

Highway 252/I-94 Environmental Impact Statement

PAC Meeting 5

Meeting Summary

October 7, 2021, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Opening Remarks and Roll Call – 10 minutes (MnDOT)

Invited Members and Staff (those in attendance are **bolded**)

Hennepin County: **Jeff Lunde** (Commissioner), **Jason Staebell** (Project Manager), **Carla Stueve** (County Engineer)

MnDOT: **Margaret Anderson Kelliher** (Commissioner), **Michael Barnes** (District Engineer), **Jerome Adams** (Project Manager), **April Crockett** (Area Manager), **Chris Hoberg** (Area Engineer), **Nissa Tupper**

FHWA: **Wendell Meyer** (Division Administrator), **Anna Varney**

State of Minnesota: Representative Melissa Hortman, **Representative Michael Nelson**, Representative Samantha Vang, Representative Fue Lee, **Representative Esther Agbaje**, Senator John Hoffman, Senator Chris Eaton, Senator Bobby Joe Champion

Metropolitan Council: **Councilmember Reva Chamblis**, **Councilmember Robert Lilligren**, Adam Harrington (Metro Transit), **Victoria Dan (Metro Transit)**, **Erin Mitchell (Metro Transit)**

Cities: Councilmember Dan Ryan (Brooklyn Park), **Mayor Lisa Jacobson (Brooklyn Park)**, Councilmember Terry Parks (Brooklyn Park), **Councilmember Phillipe Cunningham (Minneapolis)**, Councilmember Jeremiah Ellison (Minneapolis), Mayor Mike Elliott (Brooklyn Center), **Reggie Edwards (Brooklyn Center)**, Jason Stroebel (Brooklyn Park)

Consultant Team: Brett Danner, **Craig Vaughn (TC2)**, **Don Demers**, **Becky Krugerud**, **Justin Sebens**, **Leif Garnass**, **Dale Gade**, **Adele Hall**, **Matthew Stegeman**, **Jackie Nowak**, **Britt Berner**, **Jono Cowgill**, **Kaade Wallace (Fairhope)**, **Marc Valencia (New Publica)**

The Highway 252/I-94 project team conducted a presentation on October 7, 2021, to the Policy Advisory Committee which included the information below. For additional details on the topics below, please see the presentation posted on the project website.

1. Opening Remarks

MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher welcomed participants to the meeting. The Commissioner outlined the agenda, including the special topic, a Stairstep update, project updates, and an open comment period. The Commissioner noted that there was desire for PAC members to engage and have more of a conversation, as opposed to just being presented information.

2. Special Topic – 40 minutes (MnDOT)

The project team presented the special topic to the PAC, which included presenters Craig Vaughn (TC2) and Leif Garnass (SRF). The presentation focused on the following questions:

- a. How is safety incorporated in the Purpose and Need?
- b. How is the corridor being used and by who?
- c. How are Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park related to the historical crash data?
- d. How are speed and safety related in the state of Minnesota?
- e. What can MnDOT do to address safety concerns now?

PAC Reflection

- f. Commissioner Lunde commented that how we take care of safety within the corridor is the priority. He also noted that crossing Hwy 252 today is extremely dangerous and that doing nothing along the corridor is not a solution.
- g. Representative Nelson was surprised by how concentrated the trip origins were around Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center given the PAC has heard how much of a commuter corridor this is.
 - i. The project team clarified that the trip origin figure is showing a high concentration within Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park but discussed the size of the trip origin heat map and noted how many trips use Hwy 252 that do not originate in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center.
- h. Mayor Jacobson (Brooklyn Park) stressed that safety should be the and is the #1 priority of this project.
- i. Commissioner Kelliher asked the project team how many trips might change their mode of travel if the corridor was improved and better accommodated pedestrians and bicyclists?

3. Stairstep Update – 20 minutes (Stairstep/SRF)

Reverend Babington with the Stairstep Foundation gave an update on the work his foundation has done as part of the Hwy 252/I-94 project. He discussed how people of color and other under-represented populations feel when they are engaged on highway project. He discussed the overwhelming feeling people have when they attend open houses for highway project and how it can be uncomfortable for people who are not as well versed in the project details.

PAC Reflection

- a. Council Member Chamblis thanked Reverend Babington for his foundations work on the project as well as his insights and feedback on the engagement process for highway projects. She also noted that the project team should identify and should be using faith-based organizations with Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center to help engage people of color along the corridor.

4. Project Updates – 20 minutes (MnDOT)

- a. Public Engagement

Craig Vaughn along with others from the public engagement team gave an update to the PAC on the engagement that has occurred since the last PAC meeting including several pop-up events. The team also discussed the upcoming public engagement for the project.

- b. Workforce Subcommittee

MnDOT have a brief update on the status of the workforce subcommittee. MnDOT highlighted the need for training opportunities as part of this project and other project around the state. Commissioner Kelliher noted the labor shortage that MnDOT is experiencing, and asked member of the PAC encouraged constituents to apply for positions within MnDOT.

- c. Equity and Health Assessment

SRF gave a brief update to the PAC on the equity and health assessment progress. It was noted that the EHNA has met twice since the last PAC.

PAC Reflection – No Comments

5. Open Comment Period – 15 minutes

Due to time constraints, Commissioner Kelliher directed the team to write down the comments and questions within the Q&A and the team would note them for future meetings. The Commissioner also apologized for not having enough time for the open comment period.

6. Next PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting will be on January 27, 2022