METRO Blue Line Extension
Corridor Management Committee (CMC)

Date & Time	November 13, 2025 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Location	F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 N 6th Ave, Minneapolis
CMC Members	Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Anjuli Cameron, Amanda Xiong, Michael Valverde, Theresa Kiser, Meg Forney, Nick Thompson, Candi Bacon, Christina Evans, Khani Sahebjam, Ellie Farhat
Presenters	Ashanti Payne, May Xiong, Shahin Khazrajafari, Alicia Vap, Jer Yang

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**
   Deb Barber, Metropolitan Council Chair, called the METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) Corridor Management Committee (CMC) meeting to order at 1:35 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, November 21, 2025.

2. **Approval of October 9, 2025, BLE CMC Meeting Minutes**
   Chair Barber called for a motion to approve of the October 9 Meeting Minutes. Reva Chamblis, Metropolitan Council Member moved a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Candi Bacon, Blue Line Coalition member. The minutes were officially approved.

3. **Workforce Development Update**
   Metropolitan Council Update
   Ashanti Payne, Metropolitan Council, provided an update on Workforce Development (WFD) efforts for the BLE project, noting both the Metropolitan Council's ongoing work and the unique challenges along the BLE corridor. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that corridor communities continue to thrive during and after the project.

   Mr. Payne shared that a key goal of the BLE Project is to build strong partnerships, including the creation of a WFD Steering Committee and a WFD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Mr. Payne reviewed the overall context, purpose, and needs, and

acknowledged that WFD will need to identify funding collaborations. Mr. Payne shared that they are seeking true partnerships and not treating WFD as a funding source.

CM Chamblis thanked Payne for the update and noted that she looks forward to seeing innovation incorporated into the development of the WFD Plan.

Hennepin County Update
May Xiong, Hennepin County, shared that the County already has an established Workforce Development (WFD) program and is eager to partner with the BLE project on this effort.

Ms. Xiong provided an overview of the County's WFD framework and strategies, noting goals such as developing and supporting employment services and helping residents secure livable-wage jobs. Ms. Xiong reviewed a map of workforce providers and participants across the County and stated that the highest concentration of providers is located along the BLE corridor. Ms. Xiong clarified that these services are not run directly by the County, but by community-based providers with whom the County works closely.

Ms. Xiong highlighted that Hennepin County has long-standing experience in workforce planning and outlined several key strategies. She also noted existing opportunities and gaps within the system and expressed the importance of identifying how to best utilize and strengthen these missing strategies moving forward.

Ms. Xiong reviewed key strategies, wealth building through the Coordinated Action Plan (CAP) for Anti-Displacement for BLE, and future opportunities to further the BLE alignment.

Blue Line Extension Update
Shahin Khazrajafari, Hennepin County, provided an update on the Blue Line Extension (BLE) WFD, and noted that the development within BLE is built on the foundation that was established by the Anti-Displacement Workgroup (ADWG) and the Coordinated Action Plan (CAP). The BLE WFD is structured to align with those recommendations, and the CAP framework sets both the short and long term goals for the BLE project.

Mr. Khazrajafari explained that the goal is to connect corridor communities with job opportunities, and that this can be achieved through a data-informed process supported by clear metrics. Mr. Khazrajafari noted that the BLE project is actively pursuing partnerships to advance workforce development efforts, including collaboration with the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, corridor cities, and local businesses.

Mr. Khazrajafari also shared that the commitment to WFD stems from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Amended Record of Decision (AROD) issued in August

2025, which was to identify the implementation of a local WFD program as a key mitigation measure to support community cohesion.

Mr. Khazrajafari outlined the structure of the WFD committees, which includes the BLE project team, a Steering Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee, and the network of service providers. Mr. Khazrajafari explained the goals for marketing and communication plan to create awareness, trust, and enrollment.

Mr. Khazrajafari noted that the WFD committees held their kickoff in October 2025 and provided an overview of the roadmap and next steps.

Theresa Kiser, Crystal Council Member, asked why Crystal, Robbinsdale, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) were included on the partnership slide. Mr. Khazrajafari explained that these entities were listed as potential program partners, not because of any formal commitments at this stage. Mr. Khazrajafari noted that roles and responsibilities have not yet been fully defined, but the project team wanted to ensure all corridor partners were represented as the WFD framework evolves.

MPRB President Meg Forney asked whether youth employment is being considered and how this initiative could be activated. Mr. Khazrajafari responded that youth engagement is indeed a key goal, and the team is exploring ways to connect with young people, such as participating in career fairs and engaging with technical colleges. President Forney added that MPRB has recently entered into a project labor agreement and noted that, as the WFD plan is developed, it would be valuable to consider how this agreement could be incorporated into future workforce contracts.

4. **Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP) Board Update**
   Ricardo Perez, ACPP Board Chair, provided an update on anti-displacement efforts. He reported that ACPP launched a $2-million funding initiative this fall as a strategic approach to support anti-displacement solutions along the BLE corridor.

   ACPP Chair Perez shared that at the October 31, 2025, ACPP Board meeting, members approved funding for organizations that submitted letters for the pilot program. ACPP Chair Perez noted that at the upcoming December 19, 2025, meeting, the Board is scheduled to vote on contracts in three key areas: Housing Stability, Business Stability, and Real Estate Development. ACPP Chair Perez noted that the state does require a match.

5. **2026 Meeting Dates**
   Alicia Vap, Metropolitan Council, shared the proposed 2026 BLE CMC meeting dates and noted that official meeting invites will be sent once they are confirmed by the Council Chair.

6. **Next Meeting: February 12, 2026**

7. **Adjourn**
Chair Barber thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting at 2:31pm.

Meeting Materials Provided:
Meeting Agenda, November 13, 2025
CMC Presentation
October 9, 2025 CMC Minutes

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