects are led by local developers of color.

Kelley concluded his presentation with map of where the proposed CII funded projects are located and by highlighting seven of these projects that are located within the Blue Line Extension corridor.

Commissioner Lunde suggested there be a kind of score card to track determine which investments prove to be most helpful. Bill Emory asked how the scope of the corridor is being defined? Council Member Ellison stated that each project is taken case by case, but a definition of commercial affordability would be good.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:50