

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee  
September 12, 2007**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Peter Bell called the September 12, 2007 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:05 pm in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

**2. ADOPTION OF 09/12/07 AGENDA AND 07/11/07 MINUTES**

Motion was made by Carter, seconded by Westerhaus to adopt the agenda for the 09/12/07 meeting and the minutes of the 7/11/07 meeting. Motion carried.

**3. WASHINGTON AVENUE BRIDGE STUDY UPDATE**

Rich Rovang, Metro Transit Assistant General Manager, Transit Systems Development, gave an update on the Washington Avenue Bridge Study. URS consultants were hired to begin analysis to do two things:

1. 3D computer model for two cases – the existing non-composite bridge deck; and model assuming a new composite bridge deck.
2. Develop proposed structural modifications, if any, are needed.

They have been conducting the study and analyzing load limits for LRT, automobiles, pedestrian traffic and snow loads. They have found that the bridge does not meet current AASHTO standards and is a non-redundant, fracture-critical bridge. They will need to do a finite element analysis and more computer modeling. They tested one girder, and found that further structural analysis is needed; that with two modes (LRT and vehicles) the bridge may not have failure-mode redundancy. Results of further analysis are expected by Friday 9/14 at the earliest, or next week. It is anticipated that work will be needed to mitigate the bridge for LRT and staff is waiting to see what, and how costly, mitigation would be.

In answer to Rybak's question if repairs to the bridge would be needed whether there is LRT or not, Rovang replied that Hennepin County has asked for a separate report to address that. Rovang also answered the question that the decision to tunnel or not does not have a bearing on the bridge status. If mitigation is performed, then the bridge would not longer have a fracture-critical rating.

**4. NOVEMBER SITE VISIT**

Chair Bell informed the committee that staff is trying to get the Salt Lake City tour to begin at 12:00, rather than 11:00 am, to account for the late (10:46) flight arrival option. He also expressed a strong preference for people to schedule the Salt Lake City to San Diego trip for the evening of November 5,

Delta 9:10 pm flight, because the San Diego tour is scheduled for 9:00 am Tuesday November 6.

A tour of the U of M Central Corridor proposed alignments is tentatively scheduled for the October 10 CCMC meeting. Details will be forthcoming.

## **5. TOUR OF ST. PAUL UNION DEPOT ALIGNMENT AND CONCOURSE**

A bus was provided for committee members and meeting attendees for a tour of the St. Paul Union Depot alignment and concourse, sponsored by Rafael Ortega, Ramsey County Commissioner and Steve Morris, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority. Prior to bus boarding, McCarthy explained the three alignment options as shown on a map provided to members. McCarthy narrated the bus tour, explaining the various SPUD approaches and alignments being considered in preliminary engineering: 2<sup>nd</sup> Street viaduct approach, Wacouta Street, and the DEIS option (4<sup>th</sup> Street). Upon arriving at the Union Depot, Rafael Ortega and Toni Carter gave a history of the Depot Building and Ramsey County's vision to bring the facility back to its original form as a multi-modal hub including Amtrak and local buses/vehicles/taxis and bicycle facility (2012), LRT (2020) and Commuter Rail (2020). Outside the concourse area, Steve Morris explained the vision for the platform/boarding area and answered questions regarding the different approaches. A model of the proposed facility was available to aid in visualization of the plans.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the return to Metropolitan Council offices, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm by Bell.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary