

**Southwest LRT Community Works Steering
Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 20, 2014

1:30-3:00pm, St Louis Park City Hall

Meeting Attendees

Steering Committee Members & Alternates

Chair Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County Member
Jan Callison, Hennepin County Member
Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin Regional RR Authority Member
Linea Palmisano, City of Minneapolis Member
Anne Mavity, St. Louis Park Member
Sue Sanger, St. Louis Park Alternative
Jason Gadd, City of Hopkins Member
Terry Schneider, Minnetonka Member
Kathy Nelson, Eden Prairie Member
Dick Miller, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Member
Jeff Casale, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Alternate
Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Member
Meg Forney, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Alternative
Nancy Tyra-Lukens, Southwest Transit Member

Other Attendees

Commissioner Linda Higgins (Hennepin County), Katie Walker (Hennepin County), Kerri Pearce Ruch (Hennepin County), Chuck Darnell (Hennepin County), Julie Wischnack (Minnetonka), Meg McMonigal (St. Louis Park), Kersten Elverum (Hopkins), Larry Blackstad (Minnehaha Creek Watershed District), Vida Ditter (ROC/Bryn Mawr), Karen Lyons (Met Council), John Doan (Hennepin County), Eric Anderson (Hopkins resident), Kathryn Hansen (SPO), La Shelle Sims (MICAH), Nora Riemenschneider (Met Council), Bob Wick (St. Louis Park), Sara Schmitt (KLD), Kathie Doty (KLD Consulting)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gail Dorfman convened the meeting and informed attendees that this will be the last meeting at which she will chair. Chair Dorfman provided updates on Committee membership: Jan Callison has agreed to serve as the new chair of the Steering Committee; Meg Forney will be the alternate for Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board replacing Bob Fine; Linea Palmisano will be the new member for Minneapolis replacing Don Samuels and a new Minneapolis alternate will be named soon to replace Betsy Hodges.

II. Approval of December 2013 Minutes

Chair Dorfman asked for a motion on the minutes from the January 16, 2014 Steering Committee Meeting. The minutes were moved, seconded and passed on a voice vote.

III. Partnership for Regional Opportunity (PRO) Presentation

Chair Dorfman introduced Nora Riemenschneider, the Metropolitan Council's Project Coordinator for the Partnership for Regional Opportunity (PRO). Ms. Riemenschneider explained that the Project Manager for PRO is Mary Kay Bailey. She then provided a brief history of the transition from Corridors of Opportunity to PRO. Ms. Riemenschneider described the three members of the Community Engagement Team that is responsible for recommending grants that support effective place based initiatives that engage and involve under represented communities. The Policy Board, chaired by Susan Haigh from the Metropolitan Council and Lee Sheehy from the McKnight Foundation, make final recommendations on grants. Ms. Riemenschneider noted that some members of the SW Community Works Steering Committee are also on the PRO Policy Board (Nancy Tyra Lukens, Peter McLaughlin and Caren Dewar). In addition to the Policy Board there are four workgroups, Regional Equity and Community Engagement, Shared Prosperity, Transit Oriented Development and Transportation Funding, co-chaired by leaders from different sectors.

Ms. Riemenschneider described how this partnership provides loans and grants to support new and equitable transit oriented development (TOD) projects. In order to reshape communities and policies to meet the needs of low-income residents, \$1.4 million was added to help housing along the Green Line and to promote business planning and marketing with small business loans being extended. A loan fund of over \$10 million has also been extended and 625 housing units have been funded. To align efforts toward a shared vision, the Opportunity Challenge Grants, which focuses TOD funds and a \$500,000 subsidy for rebuilding on vacant lots in the Promise Neighborhood are underway. Outreach to the traditionally underrepresented communities can be seen with the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment, which focuses on engagement and equity. The issues raised by the FHEA process will be woven throughout the Thrive MSP 2040 deliberation and will ultimately influence regional plans and policies.

Gail Dorfman asked about how we can be sure that we achieve equitable development. Ms. Riemenschneider offered that their community engagement efforts were effectively increasing public awareness, and a community advisory council had been formed. In addition, she mentioned LISC efforts to reach the Somali community in Eden Prairie, and that training on how to respond to a DEIS was offered. Terry Schneider stated the efforts have helped, citing outreach conducted for the Bottineau project. It was proposed that information for interested developers be added to the SW Community Works website.

IV. Walkshed Analysis Tool Demonstration

Chair Dorfman asked Katie Walker, Hennepin County to report on a 'walkshed tool' that was created using HUD Sustainable Communities grant funding. Ms. Walker stressed how this tool will be used to explore and evaluate possible development impacts, and then she introduced Charles Darnell from Hennepin County to describe the GIS based tools and how it was developed. Mr. Darnell indicated that the goal was to create a digital tool to graphically depict the area accessible by a 10-minute walk from the station platform.

Charles Darnell explained how GIS data was used to create a 10 minute walkshed for each LRT station in which signal/stop wait times, gaps in the system and physical barriers such as freeways were considered. The Southwest Walkshed Analysis tool was used in the Transitional Station Area Action Plan (TSAAP) process as a strong visual to identify areas of priority for investment. Mr. Darnell mentioned how in the future this tool will be used to evaluate the potential for infrastructure investments to enlarge the walkshed in addition to identifying job centers, housing, educational facilities, and other amenities that exist within a 10 minute walk from the stations.

Gail Dorfman asked if the tool could be used to look at safety issues. Katie Walker replied that it could with the physical nature of the pedestrian environment. Anita Tabb mentioned the benefits of including parks and also stressed the importance of being able to take into account closures during winter. Jason Gadd wanted to know how cities would have access to the tool. The response was that work with the city staff will be underway in the future in order for everyone to have access to these tools. Peter McLaughlin stressed how this helps us reorient

pedestrian experience. The overall consensus was that this tool shows a lot of promise as a way to better plan for pedestrian access to station areas.

V. Recognition of Service for Commissioner Gail Dorfman

Gail Dorfman thanked the Committee and staff and talked about her focus on catalytic community spaces that she hopes we can create through this project. She then turned the meeting over to the new chair, Jan Callison.

VI. Adjournment

Jan Callison adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on March 20, 2014.