



Southwest Transitway Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Wednesday, January 28, 2009 - 6:00 to 8:00pm
Wolfe Lake Professional Building

Attendees: See member sign-in sheet

Southwest Project Team Staff

Katie Walker	Hennepin County, Project Manager
Oscar Gonzalez	HDR Engineering, Inc.
Mona Elabbady	HDR Engineering, Inc.
Kathie Doty	KLD Consulting

Others

Gen McJilton	Ryan Company
Butch Johnson	Interested citizen
David Greene	Isaiah

Meeting Notes

I. Member Updates

Katie Walker opened the meeting. Members provided updates on their respective communities. Ross D'Emanuele reported that his neighborhood was surprised to hear about the submittal of a proposed LRT 3C subalternative. Frank Powell reported that he's hearing interest in getting the western end of the line finalized, even if it takes longer to reconcile the eastern end issues.

II. Scoping Summary Report

Ms. Walker reported that the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority had acted to accept the Scoping Summary report on January 27. The report will be posted on the SW website. She also described two new routing alternatives that were introduced during the scoping comment period – Alternative LRT 3E and a subalternative to LRT 3C. Mona Elabbady presented information on the scoping process which went from September 8, 2008 to November 7, 2008. More than 300 comments were received, including the proposed new routing alternatives. Ms. Elabbady described the two alternatives and how the proposed alternatives were evaluated.

Comments and questions from the CAC included:

- how much did it cost the County to evaluate the two new alternatives?
- How were the proposed alternatives defined, and could they have been improved with a variety of changes?

Katie Walker reviewed the actions of the SW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA). CAC members asked clarifying questions, and



wanted to know about the next steps in the process. Ms. Walker indicated that the HCRRA's acceptance of the Scoping Summary report closes out the scoping phase of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Going forward, alternatives can be removed as it is determined that enough information is available to support such a decision. It is the intent of the SW PAC to narrow alternatives to one by spring or summer of 2009.

The CAC members asked more questions about the proposed new alternatives, and suggested challenges as well. Nels Sandberg noted that the LRT 3C subalternative may have implications for historical sites such as the Plymouth Congregational church. Ms. Elabbady clarified that motorists coming off I394 into downtown would need to cross over the LRT line at grade as the LRT 3C subalternative is presently envisioned.

Other issues and suggestions raised by CAC members:

- Bill James asked about the formation of a speakers bureau for the SW project
- Barry Schade encouraged project staff to provide camera ready text on the project status on a more regular basis for neighborhood newspapers
- John Wheaton asked about the possible impact of the Federal Stimulus package
- Several members indicated frustration with the pace of the project and wanted to know what they could do to help speed things up
- Frank Powell asked what the function of the SW CAC would be after the route selection as made. Ms. Walker said that the SW CAC would still be needed as the environmental analysis becomes more detailed and mitigation methods are considered.

III. Open Forum for non-members

Brian Willette, SW PAC member, commented that he appreciated the work that the SW CAC was doing and was glad to hear their discussion.

IV. Adjournment

Ms. Walker adjourned the meeting, and said that the next regularly schedule meeting is in March, but asked that members hold February 25 open in case an extra CAC meeting needed to be scheduled.