

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee

May 28, 2008

Members Present	Peter Bell, Chair	Toni Carter	Kathleen O'Brien
	Mary Hill Smith (proxy: Peggy Leppik)	Rafael Ortega	Peter McLaughlin (proxy: Mark Stenglein)
	Chris Coleman (proxy: Nancy Homans)	Jim Westerhaus (proxy: Dan Scott)	Bob McFarlin
	Tom Hanson	Reynaldo Aligada	R.T. Rybak (proxy: Peter Wagenius)
Members Absent	Paul Krause		

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present Chair Peter Bell called the May 28, 2008 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:10 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

As was discussed at the 5/21/08 meeting, Bell announced the proxy voters that were named in place of absent members:

Rybak – Peter Wagenius
McLaughlin – Mark Stenglein
Coleman – Nancy Homans
Westerhaus – Dan Scott
Hill Smith – Peggy Leppik

Bell recapped that the action to be considered at this meeting is a resolution that was made by P.McLaughlin and seconded by R.T. Rybak at the 5/21/08 meeting. The resolution was tabled at the 5/21/08 meeting at the request of the Governor to allow a week to address some of the issues in the resolution. Since the 5/21/08 CCMC meeting, Bell has corresponded to K.O'Brien requesting a meeting with the U of M Board of Regents to share mitigation efforts on Washington Avenue, and requesting documentation that the Northern Alignment be able to adhere to the time frame established for Washington Avenue at-grade alignment and documentation that the FTA is amenable to the revised calculation for the CEI of \$28.44 (Northern Alignment) put forth by the University of Minnesota.

Bell met with three Regents this morning (Chair Simmons, Vice-Chair Allen, Dave Metson-Facilities Committee). Bell stated that Chair Simmons asked that the vote be delayed again, during which time Bell could present information to the full Board of Regents. Bell responded to Simmons that he appreciates the invitation to appear before the Board of Regents, however, stated that he feels the time to vote on the subject is now.

If this resolution passes at the CCMC today, there will be a presentation to the Met Council at their 4:00 pm meeting on the Washington Avenue Alignment, Northern Alignment. O'Brien has been invited to present the U of M's vision of the Northern Alignment at the Council meeting. The Council is scheduled to vote today. If passed, the action reaffirms decisions that have been made in 2001 and on 2/27/08. Bell looks forward to continuing the work with the U of M on legitimate concerns with mitigation and the like.

2. APPROVAL OF 05/28/08 AGENDA AND 05/21/07 MINUTES

The committee moved directly to the business items on the agenda.

3. CCMC RECOMMENDATION TO MET COUNCIL

Motion was made by Stenglein, seconded by Ortega to remove the action that tabled the action on the resolution

from 5/21/08. Motion passed.

Motion to adopt the resolution was made at 5/21/08 meeting (moved by-McLaughlin, 2nd-by Rybak) and it is not necessary to move and second the motion again at this meeting.

Discussion: O'Brien stated the at the U of M has worked diligently trying to identify an alignment through the campus that would work, in hopes of avoiding the situation that is before the committee today, where the University of Minnesota is forced to vote "no". O'Brien represents the U of M Board of Regents and the University Community. Progress has been made on the study of the Northern Alignment and the at-grade Washington Avenue alternative; there are still substantial questions that need to be addressed. O'Brien stated she is confident that members can work together to address these questions. The U of M is not voting against the Washington Avenue at-grade alignment, rather they feel that there are feasible and reasonable alternatives that need further work. The U of M remains committed to the Central Corridor and to finding a solution that works for the regional transportation system, the University and the surrounding community.

Motion carried to adopt the resolution presented at the 5/21/08 CCMC meeting, with O'Brien voting against. (resolution attached)

4. INFORMATION SHARING BY CCMC MEMBERS

None.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the CCMC is June 11, 2008 at 1:00 pm.

6. ADJOURN – Motion, 2nd and passed to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary

Central Corridor Resolution

WHEREAS:

1. The Central Corridor Management Committed and the Metropolitan Council on February 27, 2008 directed that the Project Office proceed with Preliminary Engineering and make a New Starts application to the Federal Transit Administration to move the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project into Final Design with, among other features, a University of Minnesota at-grade Transit Mall on Washington Avenue;
2. The University of Minnesota, City of Minneapolis and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority have requested further definition and planning of a Washington Avenue at-grade Transit/Pedestrian Mall, with special emphasis on design and operation of the Mall, mitigation measures, and bus operations in the University Area, which includes the nearby neighborhoods;
3. The University of Minnesota has conducted a Feasibility Analysis of the Northern Alignment as a possible alternative to the Washington Avenue at-grade Transit/Pedestrian Alignment;
4. The results of the Northern Alignment Feasibility Analysis show a higher estimated Cost-Effectiveness Index.
5. A number of significant outstanding issues have been identified relating to environmental (including contaminated soils), design, construction, operations and maintenance, railroad-related matters and project schedule of the Northern Alignment, which create additional uncertainty and risks;
6. Great progress has been made in the definition of a mitigation package for the Washington Avenue at-grade alignment in the University Area by all affected parties;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corridor Management Committee recommends that the Metropolitan Council refine its action of February 27, 2008 and direct the Project Office to proceed with Preliminary Engineering and make application to the Federal Transit Administration to move the CCLRT Project into Final Design with, among other features, a University of Minnesota at-grade Transit/Pedestrian Mall on Washington Avenue with no vehicular traffic except emergency vehicles, light rail vehicles and buses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corridor Management Committee recommends that Metropolitan Council direct the Project Office to discontinue all work related to the Northern Alignment, effective immediately;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corridor Management Committee recommends that the Metropolitan Council, the University of Minnesota, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and City of Minneapolis continue to work toward the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focused on mitigation measures in the University Area and a second MOU regarding design, construction, ownership, right-of-way, operational and maintenance issues, in the University area;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the parties represented in the Corridor Management Committee agree to work cooperatively to (a) submit a New Starts application in early September, 2008, (b) advocate timely federal approval of the New Starts application, and (c) take all the necessary actions with the FTA to maintain the project on its current schedule, with entrance into Final Design in Spring, 2009.