



METRO Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee (CMC)

Date & Time	October 9, 2025 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Location	F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis
Members	Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Sara Pfhaum, Jeff Lunde, Hollies Winston, Charles Rucker, Leslie Kandaras, Therese Kiser, Andrea Young, Candy Bakion, Kristian Evans, Jonathan Hanson, Michael Valverde, Yassin Osman, Bethany Turnwall, Anjuli Cameron
Project Staff and Presenters	Alicia Vap, Kelcie Young, Nkongo Cigolo, Ricardo Perez, Anika Robbins, Jer Yang

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Deb Barber, Metropolitan Council, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meeting to order at 1:37 pm. Chair Barber welcomed members to the meeting and asked for members to introduce themselves.

Chair Barber noted that today's meeting materials can be found on the BLE project's website at bluelineext.org, and mentioned that members of the public are welcome to submit any comments regarding today's meeting to Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council, by Friday, October 17, 2025.

Alicia Vap, Metropolitan Council, introduced a few new staff members to the BLE Project Office: Steve Pierce joined the project team as Engineering Manager, and Amáda Márquez Simula and Pa Nhue Vue joined as Community Outreach Coordinators.

2. Approval of April 10, 2025, BLE CMC Meeting Minutes

Chair Barber called for a motion to approve of the April 10, 2025, CMC Meeting Minutes. Jeff Lunde, Hennepin County Commissioner moved a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Reva Chamblis, Metropolitan Council Member. The minutes were officially approved.

3. Community and Business Advisory Committee Reports

Jonathan Hansen, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Co-Chair, provided an update on the recent joint Business and Community Advisory Committee meeting, noting that the group spent time discussing recent BLE events. Co-Chair Hansen also shared that several community members expressed a strong interest in continuing the CAC to ensure a consistent community voice throughout the project's lifecycle.



4. Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP) Board Update

Ricardo Perez, ACPP Chair, provided updates on two key topics: the Matrix component of the work and recent Board updates.

ACPP Chair Perez reviewed the three recommendations for BLE displacement metrics developed by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA).

ACPP Chair Perez shared that the ACPP Board convenes monthly to develop bylaws, priorities, and Request for Proposal (RFP).

ACPP Chair Perez shared information about “The Pilot” initiatives currently underway and continuing through the end of the year. ACPP Chair Perez noted that this \$2 million fund is an invite-only opportunity led by the ACCP Board, designed to catalyze anti-displacement efforts. ACPP Chair Perez highlighted the eligibility criteria and timeline for the pilot program.

Hollies Winston, Mayor of Brooklyn Park, expressed concern about the lack of representation from Crystal and Robbinsdale, expressing the importance to ensure that all communities along the alignment corridor are represented in the pilot as he only sees Brooklyn Park and Minneapolis on the Pilot. ACPP Chair Perez acknowledged the concern and noted that there is representation from each city on the ACPP Board but explained that the two cities mentioned chose not to participate in the Pilot.

Commissioner Lunde emphasized the importance of revisiting this issue to ensure that the process is inclusive and extends across all city jurisdictions.

Therese Kiser, Crystal Council Member, inquired whether the focus of the Pilot is related to housing. ACPP Chair Perez clarified that the purpose is to build overall synergy among communities and noted that a report has been prepared for each city, which he would be happy to share with CMC members.

5. Metropolitan Council Anti-Displacement Update

Council Member (CM) Chamblis provided an update on the anti-displacement framework efforts from the Metropolitan Council perspective, explaining that the objective is to enhance residents’ ability to access housing opportunities and retain amenities within their neighborhoods. CM Chamblis also noted that anti-displacement initiatives are funded by grants in the system and shared the importance of ensuring that the benefits directly serve those most impacted through the engagement that was done.

CM Chamblis shared that the Council has several ways to invest in communities across the seven-county region. CM Chamblis noted that there are nine different grant programs designed to help communities achieve their long-term visions: supporting the



creation of living-wage jobs, improving connections to employment and housing, and enhancing regional amenities to promote a more equitable region.

CM Chamblis shared that one of the goals outlined in the Council's Imagine 2050 Regional Development Guide focuses on advancing goals and values by reviewing contracts and procurement process with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) to ensure timely payments to maintain their businesses. In addition, when the BLE project is being built, efforts will be made to ensure that the local workforce is utilized. CM Chamblis also added that the Council supports both placekeeping and placemaking initiatives.

Andrea Young, Blue Line Coalition (BLC) member, asked whether the ACPP Board could send Metropolitan Council projects that are seeking funding. CM Chamblis responded that the Council would work with the ACPP Board to identify potential funding resources through local partners.

