



**Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 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  
Anne Mavity, City of St. Louis Park Member  
Terry Schneider, City of Minnetonka Alternate  
Kathy Nelson, City of Eden Prairie Member  
Jennifer Munt, Metropolitan Council Member

Other Attendees

Phil Eckhert (Hennepin County), Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Adele Hall (Hennepin County), Carol Lezotte Anderson (Hennepin County), Lisa Middag (Hennepin County), Mark Fuhrmann (Metro Transit), Karin Berkholtz (City of Minneapolis), Amanda Arnold (City of Minneapolis), Karen Lyons (Metropolitan Council), Jeff Casale (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Caren Dewar (ULI Minnesota), Kersten Elverum (City of Hopkins), Julie Wischnack (City of Minnetonka), Kevin Locke (City of St. Louis Park), Meg McMonigal (City of St. Louis Park), Jeff Benson (URS Corporation), Susan Hoyt (Metropolitan Council), Larry Blackstad (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting), Patricia Fitzgerald (Hennepin County), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Edward Ferlauto (Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association), Steve Hogan (City of Minneapolis), Jon Wolff (City of St. Louis Park), Andrew Sinickas (Eaton Corporation), Janet Jeremiah (City of Eden Prairie), Jeffrey Peltola (Minneapolis Resident)

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Vice-Chair Jim Hovland (Edina Member) opened the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**II. October 20, 2011, Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chair Jim Hovland (Edina Member) asked for review and action on the minutes from the October 20, 2011, Steering Committee meeting.

Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member) moved the following corrections to the minutes, strike the first "some" from the first sentence on page three; and strike "[???" There is no such person...]" from page four. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) moved to approve the amended minutes; Anne Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) seconded this motion, and the minutes were approved on a voice vote.

### **III. Updates**

#### Technical Implementation Committee (TIC)

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, noted that the TIC has been discussing and will continue to research the potential for a corridor-wide development authority. At each meeting, city staff is presenting a focus station; Amanda Arnold from the City of Minneapolis presented on the Van White Station at the November TIC meeting. TIC members have also been involved in the early stages of designing a plan for internal and external communications.

#### Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, reported that Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council continue to discuss the DEIS with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). On September 2, 2011, the FTA approved the Southwest LRT project into Preliminary Engineering and provided direction on specific changes to the DEIS document. The DEIS will be modified to include the impacts and potential mitigation of relocating freight rail as well as a new alternative where freight rail, Southwest LRT, and the commuter bike trail will co-exist in the Kenilworth Corridor. Accommodating this new direction from FTA will require additional consultant services from HDR Engineering, Inc.

### **IV. Membership**

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, presented a staff recommendation for the membership nomination process and application. The group discussed and agreed that the issue of members' financial contributions is still pending, but there has not been a need for contributions to-date. If the need arises, the issue will be taken up. Jim Hovland (Edina Member) noted that contributions should be determined on a case by case basis. Caren Dewar (ULI-MN Member) recommended that the membership materials state that a financial contribution might be required. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) added that when the Steering Committee votes on the membership, all members should be able to vote, regardless of their ability to attend the meeting. Jan Callison (Hennepin County Member) suggested that the Committee take action on new members at the next meeting. Ms. Dewar recalled that one approach was to wait one month after nominating so that the committee can discuss member nominations before acting on them. Mr. Hovland proposed a 30 day advanced notice of request for membership.

Mr. Schneider moved approval of the membership nomination process. Anne Mavity (St. Louis Park Member) seconded the motion, and the membership nomination process was approved on a voice vote.

### **V. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Steering Committee Representative**

Katie Walker, Hennepin County, referred members to a handout about the CAC, and described the role of the CAC to-date and the new members that will be added as the LRT project moves into Preliminary Engineering in 2012. Ms. Walker introduced Kathie Doty, KLD Consulting, who elaborated on the ways that the CAC has advised and on their history. Ms. Doty referred the committee to the resolution before them requesting the CAC appoint a member to represent the CAC on the Steering Committee, per the action at the October Steering Committee, which established an ex-officio CAC member on the Steering Committee. Steering Committee members reviewed the action from the October minutes. Jennifer Munt (Metropolitan Council Member) expressed her support for the CAC as a shared committee, saying that with the complexity of LRT planning, the group should be able to discuss all issues and approach the project holistically.

Ms. Munt moved approval of the resolution, Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) seconded, and the resolution was approved on a voice vote.

### **VI. Hennepin County Corridors of Opportunity Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Fund & Metropolitan Council TOD Fund**

Patricia Fitzgerald, Hennepin County, presented to the committee on the newly available Hennepin County Corridors of Opportunity TOD Challenge Fund. The fund is \$800,000 for 2012 and

available on a rolling basis beginning in January. Cities can apply for challenge funds for projects along Central, Southwest, and Bottineau Corridors as a way to leverage other dollars in a timely manner.

Jennifer Munt (Metropolitan Council Member), presented to the committee on the proposed Metropolitan Council TOD fund. The fund is \$32 million for infrastructure and development to improve the interface between land use and transit. The TOD dollars come from unused funds returned to the Metropolitan Council. Caren Dewar (ULI-MN Member) commented that the reason that Dallas Area Rapid Transit was able to leverage their investments in transit was because of their embedded and coordinated efforts in real estate development. Metropolitan Council needs to connect cities to development opportunities that take advantage of the transit infrastructure. Terry Schneider (Minnetonka Alternate) asked if cities and developers can apply and if there are minimum qualifications. Ms. Munt responded that only cities may apply, and that the criteria listed in her presentation are not minimums, but rather would be used to rank projects. The criteria are proposed and comments are welcome; approval of the TOD fund will come before the Metropolitan Council in early December. If cities do not qualify for these funds, they may be eligible for Livable Communities funds also available. The TOD fund is intended to achieve faster results; the plan is to disperse \$32 million over three years, and cities will have three years to use the funds after they are granted. The Metropolitan Council will spread the funding around regionally; funds are not allocated to specific corridors.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45. The December Steering Committee meeting is canceled. The next Southwest LRT Community Works Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, at 1:30 pm at the St. Louis Park City Hall.