

Metropolitan Council

Meeting of the Southwest Corridor Management Committee
Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 10:00AM, St. Louis Park City Hall

Members/Alternates Present:	Chair Robin Hutcheson Dr. Tyronne Carter Heather Edelson Robert Lilligren	Brad Wiersum Khani Sahebjam James Hovland Lesley Kandaras	Elie Farhat (Alt) Tim Brausen (Alt)
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 10:13AM. This is Chair Hutcheson's first CMC meeting. Introductions were made.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hutcheson presented the September 10, 2025, Corridor Management Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Wiersum made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Edelson seconded the motion. Following a vote, the minutes were approved.

3. CHAIR'S NOTES

This is Mayor Brad Wiersum's last CMC meeting as he is not seeking reelection. Jim Alexander thanked Mayor Wiersum for his years of service and support of the GLE Project.

4. PROJECT UPDATE

Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director, provided an update on the Project. The Project is currently 90% complete overall. Civil construction is 95% complete, Systems construction is 85% complete, and the Hopkins Rail Support Facility is 60% complete. Alexander reported that most of the trails impacted the Project are now open, with the exception of a short section over the Kenilworth tunnel that will be closed until mid-December. Alexander said we could not have done this work without closing trails and expressed his appreciation for the community's support.

Alexander shared a slide highlighting development along the corridor. We plan to have Michael Krantz from Metro Transit's office of Transit Oriented Development share more information at our next CMC meeting in March 2026.

Alexander shared photos of construction progress and the Systems Integration Testing (SIT). He also explained the process and number of tests as we work through the SIT.

Khani Sahebjam asked if testing occurs in a variety of weather conditions, and Alexander said we will have the opportunity to capture all the weather seasons over the course of testing. Commissioner Edelson asked if an overhead wire has fallen during testing and what happens in that instance. Alexander said the contractor would come out, shut down the power, and fix the wire; the wires are tested with weights to ensure the tension is appropriate.

Chair Hutcheson said she was previously the Public Works Director for Minneapolis (2016-2021), and the Project progress has been noteworthy and incredible to witness.

5. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

David Davies, Manager of Public Involvement, provided an update on the recent activities of the Public Involvement team. A successful media event was held on October 23, 2025, to celebrate the beginning of LRV testing on the GLE corridor.

The Outreach team continues to promote public safety awareness through door-knocking, variable message signs, signage at pedestrian crossings, and direct mailings. Please let the team know if there are ways they can meet with community about the progress of the project in addition to safety.

Davies provided a lookahead update for 2026. The team will be focused on planning for the launch in 2027 and will share more information at CMC meetings in 2026. We continue to celebrate milestones and look forward to getting out on the trails when weather allows.

Commissioner Edelson expressed concerns regarding safety around youth and suburban communities. Davies said they have been connecting with schools and daycares that are near the corridor to promote using the train safely. They will also continue being present at various events.

Mayor Wiersum said he is concerned about the intersection at Technology Drive in Eden Prairie and encouraged the group to consider investing in a police presence at that location.

Council Member Dr. Carter asked if there is an active camera system around the track crossings, and Alexander said yes. Dr. Carter said he would be interested in learning more about the outreach and safety messaging.

Chair Hutcheson said she appreciates the focus on safety, especially regarding youth, and looks forward to hearing more.

6. DBE UPDATE

Jon Tao, Senior Small Business Specialist from the Council's Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity, discussed the DBE achievement numbers as of September 30, 2025. We continue to exceed the 15% DBE goal. The one contract that is a bit lower is the Hopkins Rail Support Facility; we expect more DBE participation in the latter part of the project after the walls are constructed.

Tao shared that the USDOT issued an interim final rule on October 3, 2025, which asked us to pause the DBE program and reevaluate all DBE firms in our directory; during this time of reevaluation, we will not be able to count DBE credit towards our goals or award new DBE goals on new contracts. We are partnered with the City of Minneapolis, MAC, and MnDOT to focus on reevaluating DBE firms. We are following the guidelines and working with small businesses to answer questions. We continue to monitor all contracts as normal.

Sahebjam asked Tao if his team is verifying that the small businesses are still performing the work, and Tao said yes, they are cognizant of that and they are continuing to monitor work activities and communicate with small businesses and contractors.

Council Member Lilligren asked whether small businesses (DBE contractors) are still being paid. Tao said yes, payments are still being made during this time. Commissioner Edelson asked how the process works, and Tao explained how the percentage is calculated (as shown on slide 42 of the presentation). Edelson asked if Tao has concerns about DBE in future projects, and Tao replied that while he cannot predict the future, the current focus is on supporting small businesses going through this process.

7. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:07AM. The next meeting will be March 4, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary