

Rethinking I-94 Phase 2 Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

Date: 10/06/2021 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Location: Zoom Meeting

Participants: See list below

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Hellos

- Commissioner Anderson Kelliher greeted attendees and provided an overview of the agenda and meeting goals
- Gloria Jeff (MnDOT) called the roll for PAC members (see above).
- Objectives of the meeting were outlined as follows:
 - Provide an overview of demographics in Zone 3 (Phase 1)
 - Provide an update on Livability activities
 - Provide an update on public outreach and engagement activities
 - Discuss ideas for the corridor

2. Zone Demographic and Transportation Themes (Phase 1)

- Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) reintroduced the project schedule before providing overview of Zone 3 of the project area
 - Presentation provided demographics of the zone and the data sources
 - 18,000 people
 - 8 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino
 - 23 percent below poverty level
 - 8 percent speak English less than “very well”
 - Project information and location of its availability on the I-94 website was shared ([Zone Profiles Report - December 2017 \(state.mn.us\)](#)).
 - Common recommendations from those engaged in Zone 3 included:
 - No recommendations/don't know
 - Better lane system
 - Install noise barriers
 - Create more pedestrian friendly spaces
 - Commissioner Anderson Kelliher indicated the data represented 2015-2017 demographics

ACTION ITEM: Send PAC members the presentation slides

3. Livability Updates

- Gloria Jeff (MnDOT) provided overview of the Trust pillar and the methods of interaction used.
 - The approach for the Trust portion of the Livability engagement differed from previous efforts which were conducted online or in person and used small groups
 - For Trust, the engagement sought to be more one-on-one
 - Five basic aspects of trust were discussed with the those engaged:
 - Support
 - Open communication
 - Community interest at the forefront of planning
 - Collaborations

- Inclusivity
- Questions asked of those engaged on the Trust pillar included:
 - How would you rate your collaboration with government agencies like MnDOT?
 - How did you build connections with that government agency?
 - How do you obtain government resources to support your communities?
 - How would you trust that MnDOT is hearing your community?
 - How can we better engage your community where they are?
 - How can the state government build trust with their community and leaders?
- Key takeaways from the feedback included:
 - A need to address issues that are concerns of the public as a whole. Changing and enhancing policies towards public engagement and involvement (Dale Street bridge project used as an example)
 - a. Community involved in design – Dale Street
 - b. Partnership with the county
 - Continue relationships and engagement efforts after the project is constructed
 - Continue providing information and updates on the website
 - Issues beyond transportation
- Next steps were provided. These included:
 - Summary of Trust Workshops
 - Update on Livability Papers production and review schedule
 - Update on NEPA activities
 - Feedback from outreach efforts

4. Public Outreach and Engagement

- Brad Hamilton (WSB) provided an update and overview of ongoing and upcoming public outreach and engagement
 - Common themes heard from the public focused on these broad categories:
 - Pedestrian and bicycle challenges and potential improvements
 - Transit
 - Safety
 - Congestion
 - Access/connectivity
 - General comments were shared with PAC. These included:
 - Reduce traffic (in general and reduce congestion)
 - Increase safety at interchanges, entrances, and exits of the highway
 - Desire for more/better transit access and opportunities on both sides of I-94 with safe places to wait for the bus
 - Increase native green space around highway
 - Provide dedicated bus lanes/shoulders like prior to 35W bridge collapse
 - Increase walkability and bikeability over and around the highway
 - Consider caps/Land bridges over large sections of the highway to reconnect neighborhoods and increase greenspace
 - Concerns about the environment including noise and air pollution from traffic and construction
 - Brad Hamilton (WSB) stated that the team is currently still gathering comments/feedback and looking for guidance or recommendations on additional events
- Question from Representative Hornstein on whether MnDOT is tracking how many people are showing up at these pop-up and other events and if they can collect contact information from them to keep in touch.

