

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Meeting Notes **Bottineau Community Works Steering Committee** **January 24, 2022 – 10:30 PM – 12:00 PM** Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome & Introductions

Members present: Tonja West-Hafner, Brooklyn Park; Irene Fernando & Jeff Lunde, Hennepin County; Reva Chamblis & Charles Zelle, Metropolitan Council

Staff present: Kim Berggren & Paul Mogush, Brooklyn Park; John Sutter, Crystal; Andrew Gillett, Crystal Myslajek, Kerri Pearce Ruch & Ryan Kelley, Hennepin County; Marcia Glick, Robbinsdale; Abdi Salah, Jim Voll, & Amber Turnquest, Minneapolis; Kathryn Hansen, Metro Transit

Others present: Patricia Fitzgerald, Patricia Zagaros, Robert Gruba, Bill Emory, Cathy Gold, Kyle Mianulli, Anna Schmiel, & Dan Soler, Hennepin County; C. Terrence Anderson, University of Minnesota - CURA

2. Administrative Items

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Zelle moved approval of the minutes; Commissioner Lunde seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Transition to Zoom

Commissioner Fernando briefed the Steering Committee on the transition from Microsoft Teams to Zoom for hosting online meetings. Future virtual meetings will be held via Zoom as it has easier access for members of the public who wish to view meetings.

3. Partner Updates/Announcements

BTIC Update

Kerri Pearce Ruch updated the Steering Committee on the Bottineau TIC meeting that occurred on December 21. At this meeting Crystal Myslajek and Sam King of Hennepin County presented on work related to the completed Cultivate Bottineau arts and placemaking work from a few years ago. There was convening of artists to discuss this Cultivate Bottineau and a recent arts training designed for public sector people that was conducted by Springboard for the Arts. Approximately 20 Hennepin County staff



completed this training.

Also at the TIC meeting was a walkthrough of the 2022 Steering Committee schedule and the general format these meetings will follow. A discussion of potential topics for the Deep Dive section and well as the City Spotlight was also had as well as the general schedule and connection between the TIC and Steering Committee.

Partner Updates

John Sutter provided an update for the city of Crystal. The city has been working with a developer on 100% affordable housing project to be located on currently vacant land near the intersection of West Broadway Avenue and Douglas Drive. Sutter reported that the project has just received tax credits. The city of Crystal is also working on a façade improvement program for 2022.

Council Member West Hafner provided an update for the city of Brooklyn Park. Progress continues to be made on the Duffy project which is a housing development on vacant land north of North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) and currently owned by the college. Council Member West Hafner also stated that the performing arts center that is also part of NHCC and to be on vacant land north of the college is also making progress. The city council has also approved permits to begin the process to convert commercial space located at West Broadway Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard acquired by the city into a small business center. The city council has also provided comments on the draft Route Modification Report.

Met Council Member Reva Chamblis who lives in Brooklyn Park and who's district includes the city spoke in support of city efforts. Council Member Chamblis also mentioned \$20 million being available for Covid relief.

Marcia Glick provided an update for the city of Robbinsdale. The city has provided comments on the draft Route Modification Report with one concern being that the roadway segments for Crystal and Robbinsdale are combined in the report and they should be separated. Glick also stated that Elim Church, which fronts onto Bottineau Boulevard, has concerns with the proposed layout as it changes ingress and egress from the church.

Commissioner Fernando provided an update for Hennepin County. Commissioner Fernando voiced Hennepin County's support for the anti-displacement work being done by CURA and for Metro Transit's project timeline.

4. Action: Receive and Accept Bottineau Community Works Focus Areas

Commissioner Lunde led this item. The Bottineau Community Works Focus Areas had been discussed previously in depth, but an action was not taken to accept them. Commissioner Lunde confirmed that the Focus Areas should be considered a living document and subject to amendment. Commissioner Lunde moved the item for approval and Commissioner Fernando seconded it. The item was approved unanimously.

5. City Spotlight: Met Council Regional Solicitation

Andrew Gillett introduced this item by briefing the Steering Committee on past work to prioritize and further plan pre-existing concept level bike/ped connections. The result is 10 projects designed to the 60% engineering level which could be candidates for funding through Regional Solicitation funding. Kathryn Hansen then presented to the Steering Committee on the Regional Solicitation process.

The purpose of the Regional Solicitation process is to distribute federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds to projects that meet regional transportation needs. There is over \$180 million available for 2022 applications for projects in 2026 and 2027. This total amount includes \$100 million from MnDOT as a partner for roadway projects.

Qualifying criteria includes:

- Consistency with regional plans
- Inclusion in a local plan or program
- Project can only be applied for in one application category
- ADA compliance – ADA Transition Plan
- Accessible/open to the general public
- Permanent improvement with independent utility

There are three application categories: Roadways, Transit and Travel Demand Management (TDM), and Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. Grant awards range from \$500,000 to \$10,000,000 for roadway projects; \$100,000 to \$25,000,000 for Transit and TDM projects; and \$250,000 to \$5,500,000 for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities.

Hansen went on to provide greater detail of the Transit and TDM and Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities project types and provided examples of projects in those categories that have received funding. Kathryn concluded her presentation with listing key dates for the Regional Solicitation application process.

Commissioner Fernando asked if snow removal at bus stops could be funded through the Regional Solicitation. Kathryn responded that the modernization and customer experience section of the Transit and TDM category could cover snow removal.

6. Deep Dive: Anti-Displacement Workgroup

Catherine Gold introduced this item. Hennepin County has contracted with CURA to lead efforts to limit displacement related to the development of the Blue Line Extension. C. Terrence Anderson led the presentation. Anderson provided a background on CURA, its research models and framework, and some base information on changes in gentrification in Minneapolis and St. Paul between 2000 and 2015 with existing and planned transitways as an overlay. Anderson then went on to discuss the formation of the Anti-Displacement Work Group and the expectations for the frequency and time commitment for its meetings.

Anderson also discussed the actions necessary for equitable decision making and the elements of a research plan that include:

- Review of best practices in anti-displacement policy, locally and nationally
- A case study of the existing Green and Blue Lines and their effects on displacement of residents and businesses. What are the lessons from the existing Green and Blue Lines?
- A thorough baseline study of the Blue Line Extension Corridor
- Needs assessment for investment in the corridor
- Development of policy recommendations based on findings in 1-4 above
- Development of indicators of resident and business displacement along the Blue Line Extension corridor as a means of monitoring impact over time.

Anderson described how the work plan will be contextualized for the community as well as community centered and reparative. Anderson concluded his presentation with a slide indicating how the anti-displacement work will be coordinated with the Bottineau Community Works focus areas.

Commissioner Fernando stated that she is looking forward to Anti-Displacement Work Group's contribution.

Commissioner Lunde stated that the slide deck used in the presentation is very helpful and captures intent.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:00