

Meeting Minutes: Community and Business Advisory Committee

Date: 09/13/2022
Location: Virtual, Metro Transit Project Offices

Attendance

- Shari Wilson
- John Slade
- Don Mullin
- Debra Canfield
- Joan Ballanger
- Darrell Paulsen
- Craig Lamothe
- Liz Jones
- Jim Gersema
- Sara Pflaum
- Colin Owens
- Jerome Benner
- Marc Valencia
- Steve Heckler
- Zachary Mensinger
- Brent Peterson
- Ian R. Buck
- Tong C. Thao
- Ianni Houmas
- Mary Buerkle
- Dale Grambush
- Carol McFarlane
- Paul Bolstad

Meeting Notes

INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Discussed the creation of the Committee Charter and announced Ianni Houmas and Laurie Malone as Co-Chairs for CBAC.

STATION AREA PLANNING

Beginning recruitment with SAP groups – focuses on how station areas will look over time. Looking for dense bike/ped traffic and mini neighborhoods. 10 people per station help develop. How are stations being developed? Overview of recruitment window for SAP groups – focus on St. Paul stations.

ARCADE STREET STATION OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Project Staff outlined studying several options with Arcade Street stations and overview of upcoming outreach into September/October time period. Including mailings (3,980 Parcels), canvassing, surveys and open house/pop up events.

Questions/Comments

John Slade – When talking to Payne Phalen Community Council – some of the shopping center and YMCA were in Dayton’s Bluff – connecting with the Council.

Chat: Have you or do you plan to collaborate with MNDOT on the Arcade St Working Plan? Sara mentioned to meet regularly with MNDOT project manager collaborate with MNDOT on the Arcade Street meeting regularly to coordinate with MNDOT.

Paul Bolstad: radius for walkshed outreach seems small for someone who bikes and utilizes many services similar to biking and electric scooters, etc. transportation is available – does this change how far out outreach goes with that in mind? To what extent do you include bikes and electric scooters to the radius for SAP and walk/bike shed?

Ianni Houmas: Mentioned St. Paul Brewing – Baldinger and has contacts for outreach.

Jack Byers - Folks should see Seeger square as an option for TOD for housing and infill sites. folks working on and talking about more infill development in area. There is an intention for the Evie carshare in the area. Important to contact St. Paul public works and hour car. Daylighting the Phalen creek to Mississippi especially the Arcade that is private property.

BRT ROUTE MODIFICATION STUDY UPDATE & NEXT STEPS

Reviewed previously studied routes and history of LPA and north end alignment to:

- 1A, 1B | 35 E Park and Ride at CR E
- 2A, Kennard Station, 2B St. John’s Maplewood Mall Transit Center
- 3A, 3B Century College

Questions/Comments

John Slade - questions about WBL approving Century Ave route? WBL is aware of routing and minimizes neighborhood routes of residential areas.

Ian Buck – comment: endpoint at Century college is compelling. How would a walkshed at Kennard impact the ridership of station? **Jim Gersema**, Kennard station is on the fringe of a 10-minute walkshed and is a reasonable distance from apartments. Knowing many of kids in the East Side would be a worthwhile goal. Seconded by Ioannes.

Carol MacFarlane: Would you be eliminating route 219? **Jim Gersema:** Bus route 219 goes up Century and would still serve the area but would be adjusted to maximize the connections to the Purple Line. **Craig Lamothe** – All routes will be tailored back many months later into the project.

Katherine Knudsen – is LPA still under consideration? No has been suspended by CMC

PROJECT RATING FOR PURPLE LINE

Craig Lamothe provided an overview of project rating for Purple Line – Goal for Purple Line "medium" rating. Exploring to reduce stations, service plan and frequency of service as examples. How can existing service better serve the area.

Capital Investment Program and is competitive and requires a fully designed project for construction. New Starts (exceeding \$400 Million) and Small Starts (less than \$400 Million)

Purple Line Project is currently in project development.

Questions/Comments

Mary Buerkle. How is congestion relief analyzed – concerns for Buerkle Rd. How many new riders are analyzed. **Craig Lamothe:** Part of environmental analysis both positives and negatives of area.

John Slade - Land use - what is that metric defined as? –**Craig Lamothe** - **review** on affordable housing in station areas, density of population, are the areas accessible? Overabundance of parking (as a negative) focuses on present day conditions of the corridor and walkshed.

Technical Evaluation Results will be completed in Early November, Public Review and Comment Period in Mid-November – December, Revised Locally Preferred Alternative Recommendation in January 2023.

Ian Buck – having a path down White Bear Avenue, **Craig Lamothe** – too high of an impact on residential areas and expense for dedicated guideway was costly.

Action Items

- Issues with chat feature in Teams – need to troubleshoot differences in guest account
- Liz to follow up with form for SAP group recruitment
- CBAC team to provide contacts for outreach