

Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 No. Robert St., St. Paul, Mn. 55101

**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee
July 11, 2007**

Members Present	Peter Bell, Chair	Toni Carter (Vanne Owens Hayes –alt)	Kathleen O’Brien (Bob Baker –alt)
	Tom Hanson (Norm Foster –alt)	Chris Coleman	Peter McLaughlin
	Reynaldo Aligada Rafael Ortega	Bob McFarlin	Jim Westerhaus
Members Absent	Mary Hill Smith	Paul Krause	R.T. Rybak

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peter Bell called the July 13, 2007 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:10 pm in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul. Bell welcomed Bob Baker and Vanne Owens Hayes, sitting in for O’Brien and Carter, respectively. Norm Foster will be sitting in for Hanson.

2. ADOPTION OF 06/13/07 AGENDA AND 05/09/07 MINUTES

Motion was made by Westerhaus, seconded by Aligada to adopt the agenda for the 07/11/07 meeting and the minutes of the 6/13/07 meeting. Motion carried.

3. JUNE 25, 2007 FTA NEW STARTS 101

Bell opened a discussion with information about a meeting Representative McCollum organized (June 25, 2007) regarding FTA New Starts proposal. A copy of the powerpoint presentation from that meeting is provided to members today. FTA staff talked about the New Starts program and criteria with particular emphasis on the Cost Effectiveness Index (CEI). Westerhaus attended the meeting and stated that information about the FTA decision making process emphasized how intense the competition is. The Q & A portion was a good opportunity for stakeholders to raise questions, the message that Westerhaus left with is that all stakeholders need get together locally to make decisions, particularly about financing the project, or we could “lose our place in line” in the selection process.

4. TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR MAJOR SCOPE DECISIONS

Bell asked members to discuss the technical criteria for major scope decisions for the project. The Council is about to execute the contract to the consultant that will be performing the preliminary engineering, DMJM Harris.

Bell reminded the members of major scoping decisions at the 30% design level, that must be made by the end of 2007 or early 2008: tunnel vs. at grade at U of M, point of entrance to the Union Depot, streetscaping, 2-car vs. 3-car system, stations, Cedar and 4th street alignment, etc.

Some of the factors that will be used to interpret the technical information and facts provided by the consultant, and be used to make recommendations the Council suggested by Bell are: CEI which includes ridership, capital costs, operating costs and travel time; safety and security; land use; and items in the

project that could be deferred to a later date. Bell asked for members to contribute the factors that they are concerned with when making decisions on the consultant information. Responses:

Aligada: Look at the project from the standpoint of the pedestrian.

Baker: Measure operating efficiency (travel time) and be sure the project doesn't have a negative impact on other modes.

Hayes: Concerned with the community and the nature of community during construction (biking, walking, safety), importance of maintaining community relationships.

Westerhaus: Economic Development and Employment.

McLaughlin: Environmental Impacts (do not have a disparate impact on low income communities).

Westerhaus: Central Corridor is one component in the Transit Master Plan – look at what it means to overall Plan i.e. multi-modal facility at Union Depot.

Aligada: Look at regrets, if any, (“lessons learned”) from the decisions made with the Hiawatha line; look at what can be learned from upcoming visits to other facilities.

Coleman asked how the “hard” and “soft” information is sorted out by the consultant in establishing facts. Bell replied that we must meet the FTA thresholds first, and then prioritize items from there. It is possible that the CCMC may look at some, though not an infinite amount, of different scenarios.

McLaughlin expressed the need to look at other levels beyond land use; advancing the economic and community development vision of the region, cities and neighborhoods and communities along the LRT line. McLaughlin added that delineating the criteria used by FTA is important to ensure we have a project that competes well.

5. Fall 2007 SITE VISIT(S)

Bell reminded the members to respond to his e-mail regarding the availability to visit other sites.

Responses are due by Friday, 7/13/07. Arlene McCarthy stated that it may take approximately 1 month to finalize the recommendation of the cities to visit.

6. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Robin Caufman, Manager Public Involvement, gave a report of the June CAC meetings, which included: John Levin, Metro Transit Service Planning, presented information on bus service changes and connections.

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, spoke on the project budget and CEI.

At the next meeting the Outreach Coordinators will be introduced and the processes for the DEIS and EIS will be discussed. Environmental Consultant Kathryn O'Brien will present the environmental items.

Other Public meetings held were: Model Cities Community Fair, District Council Collaborative, Camphor UMC St. Paul Council of Churches, Center for Hmong Arts and Talent. The public meetings provided an opportunity for citizens to air questions concerning parking, traffic, safety, construction impacts, bicycle amenities, maintenance costs, access. Comment cards have also been provided at the meetings. Caufman and staff will provide a list of the common themes and trends of these questions.

Caufman introduced the new Outreach Coordinators: Jessica Hill, Rita Rodriguez, Nkongo Cigolo, Shoua Lee.

7. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Karri Plowman reported from this committee. The BAC invited the Lake Street Association members to their last meeting. A Q&A session was held regarding business and construction mitigation during the Lake Street reconstruction project. Three or four themes emerged from the discussion: utilities, timing, construction. Another interesting factor during Lake Street reconstruction project was the collaborative abilities (brochures advertising businesses, encouraging visits to businesses), businesses helping each other during construction (parking/access). Lake St. Association felt that most of the emerging businesses and businesses of color fared very well during construction, perhaps because they had been through non-profit training and had more advanced plans. This compares to the older family businesses along the line that were not as prepared. It is important to take note of this during the Central Corridor construction.

July 11, 2007 Central Corridor Management Committee Meeting

The next meeting of BAC will involve land use plans. Plowman mentioned that the St. Paul Area Chamber has a new president, Christopher Johnson; CCMC members are welcome to attend a reception tonight 7/11 at the M Street Cafe.

McLaughlin expressed concern with how property values are assessed during construction. He would like someone to explore a “distressed” time for property values/abatement/deferral. Need to see what might be permissible under state law.

8. INFORMATION SHARING BY CCMC MEMBERS

Ortega and McLaughlin also attended the Congresswoman McCollum session on New Starts. Ortega stated that the session was well attended by both private and public persons.

McFarlin stated that on 7/10/07, Transportation Secretary Mary Peters and FTA Administrator Jim Simpson were at the Northstar construction site. Governor Pawlenty and Mayor Rybak were also there. Tim Yantos from Northstar Corridor Development Authority and Mark Fuhrmann gave a briefing.

9. AUGUST 8, 2007 – MEETING CANCELED

Next scheduled meeting September 12, 2007.

This meeting will be held at the same time (1:00 pm), and is proposed as a tour of the 3 alignment options to the Union Depot as well as the Depot concourse, arranged by Ortega. A similar tour of construction possibilities around the University of Minnesota will be arranged for a later date.

10. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

No specific items were raised.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm by Bell.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary