

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee  
October 10, 2007**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Peter Bell called the October 10, 2007 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:05 pm at the McNamara Alumni Center, U of M, 200 Oak Street, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

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

Motion was made by Westerhaus, seconded by Carter to adopt the agenda for the 10/10/07 meeting and motion was made by Smith, seconded by Westerhaus to approve the minutes of the 09/12/07 meeting. Both motions carried.

**3. WELCOME BY PROVOST SULLIVAN**

Bell introduced U of M's Provost Sullivan who welcomed the committee for the opportunity to get a first hand look at how LRT may travel through the U of M Campus area. He stated that the Central Corridor offers a transformational opportunity to the campus. Connecting the U of M to two cities and the airport will provide an important link through the metropolitan area. Safety is a fundamental factor in routing the LRT line. Minimal disruptions to campus life must be realized; connections to research facilities is important, as well as functionality and aesthetics. The U of M has approved principals to guide in the decision making and is supportive of the LRT line.

**4. NOVEMBER SALT LAKE CITY & SAN DIEGO TRIP UPDATE**

Bell reported that participation in the November trip is less than 50%. He asked for thoughts from the group as to whether the trip should be rescheduled. The participants have, however, made their trip plans and the two cities have been preparing for our visit. Carter recognized that members have conflicts during the trip dates, but recognizes the importance of the trip and encouraged members to keep these plans already in place. She has been to one of the locations and may schedule an individual trip to the other. In answer to Aligada's request that the trip participants be briefed on the important factors to note on this trip, Bell responded that staff is preparing a booklet that will be distributed to CCMC members prior to the trip.

**5. ENGINEERING AND CONSULTANTS UPDATE**

Mark Fuhrmann reported that Monday, October 1, 2007 marked the opening of the Central Corridor Project Office (CCPO) on University Avenue. This will be very beneficial as Metropolitan Council, MnDOT, and Engineering Consultant Staffs are in the same location.

He shared handouts of generic station design(s) and the type of preliminary design anticipated for the five station sites: Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Lexington and Dale. These five station sites are mostly “fixed” so the consultant continues to work on design. Fuhrmann answered questions from committee members including the following:

Coleman – Q: At the Fairview Ave. Sta. the left turn for westbound University Avenue access to the Senior Housing appears to be blocked in the design. Was this addressed? A: Staff conducted an information session with Episcopal Homes in June and they did not express a concern; can revisit.

Carter - Q: To what extent can design be “set in stone” and prepare the plans? How can these decisions be made without knowing the criteria on how the decisions will be made? A: These stations are being worked on now, they will most likely not be required to change as part of the DEIS. The important decisions related to scope/cost of the downtown St. Paul alignment, U of M alignment, and University Ave. stations at, and east of, Snelling have yet to be made.

Aligada – Q: What are the options for Snelling Station and how do City, County and CAC relate/communicate? A: Fuhrmann explained the various alternatives for Snelling Station. More detail is being worked on between the city, Mayor, Urban Strategies Group. An outreach event is scheduled for 10/24. The three Snelling Station options were presented at the CAC September meeting and feedback was requested. The City meets prior to the CAC meeting, there is “rolling” discussion ongoing, and will continue between the 10/24 Outreach and November CAC meeting.

Carter - Q: Who/is there an artist selected for the CC team? A: Steve Wilenski is an architect and part of the team at the CCPO; he comes with experience at other LRT locations. At next Thursday’s CAC meeting, dialog will begin about what elements are available for public art and how the team can integrate these elements.

## **6. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Kirstin Sersland Beach, is the new Co-Chair for this committee and was introduced by Bell. She reported that the two resigning CAC members have been replaced and a member of the Hispanic community added. The CAC received a presentation about the station configurations (as Fuhrmann presented here at CCMC). Fuhrmann answered questions as to access, gate arms, etc.

Outreach Coordinators have been assigned to CAC member by geographic locations, this establishes communication lines for sharing of information.

## **7. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT**

Karri Plowman reported that the BAC heard the presentation regarding the station configurations from Fuhrmann. The BAC shared concerns concerning parking, snow removal, left-hand turns. Representation has been solidified from all key station areas along the corridor. The next major work will be to prepare a Business Mitigation Plan, present the preliminary draft at the BAC meeting, hold public meetings for feedback on said plan. Following these meetings, the final “preliminary” Business Mitigation Plan is expected to be completed in the next few months.

## **8. TOUR OF U of M ALIGNMENT**

A bus was provided for committee members and meeting attendees for a tour of the U of M LRT Alignment options, sponsored by Bob Baker, U of M. Prior to bus boarding, Baker gave a short presentation regarding the typical traffic pedestrian conditions today and the proposed plans for the stations near the University: East Bank, West Bank and Stadium Village. Baker narrated the bus tour, explaining the alignment and the U of M plans near the stations.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the return to U of M McNamara Alumni Center, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm by Bell.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary