

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee

January 9, 2008

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present Chair Peter Bell called the January 9, 2008 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:05 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul.

2. APPROVAL OF 01/09/08 AGENDA AND 12/12/07 MINUTES

Motion was made by Coleman, seconded by Ortega to adopt the agenda for the 01/09/08 meeting and motion by Westerhaus, seconded by Ortega to approve the minutes of the 12/12/07 meeting. The motions carried.

3. CCLRT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Robin Cauffman began with a recap of the 2007 activities and outreach efforts. In 2007, staff talked to roughly 15,000 people through public and community meetings, attending sporting events, talking to non-profit staff, schools and many other types of meetings. She presented a list of upcoming meetings. Upcoming meetings will speak more about transit planning and connecting bus service, stations. Times and days of meetings vary to give citizens an opportunity to attend. Three Metropolitan Council "listening sessions" are listed. Bell stressed that the CCMC members are invited to these meetings and encouraged their attendance. Metropolitan Council members are also being encouraged to attend.

4. CCMC JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Chair Bell stated the importance for the CCMC to meet more often and for a longer period during the next 2 months in order to accomplish the decision making to meet deadlines. Bell stated that the Metro Council will be making scope decisions at its 2/27/08 meeting. Delaying these decisions will affect the ability to get application for Final Design in the fall of 2008. A delay of 1-2 months on scope decisions could push the project back a year. Discussion followed regarding the committee members' understanding of what role the committee members play in decision making and/or recommendations to the Metro Council. Some committee members had the understanding that they would be making recommendations (by vote) to the Metro Council. Bell will further consider the committee members' request to vote on issues. Discussion followed regarding the amount of time that should be allowed for the upcoming meetings. It was decided to hold the January and February meetings twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 12:00-2:30 pm, with a possible full day session on 2/27/08. If that amount of time is not needed after the first few sessions, then the meeting duration will be changed.

5. CCLRT RE-BASELINE COST ESTIMATE

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit, introduced Chuck Heims - Design Manager from DMJM Harris, and Rich Rovang - Deputy Project Director for Central Corridor Project Team, who were present to answer specific questions regarding the design of CCLRT.

Fuhrmann highlighted 2008 Critical Milestones and FTA Preliminary Engineering requests. There were three topics that he presented today, as follows:

1) Updated DEIS cost estimate

Fuhrmann reiterated the requirements of the Cost Effectiveness Index (CEI), and which elements and alignments were originally included in the DEIS. He explained the adjustments that were made to the DEIS. Powerpoint slides showing the cost estimates were discussed and Fuhrmann answered questions from the committee regarding inflation estimates.

2) Downtown St. Paul alternative alignments

Central Corridor Project Office has been assessing these alternatives-

- The diagonal alternative (4th, 5th, Cedar & Minnesota)
- 4th Street to Wacouta, mid-block
- 4th Street to Broadway
- 2nd Street Viaduct

All alternatives and cost estimates were explained fully and highlighted points were included in the presentation.

Fuhrmann explained the level that staff from the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County were involved in this analysis. Upon request of the committee members, Fuhrmann agreed to also evaluate the diagonal alternative, keeping the two stations originally proposed in the DEIS, or a combination thereof.

3) Analysis of tunnel vs at-grade on East Bank at U of M on Washington Avenue.

The DEIS alignment provided for a tunnel, but conflicts with the location of the stadium; Fuhrmann explained this alternative conflict, as well as a realigned tunnel and an at-grade alternative. K. O'Brien spoke on behalf of the University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota has agreed to contribute to a study of a northern alignment, although there is concern with meeting the decision making schedule timeframe and the cost. Bell stated that the Metropolitan will still make their scope decisions on 2/27/08. If the U of M northern alignment study results have merit (results projected to be complete May/June '08), staff will then discuss, so as not to delay the project at this time.

R. Ortega stated that it would be helpful to have a "flow chart" showing what percentage of design engineering is to be done and at what point in the schedule, to show how things fit in the decision making process. Fuhrmann replied to Ortega's question as to the status of Washington Avenue Bridge retrofit and cost estimates. He also answered questions from the committee members as to individual element costs and comparisons, and best case/worst case scenarios.

Fuhrmann stated that a comprehensive list, cost and CEI for all elements will be brought to next meeting.

Bell stated that he will discuss with staff a way to reflect, in a more dynamic fashion, the interrelationship to various "adds/deletes" to the project in order for the committee to reach decisions.

6. CCLRT MAJOR SCOPE ISSUES

Discussion included in Item 5 above.

7. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Due to time constraints, this item was carried over to the next meeting.

8. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

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Due to time constraints, this item was carried over to the next meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING: January 23, 2008 12:00 – 2:30 pm. (*New Start Time*)

10. ADJOURN:

Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary