

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #5

Date: December 5, 2023
Time: 5:00-6:18p.m.
Location: Virtual

ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Name	Community of Residence or Affiliation	Present
Committee Members		
Safiyo Ali	Saint Paul, Ward 5	
Abenezer Ayana	Saint Paul, Ward 3	
Katherine Bell	Saint Paul, Ward 3	
Daniel Bruggeman	Saint Paul, Ward 2	
Sam Burns	Saint Paul, Ward 1	
Stephany Carpenter	Saint Paul, Ward 2	
Hanna Debele	Saint Paul, Ward 3	
Jason DeBoer-Moran	Saint Paul, Ward 2	
Cristina Diaz	Saint Paul, Ward 2	
Eric Ecklund	Bloomington	X
Amelia English	Minneapolis	
Kevin Gallatin, Co-chair	Saint Paul, Ward 3	X
Diane Gerth	Saint Paul, Ward 2	
Sylvie Guezeon	Saint Paul, Ward 1	X
Mary Hogan-Bard	Saint Paul, Ward 1	
Meghan Kress	Saint Paul, Ward 2	
Negatu Merkuria	Saint Paul, Ward 3	
Bill Lindeke	Saint Paul, Ward 1	
Corrinne Ollman	Saint Paul, Ward 2	X
Jay Severance	Saint Paul, Ward 2	X
Bob Whitehead	Saint Paul, Ward 3	X
Amanda Willis, Co-chair	Saint Paul, Ward 3	X

Project Team Members and Other Attendees		
Jennifer Jordan	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Kevin Roggenbuck	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Grant Wyffels	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Lyssa Washington	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Robin Caufman	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Kara Johnson	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Dr. Michelle Terrell	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
John Slack	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Christina Slattery	Riverview Corridor Project Team	X
Wendy Underwood	Co-Chair SAPTF, Riverview Corridor	X
Joe Landsberger	Co-Chair SAPTF, Riverview Corridor	X
Paul Hardt	W. 7 th Fort Road Federation	X
Jane McClure	Villager	X
James Schoettler	Citizen Advocates for Regional Transit (CART) member	X

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

1. Welcome

Kevin Roggenbuck welcomed everyone to the Riverview Community Advisory Committee meeting and read the land acknowledgment.

2. Introductions

Ramsey County staff, participating members of the consultant team, stakeholders in attendance and the committee members introduced themselves.

3. Housekeeping Items

Kevin Roggenbuck reviewed several items with the committee including the group agreements and virtual meeting procedures.

4. Agenda

Co-Chair Kevin Gallatin reviewed the agenda with the committee.

5. Overall Project Status

Jennifer Jordan noted that this was a high-level update meeting to get the committee reacquainted with the project since a lot of work has occurred since the Policy Advisory Committee last met in February 2022. There are two streetcar options because the City of Saint Paul requested that a second option be explored in April 2023. Jennifer Jordan presented slides describing the overall project status and two streetcar options, noting where additional coordination is needed. Jennifer then described streetcar features at key project segments,

starting in Bloomington at the Mall of America station, noting the elevated station above 82nd Street that would serve both the Riverview streetcar and Blue Line LRT. Jennifer described the streetcar alignment through the Bdote/Fort Snelling area, noting the reconstructed Hwy 5 bridge would include a significant bicycle and pedestrian facility, a new station at Historic Fort Snelling and interline with Blue Line LRT at the Fort Snelling Station. Jennifer described the two streetcar options along West 7th Street and cross section illustrations where the streetcar would run in dedicated right-of-way and where it would share travel lanes with traffic. Finally, Jennifer described the proposed streetcar alignment on Kellogg Boulevard in downtown Saint Paul.

Kevin Roggenbuck noted that Paul Hardt sent a question in chat asking whether we had received the questions from the Fort Road Federation. Kevin Roggenbuck said we received their questions and will check as to whether a response was sent. Jay Severance asked if the Hwy 5 bridge would still be accessible from Mississippi River Boulevard north of the approach? Grant Wyffels, Kimley Horn, said the streetcar alignment would be in the center of West 7th Street at that point so vehicles would not have to cross the tracks, but a traffic light would be installed where the ramp meets West 7th Street. Joe Landsberger raised a concern about the cost of building a new bridge at Fort Snelling and the traffic impacts. Jennifer clarified that noted that we did look at re-using the existing bridge, but that analysis showed that this would be difficult and costly and that the Issue Resolution Team chose to proceed with full bridge replacement. More information coming at the December 13 Policy Advisory Committee meeting; Robin chatted the link to the website for more information. Jay noted that he appreciates the Kellogg Blvd. alignment and noted that the Canadian Pacific Spur needs to be acquired regardless of mode. Kevin Gallatin asked where the lines would connect at Union Depot. Grant noted it would be a transfer between Riverview and Green Line through Union Depot. Amanda Willis asked about accessibility for transferring between modes, are elevators needed? Grant noted that it would all be accessible, existing station elements would be used.

