Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 10:00AM, St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates Present:	Chair Charles Zelle	Brad Wiersum	Kristian Evans (Alt)
	Dr. Tyronne Carter	Khani Sahebjam	Elie Farhat (Alt)
	Heather Edelson	James Hovland	Nick Thompson (Alt)
		Dan Duffy	Anjuli Cameron (Alt)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zelle called the meeting to order at 10:10AM. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Zelle presented the June 4, 2025, Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Wiersum made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Carter seconded the motion. Following a vote, the minutes were approved.

3. CHAIR'S UPDATE

This is Chair Zelle's last meeting as he is stepping down from his appointment as Chair of the Metropolitan Council. He shared his appreciation for everyone involved with the SWLRT Project.

Chair Zelle recognized Mayor Wiersum and his contributions as he will not seek another term as mayor.

4. PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director, presented Chair Zelle with a Project memento for his time as Met Council Chair and thanked him for his support.

Alexander provided an update on the Project. The Project gained one county since the last meeting; currently 73 of 87 Minnesota counties are represented by construction workers on the Project. Alexander reported that trails impacted by the Project will be reopened by the end of 2025. Mayor Wiersum suggested organizing a community bike ride when the trails are opened.

Alexander shared photos of construction progress, as well as a rendering of the Hopkins Rail Support Facility, which is scheduled to be completed in 2026 and will be occupied by Metro Transit maintenance staff.

We will have six light rail trains on the line this fall for testing purposes. The Systems Integration Testing (SIT) is in Phase 1 of 3 since July, and progress is going well. We are conducting point-to-point testing where we test the connection with all the devices (gates, signals, etc.) to Metro Transit's Rail Control Center in Minneapolis. Once the SIT is complete, the system will be turned over to Metro Transit for additional testing and training prior to revenue operations beginning in 2027.

5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

David Davies, Manager of Public Involvement, provided an update on the safety awareness campaign as testing activities commence. Davies shared a map showing the 14 at-grade crossing sites where warning systems will be activated as part of Phase 1 testing beginning this fall. Maps will be made available to the public this fall. Two of the light rail trains used for testing will be wrapped to prioritize the safety messaging and to promote GLE opening in 2027.

The Outreach team will also be using digital advertising, direct mailing, signage at crossings, public meetings, and tabling at community events to continue generating public awareness. Please let staff know if you are interested in having Outreach staff present at meetings and/or events.

Mayor Wiersum thanked Davies for the presentation and encouraged the Outreach team to reach out to cities' communication departments so they can help amplify the safety messaging. Davies thanked him and confirmed that his team is in touch with the communication departments and they are working on materials that can be shared with our partners.

Commissioner Edelson asked what we have learned from the light rail systems operating in other areas. She suggested reaching out to area schools. Davies said he can share more specific information at the next meeting about what we have learned with the existing Green Line. We are taking a tailored approach for the various crossings along the corridor, and targeting youth at nearby schools is a great suggestion to make sure those groups are aware.

In addition to public safety messaging, the Outreach team will be sharing the benefits beyond the movement on the train, they will share the assets that are available now and that are being developed.

6. DBE UPDATE

Jon Tao, Senior Small Business Specialist from the Council's Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity, discussed the DBE achievement numbers as of July 31, 2025. We continue to exceed the 15% DBE goal. The one contract that is a bit lower is the Hopkins Rail Support Facility; we expect more DBE participation in the latter part of the project after the walls are constructed. Tao also introduced the two interns that have been working in OEEO this summer. Chair Zelle said this is a remarkable track record and he congratulated Tao for this achievement. Mayor Hovland agreed and said this is a story we should continue to share.

7. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:05AM. The next meeting will be December 3, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary