

Meeting of the Central Corridor Business Advisory Committee
February 18, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kay Baker, Denise Currie, Lori Fritts, Peter Latuff, Jim Roth, Brian Thoenke.

Members Absent: Tanya Bell, Kathy Bjerke, Julio Fesser, Ken Hinz, Jeannine Kessler, Brenda Kyle, Sharon Johnson, David Jones, Nell McClung, Harry Melander, Guy Mingo Tom Olesak, Sondra Reis, Chang Thao, Christine Wiegert, Khue Yang, David Youmans

Others Present: Robin Caufman, Dana Dellis Jessica Hill, Karri Plowman, Rita Rodriguez, Anne White,

1. Welcome:

Brief welcome by Lori Fritts, Co-Chair Business Advisory Committee. Robin Caufman, Manager of Public Involvement, introduced guest speakers, Gary Erickson, Assistant Design Project Director.

2. Metropolitan Council Update:

Review Public involvement Activities, Public Comments: Robin Caufman gave an update on the seven public meetings and four listening sessions. These meetings were held at different dates, times and locations on the corridor. This included an opportunity for the public to talk to engineers. More than 400 people attended the public meetings and 88 people spoke in front of the Metropolitan Council. The Central Corridor Project office provided video of presentation on the website.

Summary of comments included adding or not adding stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western. The University of Minnesota East Bank; build a tunnel or run at grade with auto traffic or with transit/pedestrian mall. Also, we should look at northern alignment

Summary of the four listening sessions included attendance of more than 300, 88 people spoke, 100 e-mails and letters were received. Two petitions were submitted with over 550 signatures from Capital Riverside and 130 signatures from Cedar Riverside.

Karri Plowman stated that in 2008 we will be working on construction mitigation strategies. Mr. Plowman gave a legislative update and stated that we continue to focus on funds from the transportation and bonding bill. If the transportation bill goes thru there could be a 1/8 to 1/2 cent increase in gas tax which would equal \$100M.

Lori Fritts announced the Midway Chamber luncheon on February 20th. Peter Bell, Chair Metropolitan Council will be quest speaker and 160 people are planning to attend.

Denise Currie noted that there are so meetings going on and it is difficult to distinguish which meeting to attend.

3. Technical Reports and Updates

Maintenance Facility: Gary Erickson, Assistant Design Project Director, gave an update on the Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF). In summary the DEIS proposes expanding the Franklin Operation & Maintenance (O&M) facility. The Franklin O&M needs to accommodate the Hiawatha fleet expansion to 3-car trains. There fore, we need a Central O&M facility to accommodate storage/routine maintenance, which require 15-20 acres and two potential sites are being considered (Minneapolis -15.7 acres and St. Paul Lower town – 20.4 acres).

29th Avenue Station: Mr. Erickson discussed the 29th Station per DEIS location (slide#14). He indicated that further analysis was required to study access to buildings and parking lots, traffic and pedestrian movements. He stated that he met with the property owner of Overflow Café and he appeared ok with the station location at first but was unsure at their last meeting. Next steps include evaluation location B impacts to adjacent properties and evaluate other alternatives.

Questions/Comments:

- What is meant by Northern Alignment? It is another alternative to the CCLRT route over bridge #9. It was eliminated from further study because the bridge is not wide enough to accommodate LRT.
- Will construction be shorter or longer without the tunnel? Shorter
- Was the 3-car train recommended to the FTA? Yes, it was in the original DEIS
- Will traffic be separated from CCLRT? Traffic will run along side the train and both will coordinate with the same traffic signals.
- What happens when the federal money is not enough? We will re-visit the plans and budget.

Next Steps

Tentative discussion topics:

- March – BAC Meeting March 17th 4:00-5:30 (Parking Impacts)
- April – Station Design
- May – Review SDEIS

5:30 meeting adjourned