- Response was that the general number of people are tracked and contact information is collected if they choose to provide.
- Marcell Walker (Bolton & Menk) introduced discussion period to the PAC to answer the following questions:
 - Whose voices are missing?
 - People of disabilities and older populations
 - Community leaders who represent older age groups
 - Sean Broom (representative for Council Member Osman) recommended neighborhood groups along Ward 6.
 - How do we get to them?
 - Rep. Noor recommended engaging with ethnic media
 - Rep. Her shared that she has heard from constituents that they feel they have not been heard on their issues. Rep. Her asked for a meeting with Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) to share items.
 - Sen. Dibble asked if the group had been attempting to engage with youth. He recommended engaging the Minnesota Youth Congress.
 - Mai Chong Xiong (representative for Council Member Dai Thao) asked who is missing from demographic?
 - Team shared that they are trying to target people living along the corridor.
 - Gloria Jeff (MnDOT) added that although community leaders have been engaged in Community Leader meetings, MnDOT is seeking ways of reaching more community members.

Action Item: Follow up with Sean Broom (representative for Council Member Osman) on contacts from Neighborhood groups

5. NEPA Elements Key to Today's Conversation

- Jack Corkle (WSB) provided an overview of NEPA items completed to date - including the project's purpose and need, and evaluation criteria
- Marcell Walker (Bolton & Menk) initiated discussion amongst the PAC with the following questions:
 - What is missing?
 - What have you heard from your constituents?
- Mai Chong Xiong (representative for Council Member Dai Thao) stated that a primary need should reflect health quality of adjacent residents
 - Jack Corkle (WSB) responded with limitations in NEPA on outlining items outside of transportation as a need.
 - Gloria Jeff (MDOT) added that the parallel livability effort is intended to achieve other issues beyond MnDOT's control
- Representative Hornstein asked if MnDOT go beyond the requirements in NEPA/MEPA and can MnDOT add climate change and all its elements to the project?
 - Jack Corkle (WSB) discussed the constraints within NEPA and deferred to FHWA
 - Wendell Meyer (FHWA) stated there is some flexibility in NEPA, but it needs to be within the federal guidelines
- Senator D. Scott Dibble stated that they are hearing from constituents that they want MnDOT accountable for issues that seem to relate to livability more than the NEPA items

- Commissioner Anderson Kelliher responded by discussing the constraints of NEPA and that MnDOT is trying to implement as much as possible. Looking to partner with other entities/agencies to address some of the items through the Livability activities

6. Ideas Discussion

- Jack Corkle (WSB) provided an overview of the framework that will be used to develop alternatives being used for the scoping process
 - Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) clarified that multiple alternatives would be moving into Tier 1 EIS at end of scoping
- Marcell Walker (Bolton & Menk) initiated discussion amongst the PAC on other ideas for the corridor. Discussion revolved around the following questions:
 - What do you want to see on the corridor?
 - What elements/ideas could go forward as part of the NEPA process or Livability framework
- Rep. Hornstein recommended better transit including BRT, more bike/ped crossings, and implementing the Rondo Land Bridge
- Sen. Dibble recommended more mode alternatives parallel to the corridor and in the travel shed.

7. Schedule

- Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) provided a more in-depth overview of the project schedule

8. Next Steps

- Sheila Kauppi (MnDOT) provided overview next steps as it applied to public outreach, framework for the development of alternatives, and workforce development

9. Open Comment Time

- Brad Hamilton (WSB) introduced the open comment period and called out registrants.
 - Ian Buck – no present
 - Scott Engle – did not want to speak
 - Toya Lopez – not present
 - Wendell Montgomery – not present
 - Theresa Nelson – Climate change should be front and center of this project. Reconnect communities, improve air quality.
 - Speed Rogers – not present
 - Katie Jones – not present
- Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting

