

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Meeting Notes Bottineau Community Works Steering Committee May 15, 2023 – 10:30 PM – 12:00 PM Brooklyn Center

1. Welcome & introductions

Members present: Jeff Lunde, Irene Fernando, Hennepin County; Hollies Winston & Nichole Klonowski, Brooklyn Park; Therese Kiser, Crystal; Aaron Wagner & Mia Parisian, Robbinsdale; Jennifer Dejournett, Three Rivers Park District; Gillian Rosenquist, Golden Valley

Staff present: Andrew Gillett, Kerri Pearce Ruch, Ryan Kelley, Hennepin County; Kathryn Hansen, Metro Transit; Kim Berggren, Brooklyn Park; John Sutter, Crystal; Bethany Turnwall, Minneapolis,

Others present: Anna Schmiel, Bill Emory, Cathy Gold, & Patricia Zagaros, Hennepin County; Kaja Vang and Joanna Hubbard, Metro Transit; Joanna Ocasio-Maisonet, Met Council

2. Administrative items

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Fernando moved approval of the March 20, 2023 minutes; Council Member Wagner seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Partner updates/announcements

Commissioner Lunde invited members to share announcements and updates with the group. Ryan Kelley provided a brief update on the planning work being conducted in Robbinsdale and Crystal. The consultant working on the Robbinsdale planning update is Bolton and Menk and work includes connectivity analysis based upon alignment changes, station location at 40th Avenue, and potential park and ride facility at the US Bank site. The consulting providing the update in planning for Crystal is Damon Farber this work also includes updates in connectivity as well as analyzing five primary development sites and improvements to the station area. Both planning projects will wrap up in July.

Kerri Pearce Ruch provided a brief update on some work around cultural destinations in the corridor. The Bottineau TIC will have this on their agenda at the June meeting and then for the July Steering



Committee meeting. Speakers with expertise in creating and supporting cultural districts will be invited to the July Steering Committee meeting.

Steering committee members discussed how other metropolitan areas have communities based upon settlement patterns, shared culture and values, and unique names based upon area history.

Ryan Kelley updated the steering committee on funding opportunities for Bottineau CII, Hennepin Planning Grants and Business District Improvement grants that will be opening in the coming months. Corridor Investment Initiative (CII) supports affordable commercial space and 18 awards totaling \$10 million were made in the first year of the program county-wide. Now \$500 thousand has been made available specifically for the Blue Line Extension corridor. Guidelines for CII will be posted June 29 with applications due August 17.

BDI and Hennepin Planning Grants will have guidelines posted August 1 and applications due October 5th.

4. Anti-displacement report overview

Cathy Gold provided an overview of the recently released Anti-Displacement report. This work was completed by CURA through contact with Hennepin County. The Blue Line Extension corridor runs through an area with a history of redlining and properties with racial covenants. The project wants to turn the corner on this past. The LRT can connect people to jobs and education, reduce pollution, and help build wealth for communities. This work supports Hennepin County's disparity reduction work and touches the seven domains of this work.

Achieving success in the anti-displacement work will take transparency, accountability, and shared decision making; coordination, collaboration and commitment across business lines; and investment and partnership from public and private sectors, philanthropy, and community.

Cathy continued by describing the anti-displacement work's creative community engagement process. It involved contracting with 15 community organizations and working with local artists, attending open houses and tabling at community events, corridor tours, and presenting at CAC and BAC meetings. The vision for this work is to prevent displacement and maximize community benefits of light rail by centering community voices in establishing strong anti-displacement strategies for implementation.

The completed anti-displacement report has 17 policy recommendations that are distinct to each jurisdiction as well as corridor wide. All recommendations are based on underlying principles. The communications roll out will extend from June to September. The project team is now transitioning to implementation with more of a focus on community prosperity.

Commissioner Fernando commented that Blue Line Extension is the only LRT project in the nation that is incorporating anti-displacement work into its development. The anti-displacement work involved gathering community feedback via a research framework. Commissioner Lunde stated that this work serves as a framework for moving forward.

5. Review of draft Focus Area document

Kerri Pearce Ruch led the presentation and discussion of the draft Focus Area document that serves as a workplan for Bottineau Community Works. The intent was to discuss the document and take action on it at the July Steering Committee meeting. The March Steering Committee served as a workshop to further refine the Focus Area document followed by discussion with corridor staff at the Bottineau TIC meeting in April. Kerri went through each of the five focus areas of TOD Development, Workforce Connections, Small Business Support, and Placemaking/Place Keeping, with the updates for each. She also opened up each Focus Area for discussion.

Council Member Klonowski brought up safety as a concern to be addressed by the Focus Areas and cited the current Blue Line station at Lake Street as an example of an unsafe station.

Commissioner Fernando suggested safety could be added to the first page of the document and that the narrative concerning safety on transit needs to change. Bill Emory suggested that BCW work on safety could fall under placemaking/placekeeping.

In the TOD focus area, Mayor Winston also spoke of safety but also mentioned that grants for strategic acquisition would be worth pursuing and that Brooklyn Park would like acquire sites near the Brooklyn Boulevard site to increase parking and the number of restaurants. It was also mentioned that connections should include to the Grand Rounds and Victory Memorial Parkway/Wirth Corridor and that work underway in cities should be highlighted under "support the effort of others".

For workforce connections, Commissioner DeJournett offered her expertise in working on how to connect women and minority owned businesses with contractors bidding on work. She offered examples and resources to match subcontractors with prime contractors – APEX accelerator, Small Business Administration programs and connections to Association of Women Contractors (AWC) and National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC). It was noted that there are a lot of barriers to becoming certified as a woman- or minority-owned business.

Discussion continued through the remaining issues areas of infrastructure, small business support and placemaking/placekeeping. Kerri invited additional comments and noted that an updated draft would come back to the group at the next Steering Committee meeting.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM