



Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 19, 2011

1:30 - 3:00 pm

St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Gail Dorfman, Chair, Hennepin County Member
Anne Mavity, City of St. Louis Park Member
Mary Brindle, City of Edina Alternate
Janet Jeremiah, City of Eden Prairie Alternate
Terry Schneider, City of Minnetonka Alternate
Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie Member
Jim Hovland, City of Edina Member
Don Samuels, City of Minneapolis Member
Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member
Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Member

Other Attendees

Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Patrick Connoy (Hennepin County), Phil Eckhert (Hennepin County), Adele Hall (Hennepin County), Lisa Middag (Hennepin County), Mark Fuhrmann (Metro Transit), Carol Lezotte Anderson (Hennepin County), Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting), Ann Wolff (KLD Consulting), Karin Berkholtz (City of Minneapolis), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Karen Lyons (Metropolitan Council), Susan Hoyt (Metropolitan Council), Dick Miller (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Jeff Casale (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), , Larry Blackstad (Minnehaha Creek Watershed), Cathy Bennett (ULI Minnesota), Barry Warner (SRF Consulting), Julie Wischnack (City of Minnetonka), Meg McMonigal (City of St. Louis Park), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Louis Smith (Smith Partners), Jason Flohrs (Jason Flohrs Consulting), Judy Johnson (Twin West Chamber), Dave Nuckols (Hennepin County), Paul Heuer (Bonestroo), Jay Demma (Bonestroo)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Gail Dorfman opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

II. April 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Chair Dorfman asked for review and action on the minutes from the April 21, 2011 Steering Committee meeting. Jim Hovland (Edina Member) moved to approve the minutes; Kathy Nelson (Eden Prairie Member) seconded this motion, and the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

III. Business Activities & Coordination in SWLRT Community Works

Chair Dorfman welcomed Judy Johnson (Twin West Chamber), Louis Smith (Smith Partners) and Jason Flohrs (Jason Flohrs Consulting) to discuss business involvement. Judy Johnson shared on behalf of Twin West Chamber that Southwest LRT has been a priority for them for more than a decade and they are continuing to advocate for the project. Ms. Johnson stated that they are working on having a place on their website to share the rationale for their support. They have been working with Hennepin County and held a legislative breakfast last month and continue to work with legislators for support of Southwest LRT. Ms. Johnson shared that they met with Representative Beard and continue to urge Representative Paulsen for his support. Chair Dorfman asked about Representative Keith Downey's stance on Southwest as a former PAC member. Ms. Johnson shared that it appears he still speaks favorably about Southwest but has had to stand down a bit lately.

Chair Dorfman introduced Jason Flohrs and shared that Mr. Flohrs has been working on gathering information on how best to develop a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) for the Southwest LRT project. Mr. Flohrs shared that he has been working with Katie Walker (Hennepin County) and Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting) to focus on how best to reach out to the business community based on input from cities and chamber staff. Mr. Flohrs distributed a handout to summarize activities. Mr. Flohrs highlighted the diversity of businesses along the corridor. Chair Dorfman asked for clarification if the BAC will be tied to both the Community Works Steering Committee and the Corridor Management Committee. Mr. Flohrs stated that is the intent. Chair Dorfman asked about timeframe and Jim Hovland (Edina Member) asked about the composition of the BAC. Mr. Flohrs stated that the number of members is still to be determined, but that the committee will include geographical representation of businesses along the corridor and will likely include members from each city, chambers, and Metro Council. Chair Dorfman asked Mark Fuhrmann about the Central Corridor BAC. Mr. Fuhrmann shared that in 2006, as Central Corridor entered Preliminary Engineering, there were approximately 20 members—this committee has since disbanded. This group represented a cross section of large to small businesses along the corridor. Chair Dorfman said that the Community Advisory Committee voted to select a representative to the Corridor Management Committee and asked if there would be a similar procedure for the BAC. Mr. Fuhrmann indicated that would be the case. Mr. Hovland asked Mr. Fuhrmann about optimal timing for organizing a BAC and Mr. Fuhrmann stated that the optimal timing is now to identify how the seats will be populated and then work to fill seats as Southwest LRT moves into Preliminary Engineering. Mr. Hovland asked who will decide how to populate seats. Chair Dorfman stated that staff will make a recommendation based on conversations with the cities. Metro Council Chair Haigh and Chair Dorfman will ultimately make the determination. The group discussed the legislature and Representative Beard's stance on transit. Peter McLaughlin (Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority Member) discussed legislative initiatives to reduce transit funding and Chair Dorfman shared that Bob McFarlin and others have been meeting with legislators to discuss funding.

Chair Dorfman introduced Louis Smith and shared that he served as a driving force behind the Midtown Greenway Community Works Partnership, which serves as a model for private/public partnerships. Mr. Smith discussed how the county and city investments can be used to leverage private partnerships and stressed the importance of identifying businesses with long-term interest in the corridor. Mr. Smith will report back with a recommendation by the end of July. Chair Dorfman stated that this work connects well with the work Bonestroo will be sharing and that once the project office is established, the BAC should be ready to be up and running.

IV. Membership Subcommittee

The membership subcommittee will meet on June 2, 2011, and will report back at the June Steering Committee meeting.

V. TOD Investment Framework

Jay Demma and Paul Heuer (Bonestroo) shared information regarding the corridor wide inventory. A packet of maps and spreadsheets was distributed to the group and was sent to the Technical Implementation Committee (TIC), as well. Chair Dorfman stated that Bonestroo worked closely with city staff to complete the framework inventory. The framework is modeled after that used for the Central Corridor and is an inventory of infrastructure needs in the corridor, not including the LRT costs. The inventory is not a policy document, but an opportunity to get out on the table the inventory of improvements. Some projects are not directly influenced by the LRT project, but are part of the sequencing therefore they are included to help with overall planning. The TOD Investment Framework serves as a planning tool, and also as a management and marketing tool. The inventory gives an aggregate total by station area and also generates a total estimate of \$723 million in infrastructure costs around the station areas. Of that amount, Mr. Heuer stated that some of that will be financed by developers and may also include other private investments. The large total in the Town Center area in Eden Prairie includes two Mn/DOT projects totaling \$248 million. Mr. Heuer shared that some of the projects are in the works regardless of the LRT project, but that it is important to know what needs to be done in each station area. Anne Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) asked if they have talked to property owners and Mr. Demma answered that they have not, but they have worked with city staff who work closely with businesses. Ms. Mavity stressed the importance of clearly sharing the information with community members. Chair Dorfman shared that the TIC has had a first look at this document and the cities now have an opportunity to look over the framework to see if it adequately represents the station areas and then the framework may be adjusted as needed. Cathy Bennett (ULI Minnesota) stated that the Center for Transit-Oriented Development (CTOD) will be doing some market research work and that they will be working to align with the business community work, as well. Chair Dorfman said this tool helps to identify opportunities and all need to figure out how to best use it. Patrick Connoy (Hennepin County) stated that the County's money is primarily planning money and some of the projects could be pilot projects. Katie Walker (Hennepin County) shared that they are working with cities to prepare for what needs to be in the ground when LRT opens, where we are now and how to bridge the gap. Mr. Connoy stressed the importance of Louis Smith's work to gain private investments, as well. Chair Dorfman ended the discussion in order to leave time to hear from the University of Minnesota students.

VI. U of M Capstone Project: Golden Triangle Station

University of Minnesota Humphrey School graduates shared their capstone project around the Golden Triangle site. Projects are available for committee members to review and other students may share their projects at future meetings.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Dorfman adjourned the meeting. The next Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 1:30 pm at the St. Louis Park City Hall.