



Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 16, 2011

1:30 - 3:00 pm

St. Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Vice-Chair Jim Hovland, City of Edina Member

Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member

Terry Schneider, City of Minnetonka Alternate

Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie Member

Rick Brausen, City of Hopkins Member

Other Attendees

Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Phil Eckhert (Hennepin County), Adele Hall (Hennepin County), Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting), Karin Berkholtz (City of Minneapolis), Amanda Arnold (City of Minneapolis), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Karen Lyons (Metropolitan Council), Dick Miller (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Jeff Casale (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Caren Dewar (ULI Minnesota), Cathy Bennett (ULI Minnesota), Elise Durbin (City of Minnetonka), Kevin Locke (City of St. Louis Park), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Dave Nuckols (Hennepin County), Janet Jeremiah (City of Eden Prairie), Rebecca Hornstein (ISAIAH), James Wisker (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Tiana Carretta (Mn/DOT), Matt Gladue (ISAIAH)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Vice-Chair Jim Hovland opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

II. May 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Hovland noted that no quorum was present at the meeting, and delayed approval of the May meeting minutes to the next Steering Committee meeting in August.

III. Updates

a. Corporate Involvement

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, updated the group on the several facets of business involvement in the Southwest LRT Community Works project. Jason Flohrs has met with all cities and chambers and is currently drafting a report that recommends how to proceed with establishing a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) that will be shared by SWLRT Community Works, and the SWLRT project. Louis Smith will connect with corporate leaders to engage on corporate planning as it relates to growth along the Southwest LRT line.

Vice-chair Hovland (Edina Member) commented that the BAC will advise on impacts to businesses, the Southwest Alliance is lobbying and educating, but a strategy is still needed to engage businesses. Mr. Hovland added that Mr. Smith will begin to develop relationships with corporate representatives, but mayors and councilmembers need to help facilitate these connections. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) agreed that the chambers are effective for lobbying at the legislature, but that this work is different. Major employers and Fortune 500 companies, new businesses, and impacted businesses all need separate strategies for engagement with the project. Mr. Schneider commented that the major employers are generally aware of what is going on and the benefits of LRT, but are not engaged. Having a committee where they could participate is key.

Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member) asked who the point person is on all of the business work. Ms. Walker responded that Hennepin County holds the contracts with Jason Flohrs and Louis Smith. Mr. Hovland restated the need to develop business contacts as advocates, and stated that the BAC would not serve this purpose. Rick Brausen (Hopkins Member) agreed with the need for mayors and council members to help with business engagement, and noted that it is also important to be sensitive to existing businesses. Mr. Schneider noted that a coordinating entity will be needed beyond the consultant contracts, which are too short term. Kathy Nelson (Eden Prairie Member) commented that she is already in contact with businesses about the LRT project. The first step should be getting key names and emails so that updates can be sent, along with contact information for Steering Committee and Corridor Management Committee representatives. Business representatives expect to be engaged when they are needed, meanwhile, the project should keep in touch via email. Caren Dewar, ULI Minnesota, noted that the anchor businesses that participated the Midtown Community Works Partnership had a self interest and a broader interest in the project, and that with the elected officials at the table there was political will, a sense of urgency, and a catalyst for action. Ms. Dewar expressed confidence in Mr. Smith and agreed that it would be very important for elected officials to introduce him to business leaders. Ms. Callison asked for staff to put together a one-page memo describing who needs to be engaged, how, and by whom. Mr. Schneider added that talking points for conversations with legislators are also needed.

b. Membership Subcommittee

Janet Jeremiah, City of Eden Prairie, reviewed the suggestions of the membership subcommittee, which met on June 2. Ms. Jeremiah distributed a summary of the suggestions and reviewed them: criteria for membership; member expectations; becoming a member; potential members; and other ways to participate. Ms. Jeremiah also announced to the group that Eden Prairie City Council appointed Councilmember Brad Aho to act as the alternate to Councilmember Kathy Nelson on the Steering Committee, in order to be more consistent with the other cities, who also appointed two elected officials as member and alternate. Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member), asked if Shakopee, mentioned on the handout as a potential member, was discussed in detail, and noted that though commuters from Shakopee will use Southwest LRT, their need for economic development and infrastructure as it relates to the LRT project is not akin to the member cities. Ms. Jeremiah responded that Shakopee was not discussed in detail, instead the subcommittee agreed that if a member of the Steering Committee were to bring the City of Shakopee or another

potential member forward, that they would be discussed and voted on by the Steering Committee. Kathy Nelson (Eden Prairie Member) noted that she may bring Shakopee to the table at the next meeting when there is a quorum. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Member) asked if the membership subcommittee targeted a size for the Steering Committee. Ms. Jeremiah responded that no specific number was discussed, just getting the representation needed without the committee becoming cumbersome. Vice-Chair Hovland (Edina Member) asked how far from University Avenue the Central Corridor Community Works project reached. Katie Walker, Hennepin County, responded that Community Works has not been done with an LRT project before; Southwest is the first. Caren Dewar, ULI Minnesota, added that Midtown Community Works Partnership is more akin to Southwest, as the Central Corridor Funders' Collaborative has a different model. Ms. Dewar also recommended that, like the Midtown Community Works Partnership, high-level business representatives should be on the Steering Committee working side-by-side with elected officials. The discussion was laid over until the August meeting, since no quorum is present.

c. Transitional Station Area Implementation Strategy

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, noted that TIC members are working on developing a scope of work for Transitional Station Area Implementation Strategies. The planning process is funded through the HUD Sustainable Communities grant, and will document the gap between existing development and infrastructure conditions and what needs to be complete before the LRT opens in 2017, in order to achieve functional stations and enable long-term development visions. The work will provide input to the Corridor Investment Framework. Vice-Chair Hovland (Edina Member) asked if the \$350,000 allocated to Transitional Station Area Plans from the HUD grant funding would be enough to pay for the planning work. Ms. Walker stated that additional funding sources may be pursued, as the scope of work is likely to exceed \$350,000.

IV. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

James Wisker, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), presented the Watershed geography, and highlighted recent projects. Mr. Wisker noted that the MCWD has a regional interest in the corridor as a regional resource management organization and would like to be a partner in the Southwest LRT Community Works project. Mr. Wisker noted that LRT presents opportunities to expand access to the creek near Blake Road Station and in surrounding areas, and presented an example of a public private partnership with Methodist Hospital to provide hospital and public access to a much healthier creek. Mr. Wisker expressed a desire to repeat these kinds of projects along the creek, and emphasized that MCWD's participation in stormwater management planning with developer would be especially effective, as they could potentially eliminate stormwater issues early in the process. Rick Brausen (Hopkins Member) commented that he would like to see MCWD added to the Partnership.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. The July Steering Committee meeting is canceled; the next Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18, at 1:30 pm at the St. Louis Park City Hall.