

Court International Building, Ground Floor-RM #150 2550 University Avenue West St. Paul

Meeting of the Central Corridor Business Advisory Committee

May 18, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kathy Bjerke, Lori Fritts, Peter Latuff, Khue Yang, Christine Weigert, Jeannine Kessler, Jim Roth, Tanya Bell, Sharon Johnson,

Members Absent: Kay Baker, Julio Fesser, Sondra Reis, Nell McClung, Denise Currie, Ken Hinz, David Jones, Brenda Kyle, Harry Melander, Guy Mingo, Tom Olesak, Chang Thao, Brian Thoemke, Khue Yang, David Youmans.

Others Present: Gary Erickson, Kyle Williams, Craig Blakely, Shoua Lee, Rita Rodriguez, Joey Browner, Dana Dellis, Karri Plowman.

1. Welcome:

Brief welcome by Lori Fritts, Co-Chair Business Advisory Committee.

2. Project Reports and Updates:

Karri Plowman stated that the \$70 million dollars is back into the budget and that these dollars would double the mitigation fund. Mr. Plowman discussed the states funding pledge in addition to both Hennepin and Ramsey County, which would make up one half of the CCLRT budget. Business and construction mitigation continue to be a top priority.

3. Municipal Consent Process and Preliminary Design Plans: (see Presentation 5/19/08). Gary Erickson reviewed the Municipal Consent process, Minnesota Statutes 473.3994, which included the distribution of Municipal Consent plans on April 28th to both libraries in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Public hearings are being held before the cities and counties take formal action on the plan in July.

The public will be able to ask questions and get answers informally from project staff at open houses one hour before each hearing. You can submit a written comment on the technical details of the preliminary design plans to both city and county contacts by a specific date (hand out). These hearings are publicized on the web site www.centralcorridor.org.

Questions/Comments:

What happens if power stations are placed on private property? We will have to follow federal guidelines that include right of way acquisitions and obtaining appraisals.

What are the location sites for power stations? The specific site is currently being determined

How far off University Avenue will the power stations be located? Approximately ½ blocks off of University Avenue.

Will trucks be eliminated on University Avenue? No, trucks will run on University Avenue.

Can anyone speak at these public hearings? Yes, you must sign up at the registration table

4. Station Design Process

Kyle Williams introduced the station design process and timeline. He stresses that we are just introducing the concepts and will be working on station design over the next 8 months or so. He stated that the design team that has over 100 years of combined experience on projects around the country and many with local roots.

Mr. Williams reviewed the general principles that influences station design such as safety, accessibility and experience. He talked about issues such as wind protection, safety and comfort. Next he reviewed the slides showing the location of station components such as ticket vending machines and shelters. He reviewed pictures of column wraps with metal, brick or concrete applications, decorative railings and platform surfaces made with brick patterns. Mr. Williams reviewed the station concepts for split side platforms, side platform and center platforms. He stressed the importance of making timeless, durable structures. They are looking at metals such as copper, zinc or stainless steel because of their durability. Also, they are looking at sustainability components such as adding solar panels to the top to capture energy from sunlight in summer peak days. Other principles include transparency of shelter for security and to not block views. Stations include heating elements.

Questions/Comments:

How can you be consistent about the station design in an inconsistent corridor? You keep it simple, transparent and art reflective of each community.

What did you learn from Hiawatha? We learned that some consistency is good and easy to maintain. We are able to identify certain elements that can highlight art work such as wraps around poles and structural pieces.

5. University Avenue Update and Parking Solutions:

Craig Blakely, Strategic Planner, City of St. Paul, discussed the guidelines on developing commercial property. He provided examples of new parking theories and techniques such as license plate recognition, time limits and smart parking meters. Mr. Blakely talked about a “sharing the cost of parking” that works in Old Pasadena. He stated that the market rate meters ensure 15% vacancy and free parking in ramps generate .5 million dollars a year. The city leases repaved lots, pays for capital improvements and enforces parking regulations/permits. The revenue that is generated from meters is put back into the district that created it. Business associations can collect money on taxes and provide free parking with a 2 hour limit.

Parking off-street is grossly underutilized around University. If the city is able to lease parking lots, there is an enormous opportunity to provide off street parking. The city could find remote areas for off street parking that is revenue generating.

Questions/Comments;

Can we anticipate future development of parking lots on University? Depends on the availability of leasing parking lots

Can we anticipate shared parking and how do we handle mitigation? We have to work with and listen to the property owners and give the consumers a choice.

The challenge will be in looking at the variety of mitigations and determine what is working and what is lacking.

Meeting adjourn

Next Meeting: Monday, June 16, 2008