

Rethinking I-94 Phase 2 Community Leaders Meeting (Meeting 2)

Date: 07/28/2020 (10:00 am – 11:30 am)

Location: Zoom Meeting

Meeting Summary

1. Phase 1 Community Outreach Summary

- Gloria Jeff, MnDOT Livability Director, provided a more comprehensive overview of Phase 1 outreach results; participants during the first Community Leaders Meeting asked questions regarding Phase 1's engagement process.
 - An overview of survey (online, phone, in-person) results, number of participating communities/agencies/organizations, etc. was provided to the group.

2. Environmental Process

- The environmental document process was shared with the group. Due to the complexity of the project, Rethink I-94 Phase 2 is tiered. Tiering is encouraged for major transportation actions and it provides the opportunity to approach a complex project through a sequential stepwise process.
 - Tier 1 focuses on general locations and project/program impacts at a high level.
 - At Scoping and Tier 1, a zone/footprint will be established. Needs and improvements identified will be all within this zone.
 - Tier 2 builds on the findings and needs from the Tier 1 at a detailed level.
- Currently, there is no project budget and no funding has been secured. Therefore, while prices will not determine everything, costs associated with alternatives will help with the Preferred Alternative selection process. Construction/improvements will not occur all at once.
 - The Preferred Alternative will not occur all at once. Program of projects will occur over a period of time.
- In addition to NEPA, the state of Minnesota has its own environmental process: MEPA. For Rethink I-94 Phase 2, the environmental review process has been coordinated to be conducted as a single process that fulfills both MEPA and NEPA requirements.
 - The NEPA/MEPA environmental process focuses on work today and proposed actions on existing conditions. MnDOT as an agency recognizes the initial impacts to the area when the I-94 corridor was built. Therefore, the Livability Framework is introduced, demonstrating that MnDOT is going beyond strict legalistic requirements to address the needs of those along the corridor.
 - The group expressed that there is a need to reconcile past and future impacts and conversations regarding past impacts will need to continue.
 - The group expressed that it would like more information on differences and similarities between NEPA and MEPA. The Project Team is preparing a matrix that will help audience who are not familiar with the NEPA MEPA process better understand the two environmental processes.
- Livability Framework is a direct outgrowth of public input from Phase 1 and it is not something NEPA/MEPA requires as part of the environmental process. Therefore, Livability is not defined by NEPA or MEPA. It is an additional step that MnDOT is willing to do as part of the environmental process.

- Some Livability Framework will be more obvious and overlap with the environmental process. However, other elements of the Livability Framework will take place during Tier 2. Just because Livability is not addressed to its full extent in Tier 1 does not mean that the Livability Framework is dismissed or set aside.
- Paper topics that cover the Livability Framework will be shared once they are complete. At the Scoping level, addressing the Livability Framework to its full extent will be too detailed. Therefore, the White Papers will share how each of the topics is being addressed nationally and locally.
- Clarification was provided on what social, economic, and environmental (SEE) resources include: wetlands, threatened and endangered species, noise, air, sense of place, etc.
 - The Project Team will be seeking input on what and how to measure some of the SEE resources, Livability Framework, and additional categories/subjects that will help measure impacts.
- The project is still in its early environmental process. The documents presented to the group have been drafted as a starting point. None of the environmental documents are final. Reviews and engagement will continue which will allow the group to weigh in on the different types of documents before they are finalized.
 - The first two meetings have been more informational sessions regarding the project's environmental process. Once the documents are ready, this group will review, discuss, and provide feedback to help finalize the documents.
- Given the pandemic and the social climate, the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting has been postponed indefinitely. The group will be informed once a PAC meeting has been scheduled.
- Unlike most MnDOT projects, there are no proposals for Phase 2. The interactive environmental process will help define what the proposals will be. Tier 1 will not develop a single project proposal but instead help develop a framework that could be further built upon in Tier 2.
- Additional groups that could be part of the Community Leaders Meeting were recommended:
 - Frogtown Green, Community Stabilization Project, African American Leadership Council, and Black Visions Collective