Grant presented the Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) option. The route follows the current Metro Transit Route 54 and run in mixed traffic. There would be 16 stations between Kellogg Boulevard and the Mall of America, and 9 additional platforms downtown. The ABRT option does not include bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the Hwy 5 bridge and would not access Historic Fort Snelling or MSP Airport Terminal 2. Buses would serve the existing station at the Mall of America. Jay had 3 questions:

1. Why skip Terminal 2? Staff answered that Route 54 today doesn't serve it. People would be able to use Blue Line LRT to get from Terminal 1 to Terminal 2.
2. Have we thought about extending the Gold Line for 1-seat ride from Woodbury to MOA? Staff responded that it has been brought up but no conclusions.
3. How do travel times compare from Union Depot to MSP Airport for all three options?

Joe noted that it sounds like a "one or the other" scenario. Is there a way to do a bus route to serve people along West 7th more immediately while the rail is built? Jennifer said the travel time information will be provided at future meetings. Metro Transit has looked at implementing ABRT but has stated that they cannot do so until after 2030 due to other ABRT project commitments.

6. Station Area Planning and Economic Development Assessment update

John Slack provided an overview of station area planning efforts and introduced the economic development assessment that will be presented at the January meetings.

Paul noted that the goal isn't to just move people along West 7th Street, but to serve all the new people living in the planned high rises along the Riverview Corridor in downtown. Kevin

Roggenbuck asked for clarification and noted that the RiversEdge development project was not part of the scope of the Riverview corridor project.

7. Communications and Community Engagement update

Kevin Roggenbuck presented an overview of public engagement activity and noted that we will do much more engagement next year as we roll out the streetcar and bus options.

8. Cultural Resources update

Christina Slattery gave brief updated on historic and cultural resources. This work is being coordinated with the MnDOT trunk highway improvements project. More work to come in 2024.

9. Next Steps/ Final Comments and Questions

Kevin Roggenbuck recapped the next steps. Kevin Gallatin asked about turnover on the Policy Advisory Committee since it has been a while since they met. Kevin Roggenbuck responded that indeed there has been turnover, but staff is bringing new members up to speed. Jay commented on the turnover and asked about future of the Community Advisory Committee and its role. Kevin Roggenbuck noted that the project timeline has just been extended, a lot of analysis and work being done, Community Advisory Committee will continue through the duration of this phase of the project.

The Community Advisory Committee ended at 6:18 pm.

Comments in the virtual meeting chat

Jane McClure 5:08 PM

I'm from the Vllager. another meeting wrapping up

You to Jennifer.Jordan (Direct Message) 5:14 PM

just messaging you. you are kinda faint and hard to hear.

Paul Hardt to Everyone 5:15 PM

Fort Road Fed had a list of questions. Did you receive this list? If not, how can we send questions?

Kevin Gallatin (CAC Co-chair) to Everyone 5:17 PM

@4RM+ULA Staff Amanda Willis is in the lobby

Kevin Gallatin (CAC Co-chair) to Everyone 5:17 PM

Welcome Co-chair Amanda Willis!

Amanda Willis to Everyone 5:18 PM

Thanks, sorry I'm late.

4RM+ULA Staff to Everyone 5:26 PM

welcome Sylvie!

Kevin Gallatin (CAC Co-chair) to Everyone 5:31 PM

In streetcar option 1, are automobile turns accomplished from the travel lanes?

Jay Severance to Everyone 5:31 PM

no parking along dedicated segments?

Sylvie's iPhone 5:31 PM

Grand avenue station cross which street?

Jay Severance 5:35 PM

What vehicle is chosen for streetcar options?

Eric Ecklund to Everyone 5:39 PM

Just an observation: I prefer Streetcar Option 1. Dedicated right-of-way and center-running as much as possible is the best to make this service reliable and fast.

Kevin Roggenbuck to Everyone 5:40 PM

Thank you Eric

You to Everyone 5:41 PM

Information about the PAC is available on the project website: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/transit-corridors-studies/riverview-corridor>

Greg Struve to Everyone 5:51 PM

How does the proposed BRT route timing compare to the existing Route 54 timing?

Kevin Gallatin (CAC Co-chair) 5:54 PM

Comment: MSP Airport 2050 plan includes a Terminal 2 expansion and "sterile" tunnel between both terminals behind security

Paul Hardt 6:00 PM

It's really important to remember....one of the central goals of the transition strategy is to move people from the high rises that are planned for rage Corridor.....not just to transport people on west 7th.

Transit goal

Eric Ecklund 6:00 PM

Just another observation: As someone who uses Route 54, I don't think replacing Route 54 with Arterial BRT would substantially improve service between Mall of America and downtown St. Paul.

Wendy Underwood (she/her) 6:03 PM

Thank you so much for bringing folks together. See you again in January!

4RM+ULA Staff 6:03 PM

thanks for participating

Amanda Willis 6:10 PM

Thank you Kevin(x2) and everyone else, really appreciate the update.

Paul Hardt 6:05 PM

Very helpful meeting!

4RM+ULA Staff 6:11 PM

Thank you for you time this evening!

Sylvie's iPhone to Everyone 6:12 PM

Thank you all!

joe landsberger 6:16 PM

Can we get a financial analysis on what has been spent to date?