POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS PHASE
Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Overview of project activities.
3. Community Advisory Committee update.
   - **Action:** Approve Community Advisory Committee member appointments as recommended by Policy Advisory Committee sub-committee.
5. Review refined purpose and need.
6. Project walk through.
7. Public comment.
8. Next Policy Advisory Committee meeting.
Recap of March Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

- Elected chair (Mayor Slawik) and vice-chair (Mayor Emerson).
- Provided overview of project and schedule.
- Discussed environmental analysis phase key tasks.
- Discussed approach and timeframe for station area planning working groups.
  - Received direction from Policy Advisory Committee to tailor working group process for each city.
Environmental Analysis Phase Schedule

MONTHS | 0-6
---|---
STATION AREA PLANNING
- Station and platform locations.
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
- Base mapping.
- Initial concepts.
ENVIRONMENTAL
- Data collection.
FEDERAL NEW STARTS PROCESS
- Preliminary ridership.

MONTHS | 6-12
---|---
STATION AREA PLANNING
- Continuing development.
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
- Development of concept for environmental analysis.
ENVIRONMENTAL
- Technical analysis.
FEDERAL NEW STARTS PROCESS
- Ridership refinement.
- Cost estimate refinement.
- Land use, economic development, congestion relief and environmental benefits analysis.

MONTHS | 12-18
---|---
STATION AREA PLANNING
- Finalize conceptual plans.
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
- Advance to 15% engineering.
ENVIRONMENTAL
- Local and Federal Transit Administration review of Environmental Assessment.
FEDERAL NEW STARTS PROCESS
- Ridership and cost estimate refinement.
- Mobility and cost effectiveness analysis.
- Land use, economic development, congestion relief and environmental benefits analysis.

MONTHS | 18-24
---|---
STATION AREA PLANNING
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
- Municipal approval process.
- Initiate Minnesota Department of Transportation layout approvals.
ENVIRONMENTAL
- Public review of Environmental Assessment.
- Environmental decision.
FEDERAL NEW STARTS PROCESS
- Draft application to enter Project Development.
Locally Preferred Alternative

- Dedicated guideway BRT.
- Phalen Boulevard and Robert Street into downtown Saint Paul.
- Ramsey County Regional Railroad right-of-way (shared with Bruce Vento Trail).
- Highway 61 north of I-694 into White Bear Lake.
- Explore future connections to the north and other system improvements.
Environmental Analysis Phase Advisory Committees and Working Groups

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

Policy Advisory Committee

Community Advisory Committee

Technical Advisory Committee

Station Area Planning Working Groups
Overview of Project Activities

- Station area planning work.
- Public engagement.
- Agency coordination.
- Technical work.
Station Area Planning Process

• Generally a three stage process.
• 1st stage:
  – Identify opportunities and constraints for potential station platform and park-and-ride locations.
• 2nd stage:
  – Identify preferred station platform and park-and-ride locations, station access and opportunities for transit-oriented development.
• 3rd stage:
  – Develop station area vision and concept plans.
Station Area Planning Working Groups

Downtown White Bear Lake
Marina Triangle
Cedar Avenue

County Road E

Maplewood Mall
St. John’s Hospital
Highway 36/English Street
Frost Avenue
Larpenteur Avenue

Phalen Village
Arcade Street
Payne Avenue
Cayuga Street
Olive Street
Mt. Airy
Regions/Green Line
9th/10th Street
5th/6th Street
Kellogg Boulevard
Union Depot
Station Area Planning Working Groups

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Marina Triangle
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County Road E
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Cayuga Street
Olive Street
Mt. Airy
Regions/Green Line
9th/10th Street
5th/6th Street
Kellogg Boulevard
Union Depot
April Station Area Planning Activities

- White Bear Lake stakeholder interviews.
- White Bear Lake working group meeting.
- County Road E stakeholder meeting.
- Saint Paul station area planning meeting with city staff.
- Maplewood station area planning meeting with city staff.
May Station Area Planning Activities

- County Road E working group.
- Maplewood working group.
  - Larpenteur Avenue station.
  - Frost Avenue station.
  - Highway 36/English Street station.
- Saint Paul working group.
  - Phalen Village station.
Community Advisory Committee Update

- 63 applications were received.
- A sub-committee of the Policy Advisory Committee was established and met on May 9.
- Community Advisory Committee will be 23 people.
- Members selected to reflect geography and diversity of people along route.
  - Potential for additional members to address gaps that may emerge.
Community Advisory Committee Member Appointments

• Recommended action:
  – Approve Community Advisory Committee member appointments recommended by Policy Advisory Committee sub-committee.
Draft Communications and Public Engagement Plan

- Overview of content:
  - Public engagement goals.
  - Public participation strategies.
  - Key project decisions and how public input will be used.
  - Description of decision-making committees and process.
  - Focus on engaging with underrepresented communities.