Date: 11/19/2021

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Zoom Meeting

PAC Members

| Present | Name | Organization |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| x | Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher | MnDOT |
| x | Senator Bobby Joe Champion | Senate District 59 |
| x | Senator Kari Dziedic | Senate District 60 |
| x | Senator D. Scott Dibble | Senate District 61 |
| | Senator Omar Fateh | Senate District 62 |
| | Senator Erin Murphy | Senate District 64 |
| x | Senator Sandra Pappas | Senate District 65 |
| x | Representative Kaohly Her | House District 64A |
| | Representative Rena Moran | House District 65A |
| | Representative Carlos Mariani | House District 65B |
| x | Representative Esther Agbaje (Shenika Chambers – representing) | House District 59B |
| x | Representative Mohamud Noor | House District 60B |
| x | Representative Frank Hornstein | House District 61A |
| | Representative Hodan Hassan | House District 62A |
| x | Wendall Meyer | FHWA |
| x | Charlie Zelle | Metropolitan Council Chair |
| | Council Member Kris Fredson | Metropolitan Council District 14 |
| x | Commissioner Kevin Anderson | Hennepin County District 7 |
| | Commissioner Angela Conley | Hennepin County District 4 |
| | Commissioner Toni Carter | Ramsey County Board Chair |
| x | Commissioner Rafael Ortega | Ramsey County District 5 |
| | Mayor Melvin Carter | St. Paul |
| x | Council Member Dai Thao (Mai Chong Xiong-representing) | St. Paul Ward 1 |
| x | Council Member Mitra Jalali | St. Paul Ward 4 |
| | Mayor Jacob Frey (alternate Abdi Salah) | Minneapolis |
| x | Council Member Jamal Osman (Sean Broom – representing) | Minneapolis Ward 6 |
| x | Council Member Lisa Goodman (alternate Patrick Sadler) | Minneapolis Ward 7 |

Agency Staff

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| x | Anna Varney | FHWA |
| x | Sheila Kauppi | MnDOT – Rethinking I-94 Project |
| x | Gloria Jeff | MnDOT – Livability Initiative |
| x | Nancy Daubenberger | MnDOT |
| x | William Goff | MnDOT |
| x | Torri Hampton | MnDOT |
| x | Hannah Rank | MnDOT |
| x | April Crockett | MnDOT |
| x | Melissa Barnes | MnDOT |
| x | Lisa Austin | MnDOT |
| x | Jon Solberg | MnDOT |
| x | Brian Isaacson | Ramsey County |
| x | Jason Gottfried | Hennepin County |
| x | Kristy Janigo | Hennepin County, Staff - Commissioner Anderson |
| x | Amy Vennewitz | Metropolitan Council |

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|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| x | John Chlebeck | Metropolitan Council |
| x | Peter Grafstrom | Metropolitan Council |
| x | Adam Harrington | Metro Transit |
| x | Sean Broom | City of Minneapolis - Policy Aide, Council Member Osman |
| x | Adrienne Bockheim | City of Minneapolis |
| x | Patrick Sadler | City of Minneapolis - Policy Aide, Council Member Goodman |
| x | Anna Potter | City of St. Paul |
| x | Mai Chong Xiong | City of St. Paul - Legislative Aide, Council Member Dai Thao |
| x | Jon Chiglo | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Jack Corkle | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Mike Chavez | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Joanne Cho | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Brad Hamilton | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Austin Hauf | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Mikaela Ziegler | WSB – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Marcell Walker | Bolton & Menk – Rethinking I-94 Consultant |
| x | Rachel Carlson | Senate District 65 - Legislative Assistant to Senator Pappas |
| x | Shenika Chambers | Legislative Assistant to Representative Esther Agbaje |

Public Attendees

| Present | Name | Organization |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| x | David Juliff | Be Civil – ReConnect Rondo Consultant |
| x | Debbie Meister | Neighborhoods First! |
| x | Peter Wagenius | Prospect Park Neighborhood |
| x | Mary Morse Marti | |
| x | Theresa Nelson | Move Minnesota |
| x | Scott McBride | |
| x | Alex Burns | Sierra Club North Star Chapter |
| x | Pat Thompson | St. Anthony Park Community Council |
| x | Theo Schultz | |
| x | Scott Engel | |
| x | Toya Lopez | Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate |
| x | Stuart Knappmiller | |
| x | Scott Berger | Union Park District Council |
| x | Jim Erkel | |
| x | Wendell Montgomery | |
| x | Qannani Omar | |
| x | Olivia Hanninen | |
| x | Josiah Brown | |
| x | Douglas Moore | |
| x | Mark Lindeberg | |