

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

Meeting of the Central Corridor Business Advisory Committee

Monday, April 20, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lori Fritts, Lu Hang, David Jones, Jeannine Kessler, Brenda Kyle, Peter Latuff, Jim Roth, Jim Segal, Christine Wiegert,

Others Present: Joey Browner, Robin Kaufman, Linda Jungwirth, Craig Blakely, Christina Morrison, Craig O'Brien, Sarah Penman, Hue Pham, Karri Plowman, Rita Rodriguez, Dan Soler, Eve Vang..

1. WELCOME

Lori Fritts opened the meetings at 4:08 PM and asked if anyone had comments on the March meeting minutes. There were no proposed changes.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

None.

3. PARKING SOLUTIONS TEAM REPORT

Dan Soler and Craig Blakely presented the Parking Solution Team report by reviewing the presentation. Following the presentation Lori Fritts asked people to think about the proposed solutions and provide feedback. She also acknowledged the amount of work done jointly by the City of St. Paul and Central Corridor project outreach staff. She asked the if we could review a specific critical area and asked for a suggestion. Jim Segal suggested Snelling and University.

Christina Morrison introduced herself and started reviewing the specific issues with that area, referring to page 33 of the Parking Solutions Team Report.

Karri Plowman asked Ms. Morrison to review some of the other consideration such as safety, and lighting and how these issues affect shared parking. Ms. Morrison noted that the City is planning to use the Design Center to look at different configurations and low cost improvements such as steps, ramps, lighting improvements etc... to make it more appealing.

Peter Latuff asked if a study has been done to determine how far people are willing to walk to parking. Ms. Morrison

Dan Soler said that the business use determines how far people are willing to walk. Destination retail where people are planning to spend some time are willing to walk farther than customers of short trip retail.

Ms. Fritts invited each of the BAC members to share their reaction and feedback by going around the table.

David Jones said that on the west end of the avenue, we are experiencing fall out of stadium construction that displaced parking. He asked if the UofM has any plans for replacing parking on campus. Mr. Jones asked if the UofM has parking and transit plans. CCPO engineers have been working with the UofM Transportation staff to determine comprehensive plan on access to the UofM via transit as well as parking.

Jim Roth asked about the commitment to mitigation? Yes, we are making traffic improvements to mitigate the closing of Washington Avenue and maintaining access to UofM buildings and hospital facilities. The report does look at how we avoid hide and riders in the residential areas.

Mr. Jones said he liked the idea of small grants for improvements and also bringing businesses together to resolve issues.

Jim Roth asked if all of the recommendations are implemented, how many spaces do we get back. Craig Blakely responded that it isn't about the numbers but the location of the parking and proximity to demand.

Lu Haung asked how far down the cross streets we'd meter on-street parking? Mr. Blakely said that the report proposed one block but this may change as we work with the businesses.

Peter Latuff asked how we are going to address snow removal on the cross streets? It is an issue today. Jim Segal added that the cross streets may not be able to park on the cross streets if there is a snow emergency in effect, which complicates the use of cross street parking in areas where Peter offered to meet with Craig and Dan to discuss the report in detail.

Jim Segal asked how much input businesses will have in metering and signing parking restrictions on remaining on street parking and cross street parking. Mr. Blakely said that it is helpful to have consistency of parking restrictions so that customers know what to expect.

Karri Plowman asked if permitting or metering could be phased in as needed. Mr. Blakely said that he is recommending that we start using the technology to enforce parking rules and get people used to metering. He added that a system requires that we have some consistency and that a variety of strategies are used to compliment each other.

Jim Segal suggested that we have the systems in place prior to LRT operating so people have some time to get used to it. Mr. Soler noted that we are hoping to get these solutions in place before construction. Ms. Morrison added that we are working to implement the low cost changes as soon as people so people start seeing results.

Christine Wiegert noted that with the introduction of LRT, businesses will need to adjust to

Jeannine Kessler said her primary concern is with safety and security of the alley and rear parking. She offered that more needs to be done to make people feel safe using rear parking lots.

Mr. Soler gave an example of a parking lot for a business that is mid-block. One solution would be to add an entrance from the rear of the building.

Ms. Fritts mentioned that the City of St. Paul police department has installed surveillance cameras and suggested we could connect into the network.

Ms. Fritts asked about how to structure shared parking agreements and whether the city would help with the negotiations. Mr. Blakely said that the proposed grants would provide incentive for sharing parking which would require an agreement for on-going maintenance, snow removal, etc... He also mentioned that there may be benefits if businesses share refuse collection bins.

Ms. Morrison said that there are models for shared parking agreements with other businesses within the city. We can use these examples for setting up agreements.

Jim Segal said that neighbors that get along will be able to share parking. He said that he doesn't see the rest of the corridor businesses getting along.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Segal said that business mitigation is an issue that needs to be discussed at an upcoming BAC meeting. Dan noted the comment and said the engineers are working on construction scheduling and will be bringing the information to the BAC for feedback.
Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2009