CM Chamblis added that all cities along the BLE alignment are participating in the Livable Communities Program Grants.

Co-Chair Hanson asked if the Pilot from the ACPP Board is using the Metropolitan Council's Anti-Displacement Risk assessment? CM Chamblis responded that she does not have the answer and can look into it.

6. Project Update

Ms. Vap provided an update on the BLE project, reported that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently approved the Amended Record of Decision (AROD) and this finalized the environmental process at the Federal level.

Ms. Vap shared that the BLE project submitted to FTA information that will help finalize budget and schedule. Ms. Vap stated that the BLE anticipates FTA final recommendation in Spring 2026.

Mayor Winston recalled that the BLE Construction Contract was originally scheduled for Quarter 4 of 2026 but now appears to have been pushed to Quarter 4 of 2027. Mayor Winston expressed concern that if the schedule continues to shift, it may affect other planned developments in the area and questioned how the city can proceed with other projects under this uncertainty. CM Chamblis shared that if a city wishes to stay on schedule with implementing other projects, the Council could discuss using a No Prejudice(LNP) to advance work.

Commissioner Lunde expressed that while the BLE project can only address certain needs, it is important to continually ask why the light rail is essential. Commissioner Lunde noted that the BLE represents a significant investment in the corridor, improving access to healthcare, businesses, and communities. Commissioner Lunde further stated



that if the project does not move forward, other states will be ready to compete for the federal funding allocated for such initiatives. Commissioner Lunde concluded by encouraging everyone to stay focused on advancing this billion-dollar project.

7. Environmental Mitigation Update

Kelcie Young, Metropolitan Council, reported that the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) was published in May 2025 and noted that during the 30-day public comment period, responses to comments were addressed in the AROD.

Ms. Young further reported that the AROD was approved in August 2025, which includes the project's mitigation measures. Ms. Young reminded members that these measures encompass a range of topic area studies, including those focused on business mitigation. Ms. Young noted that the project is currently in the planning phase for mitigation implementation, and that implementation for financial mitigation will occur after Federal funding is awarded.

Ms. Young also shared that the mitigation strategies have been approved by FTA and highlighted these strategies which include funding for business programs supporting housing stability, cultural placekeeping design groups, plans for two storefront resource centers, workforce development initiatives, and public parking improvements at Penn Avenue North and West Broadway Avenue North.

8. Outreach Update

Nkongo Cigolo, Metropolitan Council and Anika Robbins with Anika and Friends provided an update on community outreach efforts. Mr. Cigolo shared that the outreach team has collaborated with various communities along the corridor and presented an engagement matrix summarizing outreach activities conducted between August 2020 and September 2025.

Mr. Cigolo reported that the BLE Project launched the DREAM Sessions in 2024, in partnership with Hennepin County. Anika Robbins explained that the DREAM Session is a strategic visioning framework that uses guided facilitation to help participants navigate complex systems and create a shared vision for their communities. Ms. Robbins expressed that this process has been very effective in engaging communities that have historically been less involved and noted that the DREAM Sessions serve as a cross-cultural collaboration.

Ms. Robbins further shared that the team collected input from the DREAM Session events, gathering over a thousand "dreams" from participants of all ages. Ms. Robbins highlighted that the sessions encouraged individuals to pause and reflect on what truly matters to them and how those aspirations can be brought to life.



Additionally, Ms. Robbins noted that the DREAM Team has facilitated and coordinated two bus tours for community members and youth along the corridor. In total, there have been eight DREAM Sessions; two held in each city that focused not only on the light rail but also on buses, connectivity, and broader community mobility.

Ms. Robbins reported on the Youth Summit held on August 9, 2025, noting the importance of engaging young people in discussions about the future and what the BLE trains mean for them.

Ms. Robbins concluded by highlighting the Regional DREAM Summit held on October 4, 2025, noting that it was a well-attended event with participants from across the region, including policy makers and representatives from BLE corridor cities. The summit featured lessons learned discussions, as well as updates from municipal partners along the corridor, and project updates.

9. Workforce Development Update

Due to time constraints, Chair Barber suggested moving this topic to the next CMC meeting on November 13, 2025.

10. Next Meeting: November 13, 2025

11. Adjourn

Chair Barber adjourned the meeting at 3:04pm.

Meeting Materials Provided:

Meeting Agenda, October 9, 2025

CMC Presentation

April 10, 2025 CMC Minutes

Respectfully submitted, Jer Yang, Blue Line Ext. Administrative Lead