- Reviewed by Technical Advisory Committee.
- Will finalize after review by Policy Advisory Committee.
Recent Engagement Activities

- April 29: Northeast Community Expo at White Bear Lake High School.
- May 4: Pop-up event in downtown White Bear Lake.
- May 5: Cinco de Mayo at Parque de Castillo in West Saint Paul; Train Day at Union Depot.
- May 7: Frogtown Neighborhood Association board meeting.
- May 18: Bike to Work Week event; Mt. Airy Homes Spring Event.
Recent and Upcoming Engagement Activities

- May 21: Johnson Senior High School leadership class.
- June 2: Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District WaterFest.
- June 20: District Council 2 board meeting.
- June 26: Payne-Phalen Neighborhood Association monthly meeting.

Train Day at Union Depot.
Input Themes

- Winter maintenance.
- Maplewood Mall is a popular destination for youth.
- Hmong Village is a regional destination; locals use the bus to get there.
- Hmong elders need assistance learning how to ride transit.
- Rush Line BRT represents an opportunity to explore new areas for Saint Paul residents.
- Connecting bus service is important in suburban communities.
- Walking conditions and safety around Mt. Airy present challenges to using local bus service or Rush Line BRT.
Refinement of Purpose and Need

• Minor changes from Pre-Project Development Study:
  – Summary of previous process.
  – Updated need statements (active voice).
  – Focus on *reliable, high-frequency* transit based on changing trends.
  – Notes where updated data is needed.
• Refinements have been reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee.
• Comments from Policy Advisory Committee are welcome.
• Reviewing and collaborating on downtown routing with Gold Line project office.
• Coordinating improvements on Robert Street with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
• Evaluating Jackson Street design options and location of station platforms for Mt. Airy station in coordination with city of Saint Paul.
• Assessing route option on Robert Street to University Avenue.
• Assessing design options on Phalen Boulevard to minimize traffic impacts.
• Assessing route options.
• Arcade Street station:
  – Evaluating station locations and configuration to enhance connectivity, mitigate traffic and address right-of-way constraints.
• Evaluating location for Phalen Village station:
  – Neighborhood connections.
  – Existing transit service access.
  – Maximize transit-oriented development potential.
• Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority right-of-way:
  – Evaluating BRT guideway and trail configurations.
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Right-of-Way

Section 2A: Existing Conditions
North of Larpenteur Avenue E, Maplewood
Looking North

4/11/2018
Section 2B: BRT + Shared Use Path
North of Larpenteur Avenue E. Maplewood
Looking North

4/11/2018
• Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority right-of-way:
  – Evaluating pedestrian and bicycle crossings.
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Right-of-Way

Section 3A: Existing Conditions
South of County Road B & E, Maplewood
Looking North
4/11/2018

KEY MAP

existing Grade

Buffer
32 ft

Shared Path
12 ft

Buffer
54 ft

ROW
100 ft

4/11/2018
• Highway 36/English Street station:
• Coordinating with the city of Maplewood on their small area plan.
• Evaluating potential route and station options to enhance accessibility and minimize traffic and right-of-way impacts.
• Evaluating design options on Beam Avenue.
  – Transit travel speed.
  – Minimize traffic impacts.
• Conducting traffic analysis on Buerkle Road and Highway 61.
• Evaluating design options for BRT along Highway 61.
• County Road E station:
  – Assessing location for park-and-ride facility.
  – Assessing Highway 61 crossing options and intersection improvements.
Project Walk Through

- Evaluating design options on Highway 61.
- Cedar Avenue station:
  - Assessing Highway 61 crossing options and intersection improvements.
  - Potential shift in station to enhance accessibility.
Project Walk Through

• Marina Triangle and Downtown White Bear Lake stations:
  – Integrate station with downtown character.
  – Traffic and parking.
  – Safe crossing of Highway 61.
  – Location of park-and-ride.
• Dedicated guideway BRT.
• Phalen Boulevard and Robert Street into downtown Saint Paul.
• Ramsey County Regional Railroad right-of-way (shared with Bruce Vento Trail).
• Highway 61 north of I-694 into White Bear Lake.
• Explore future connections to the north and other system improvements.
Public Comment

• When commenting, please:
  – Be respectful.
  – Be brief. Limit comments to three minutes to give others an opportunity to speak.

• Public comments will be included in the Policy Advisory Committee meeting summary.

• The Chair reserves the right to limit an individual’s comments if they become redundant, disrespectful or are not relevant to the Rush Line BRT Project.
Next Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

• Thursday, July 26.
• 3-5 p.m.
• Hiway Federal Credit Union.
Thank you!

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