3. Next Meeting – August 25, 2020

Meeting Participants

Community Leaders

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Baker	Keith	ReConnect Rondo
X	Berger	Scott	Union Park District Council
X	Burns	Alex	Sierra Club North Star Chapter
	Cashman	Kerry	Seward Neighborhood
	Check	Nick	Saint Mark Parish
	Golemo	Alexa	MacGroveland Community Council
	Gunderman	Amy	Lexington Hamline Neighborhood
	Haight	Vanessa	Elliot Park Neighborhood
X	Johnson	Glen	Elliot Park Neighborhood
	Juliff	David	Be Civil – ReConnect Rondo
	Kershaw	Sean	Wilder
	Khalif	Farhio	St. Paul NAACP
	Klebsch	Angelica	Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
	Levins Holden	Olivia	Hope Community
	Liban	Mohamed	Somali American Partnership
	Morse Marti	Mary	Move Minneapolis
X	McLaughlin	Chris	Seward Neighborhood Group
X	Meister	Debbie	Neighborhoods First!
	Mudge	Kate	Hamline Midway Coalition
	Murray	Kathryn	St. Anthony Park
	Narayanan	Ashwat	Our streets Minneapolis
X	Nelson	Theresa	Move Minnesota
	Pleskovitch De Canedo	Amanda	Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
	Royce	Caty	Frogtown Neighborhood Association
	Selle	Dawn	Hallie Q Brown
X	Singer	Andy	Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition
X	Schwantes	Lindsay	Hamline Midway Coalition
	Scott Knox	Tiffany	Wilder
	Smaller	Martine	Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
	Tabbut	Julie	Prospect Park Association
	Thomas	James	Pastor – Mount Olivet Baptist Church
X	Thompson	Pat	St. Anthony Park Community Council, District 12
	Wako	Abdulrahman	Union Park District Council
	Watson	Shannon	St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
	Weinhagen	Jonathan	Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
	Werner	Jens	Summit-University Planning Council
	Wilson	David	Green Minneapolis

Technical Advisory Committee or Policy and Planning Committee Members

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Agosto	Kelly	Hennepin County
	Cox	Colin	Hennepin County
	Gottfried	Jason	Hennepin County
	Hager	Jenifer	City of Minneapolis
	Harper	Cyndi	Metro Transit
X	Harrington	Adam	Metro Transit
	Hiniker	Cole	Metropolitan Council

X	Isaacson	Brian	Ramsey County
	Kershaw	Sean	City of St. Paul
	Mandell	Paul	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
X	Mazzitello	John	Ramsey County
X	Musty	Peter	Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
	Newton	Randy	City of St. Paul
	Nix	Noel	City of St. Paul
	Schoenecker	Ted	Ramsey County
X	Stark	Russ	City of St. Paul Mayor's Office
X	Vanhala	Joan	Hennepin County
	Vennewitz	Amy	Metropolitan Council

FHWA/MnDOT/Consultant Staff

Present	Last Name	First Name	Organization
	Austin	Lisa	MnDOT
X	Barnes	Melissa	MnDOT
	Chiglo	Jon	WSB - consultant
X	Cho	Joanne	WSB - consultant
X	Corkle	Jack	WSB - consultant
	Crockett	April	MnDOT
X	Dorow Hovland	Olivia	MnDOT
X	Goff	William	MnDOT
	Hampton	Tori	MnDOT
X	Jeff	Gloria	MnDOT
	Kauppi	Sheila	MnDOT
	Knutson	Cyrus	MnDOT
X	Peterson	Nicole	MnDOT
X	Pfeiffer	Dan	WSB – consultant
X	Rank	Hannah	MnDOT
X	Turner	Hally	MnDOT
	Varney	Anna	FHWA
	Washington	Lyssa	4rm+ula - consultant

Comments received on meeting summary from participants:

David Juliff (email 8/24/20)

Thanks for sending these out. I just have a couple of comments on the meeting summary from 07/22/2020. Since I wasn't able to attend the meeting, these may have been clarified as part of the discussion but for those that were not on the call it may be helpful to clarify them in the notes:

1. Bottom of page 1 regarding the liveability framework. Last sentence - While MnDOT may be willing to take this additional step, I believe that they are committed to doing this additional work (through statements by both the current Governor and Commissioner of Transportation).

2. Middle of Page 2 - Regarding SEE resources. Open bullet notes the "Project Team will be seeking input on what/how to measure" these resources. From whom will they be seeking this input? Other agencies, the Community Leaders Group, general public? Can you clarify that in the meeting summary?