

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee  
August 13, 2008**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not assembled when Chair Peter Bell called the August 27, 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. Chair Bell began the meeting with Items 3 and 4 on the agenda while waiting for a quorum.

**2. APPROVAL OF 08/13/08 AGENDA AND 07/09/08 MINUTES**

Once a quorum was present following items 3 and 4 from the agenda, a motion was made by O'Brien, seconded by Carter to adopt the agenda for the 08/13/08 meeting and to approve the minutes from the 07/09/08 meeting. The motion carried.

**3. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE**

Robin Caufman reported for Karri Plowmann regarding the Business Advisory Council meetings and discussion. BAC meeting discussion topics have included: project updates, SDEIS, Municipal Consent Process, MOU with the U of M. The majority of time was spent on Traffic Study #5 at the last meeting. The BAC has asked the project office to look at parking during off-peak travel times. The BAC is concerned about access to businesses regardless of whether ample parking is provided.

**4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Robin Caufman reported that the Community Advisory Committee shares much the same concerns as the BAC stated above. Rozanne Severance appeared before the CAC presenting a letter from the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee with the TAAC's concerns about station accessibility and design. Kathryn O'Brien from the CCPO attended the CAC meeting with a project update. Caufman reported on the Public Outreach plan that is being worked on. The CAC has requested a standing agenda item be a report on the FEIS. A special CAC meeting was held on 7/31, including a tour for the 10 artist finalists and artists meeting with the CAC.

**5. RECAP SDEIS PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Kathryn O'Brien from the CCPO reported on the SDEIS public hearings. O'Brien stated that the 45 day comment period ends 8/25/08. Examples of comments at the public hearings: Address parking impacts; ensure equitable benefits of project, need for infill stations; maintain local bus service; mitigate gentrification effects; and provide safe crossings of University Ave.

**6. BUDGET/CEI UPDATE**

Mark Fuhrmann stated that cost estimates are being updated, since 30% engineering was reached on 8/01. The reviewed the CEI and bus and rail operating costs, travel time, and next steps. O'Brien questioned whether modeling has been done using a local bus only from downtown St. Paul to Snelling/Fairview. Fuhrmann replied that a "Route 16 Overlay" bus and its impacts to the CEI is being looked at. He will have information for the

8/27/08 special CCMC meeting. Coleman asked questions regarding the adjusted CEI number from the FTA and how it relates to inflation. Ortega questioned when the final numbers that will be submitted to the FTA will be available for committee review. Fuhrmann will have information to the members prior to the 8/27/08 special CCMC meeting (in the next week).

## **7. VIBRATIONS**

Mark Fuhrmann reported that a vibration study has identified which sites could be impacted. The project office has collected vibration field data of actual vibration along embedded track sections of Hiawatha and conducted simulated vibration at receptor sites along the CCLRT alignment to assess site specific impacts. Methods of mitigating the vibration are being explored and information is being shared with the owners. Some owners will elect to perform their own testing as well. The mitigation will be addressed in the FEIS.

## **8. PARKING**

Findings of parking study and business surveys:

Robin Kaufman reported on this item, focusing mainly from the Minneapolis/St. Paul border to Rice Street. Results of the survey list safety, community, cohesion and crossing of University Avenue as important factors. CCPO staff is working on "block-by-block" summaries and mapping. Carter and Bell questioned whether businesses were considered "not-impacted" only if they have off-street parking and how the business determined on-street parking is for their business. CCPO will look at these issues. Mayor Coleman recognized the work of the outreach staff to talk to businesses about this issue. Westerhaus questioned how many off-street parking spaces are in front of residences. Coleman stated that there is a high anxiety level from business owners and residents because of unanswered questions regarding financial resources available, unidentified costs, uncertainty and need.

Traffic Study #5.1 peak/off-peak parking:

Mark Fuhrmann stated that Traffic Study #5 has been further studied in response to committee request. Traffic Study 5.1 is reviewing 5 key points on the alignment to study whether parking could be allowed during off-peak hours. Results were presented by Fuhrmann and in the presentation. McLaughlin suggested investigating opportunities via the "Complete Streets" study that MnDOT is conducting. Wagenius suggested looking into an exception to the minimum State MnDOT standards for urban design roads, as has been done by the City of Minneapolis.

## **9. PUBLIC ART**

Jim Alexander, CCPO, introduced Mary Altman from the City of Minneapolis who reported on the Artist Selection Committee (ASC) and its process and progress. Jim Alexander is the Chair of the ASC; this committee will continue as an advisory through the procurement and design. Altman gave detailed report on the selection criteria and artist interviews. Ten finalists have been selected to submit proposals. Carter revisited her comments and requests from earlier meetings, stating concern with time spent to get to the point of having artists involved, the need to involve the artist in the entire project and the need for a manner by which station design can be impacted by the artist. Bell answered that Carter's earlier requests have been noted but the project timeline may not allow the results that Carter desires. Smith noted the good job of emphasizing to the artists the need to work with the community.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

Bell Stated that the next meeting will be held on August 27, 2008 from 1-3 p.m.; Discussion will focus on the CCMC recommendation to the Council regarding SDEIS approval, confirming preferred alternative and any final budget adjustments.

These actions are needed prior to submitting application for Final Design authorization to the FTA, on September 5, 2008.

There was no other business from the CCMC members.

## **11. ADJOURN**

Motion by Smith, seconded by Ortega to adjourn the 8/27/08 CCMC meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary