

Business and Civic Advisory Committee

July 22, 2015 Notes

ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Karla Bigham, *Red Rock Corridor Commission Chair, Washington County Commissioner*

Melissa Donald, *East Side Area Business Association*

Bob Gindorf, *Newport Business Association*

Marianne Newman, *Newport Resident*

Chris Kopp, *Hastings Family Service*

Paul Sauer, *District 1 Community Council*

Damien Goebel, *St. Paul Smart Trips*

Heidi Corcoran, *Dakota County Transportation Coordinator*

Will Schroer, *East Metro Strong*

Lyssa Leitner, *Washington County*

Brian Smalkosk, *Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.*

Chelsey Armstrong, *Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.*

MINUTES

- Introduction
 - Lyssa kicked off the meeting with talking about the purpose of this planning effort and determining when and how all-day service will be implemented along the corridor. Today we will be talking about a second BRT alternative that goes off TH 61 and into established developments/neighborhoods.
 - Lyssa described what BRT is and showed some images for what stations could look like.
- Public Engagement
 - Lyssa summarized the engagement results received thus far. She noted where we have been and where we will be to engage the public in the corridor communities. The priorities that the public noted were all-day service, access beyond the station, and regional connections.
- Gateway Connection
 - Lyssa noted the opportunity to link Gateway and Red Rock together in East St. Paul and showed the two options to connect with one utilizing three stations and one utilizing two stations.
- Segment D Discussion
 - Chelsey provided background on the D segment alternatives going through the key areas of density in Hastings.
 - The TAC recommended D2.
 - It was noted that Allina and Dakota County should be engaged regarding possible hide-and-ride issues.
 - Lyssa stated that Dakota County has been engaged and is comfortable with the alternative.
 - Chris noted that the center of the community is considered to be west of the Dakota County offices near Target and Cub Foods. The Westview Mall has surplus parking to the west.
 - A question was asked about what was in the Service Improvement Plan in this corridor. There are two improvements in there and both ranked medium. These included Route 363 (a 30 minute weekday midday and early evening express service between Cottage Grove Park & Ride, downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis via Newport Transit Station and Lower Afton Park & Ride) and Route 367 (a 30 minute weekday peak period express service from Hastings to downtown Minneapolis via the Newport Transit Station).
 - Will asked if a loop would be an option and Lyssa noted that Metro Transit is against those due to layover requirements.
 - It was noted that the hospital is only four blocks from TH 55, so a station on TH 55 may be able to serve both the hospital and attractions to the south of TH 55.

- There was a suggestion to just add a hospital station to the end of Alternative D3.
- Segment B Discussion
 - Chelsey provided background on the B segment alternatives going through key areas of density in St. Paul Park and Cottage Grove.
 - Lyssa noted that Cottage Grove provided direction for the Highway BRT alternative that the station should be in Langdon Village where development will be focused in the future. That will result in relocation of the existing Park-and-Ride.
 - The TAC recommended B2B4.
 - Commissioner Bingham noted that Hadley is a residential street and worries about the buses on that street between the 80th Street and 95th Street stations.
 - Will noted that a path extension from Hadley along 95th Street would be a good future improvement to connect bicycles and pedestrians to the station.
 - Access to the industrial jobs was noted as the key issue.
- Commissioner Bingham asked if Minneapolis is a potential end point. Lyssa noted that there are already established connections between St. Paul and Minneapolis with the 94 Express Bus and Green Line.
- The meeting adjourned with an update on next steps and when and how we will engage the B-CAC.