

Meeting of the Central Corridor Business Advisory Committee

March 19, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kay Baker, Tanya Bell, Kathy Bjerke, Denise Currie, Julio Fesser, Lori Fritts, Ken Hinz, David Jones, Brenda Kyle, Peter Latuff, Harry Melander, Guy Mingo, Sharon Johnson, Nell McClung, Sondra Reis, Chang Thao, Brian Thoemke, Christine Wiegert, Khue Yang, David Youmans.

Members Absent: Jim Roth, Jeannine Kessler, Tom Olesak

Others Present: Peter Bell, Robin Caufman, Joan Grzywinski, Shawntera Hardy, Wanda Kirtpatrick, Arlene McCarthy, Craig O'Brien, Karri Plowman, Jase Stumph, Va-Meng Thoj, Joanne Youngstrom.

1. Welcome

Denise Currie from SunTide Reality welcomed committee members and thanked them for using the space. Lori Fritts welcomed all participants. Joan Grzywinski introduced herself and discussed briefly the Central Corridor Partnership's role

2. Introductions

Chairman Peter Bell introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the Metropolitan Council position on Central Corridor, discussions of costs, including the CEI or Cost Effective Index, and importance of engaging the business community through the BAC in several key areas of the project. Highlighted areas included construction mitigation, parking, impact on businesses, tightening the planning and execution of the project, and other issues as they relate to preliminary engineering. The Chairman outlined the Central Corridor Management Committee (CMC) and how the BAC will report through the Central Corridor Partnership their recommendations on issues. The CMC has representation from all partners involved in the project including the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Counties of Hennepin and Ramsey, the business community, MNDOT, and the Met. Council members. The CMC will make recommendations to the full Met. Council for decision as they affect the final design of the Central Corridor line.

Each committee member then introduced themselves and brought up an issue or concern:

- Concerns about parking in front of businesses
- Snow Removal
- District Energy utility lines
- Parking and interruption of existing bus or transportation routes for clients and employees
- Development along the avenue
- Diversity standpoint and employment
- Effect on customers attempting to reach businesses
- Hide and Seek parkers and the effect on neighborhoods and existing business parking
- Station locations
- Living through the process
- Rights as property owners

- Non-profit clients trying to reach service centers
- Help for small businesses getting through the process

3. Business Advisory Council

The BAC charter was presented to the committee. Discussion on the purpose of the committee and what the committee will be working on as it relates to viability plans, business and construction mitigation, and station design. Procedurally, the length of time commitment and desire that committee members take information back to share with their peers, clients, customers, renters, and association. A brief discussion about the openness of the meetings to the public was also held.

4. Overview of Central Corridor.

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services speaking on behalf of Mark Fuhrmann, Project Director of Central Corridor who was called away to Washington. Ms. McCarthy presented an overview of the Central Corridor, beginning with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the project receiving the green light to go ahead into Preliminary Engineering (PE) by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Discussion included an overview of the next 6-9 months and how Met Council will gain input about design decisions, station placement, and “tweaks” to the alignment. Feedback from the FTA includes the possibility of 3 car design and stations, additional maintenance and storage space, and additional power needs.

Concerns that need to be addressed included exact location of stations, additional stations, District Energy and other utilities, University tunnel, Union Depot, and street-scaping, outer lane designs parking spots eliminated next to stations and intersections, no left hand turn lanes, and other transportation impacts.

5. Overview of Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

Wanda Kirtpatrick, Director of Equal Opportunity for the Metropolitan Council. Wanda discussed the efforts the Met. Council would use to utilize DBE companies within the Federal Guidelines. These goals are set by the Federal Government and outline the process for arriving at what percentages will be set on projects.

6. Corridor Management Committee Report

Arlene McCarthy, gave a brief update on the Central Corridor Management Committee (CMC). The role of the CMC is to provide advice to the lead agencies during the design and construction on the project’s scope, budget and schedule. The CMC is made up of representation from all partners, including the business community. In an effort to keep everyone informed, a Met. Council staff member will brief the BAC each week on the activities of this and other committees.

Robin Caufman, staff member to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) also briefed the BAC on the activities of the CAC. The CAC is similar to the BAC and opened to the community organizations, residents, and community groups.

7. Next Meeting: Monday, April 16, 2007, 4:30-6:30 pm

8. Adjourn

Prepared by Karri Plowman, Director of the Central Corridor Partnership