

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee

June 11, 2008

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present Chair Peter Bell called the June 11, 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 06/11/08 AGENDA AND 05/21/08 & 5/28/08 MINUTES

Motion was made by Westerhaus, seconded by Smith to adopt the agenda for the 06/11/08 meeting and motion was made by McFarlin, seconded by Smith to the approve minutes of the 05/21/08 and 05/28/08 meetings. The motions carried.

3. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Karri Plowmann reported on the Business Advisory Council meetings and discussion. The BAC has been discussing parking impacts, business survey, municipal consent, station design and business mitigation. The businesses are not happy about the loss of parking, but there is hope that work can be accomplished to address this. There has been a good amount of feedback received from the business survey. Station design was a larger issue for the BAC than originally thought. Businesses are concerned that the stations do not block access. There is accessibility concern with extended crosswalks. Businesses expressed a need to keep movement on the sidewalks past the businesses. There is concern there may be cuts to mitigation dollars.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Robin Cauffman reported that the CAC is using an improved format for the meetings; they have added a report portion from the outreach coordinators and CAC members at the beginning of the meeting and shortened the presentations to allow more Q & A time. Some recent items of discussion were: University Avenue design elements, traffic studies and station design. Streetscape details will be at an upcoming meeting.

5. FTA UPDATE

Chair Bell reported that he and M. Fuhrmann met with Mr. Simpson (head of FTA) and Sr. FTA officials on Monday 6/09. He also reported that Secretary Peters (FTA) will be here on Thursday 6/12 for UPA issues. The meetings entailed positive, frank discussions. The FTA committed to maintain their schedule for SDEIS and Final Design with very little slippage, as stated earlier by Fuhrmann.

6. UNIVERSITY AVENUE DESIGN ELEMENTS

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on this subject, deferred from an earlier meeting. He stated that he has heard from the businesses and community a desire to maintain on-street parking. He answered questions from committee members regarding availability of parking in the rear of businesses and the traffic flow with LRT having signal priority, and separation between walkways and traffic lanes (auto and LRT). Engineers continue to look at parking impact issues and traffic impacts if traffic were to be reduced to 1 lane each way in certain areas of the project on University Avenue.

7. DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL PLANNING UPDATE

Mark Fuhrmann reported he has been hearing from businesses to be aware of access for both visitors and loading docks. A survey of the utilities has been completed; there are 50+ different utilities to work with. A cost estimate has been received from District Energy and sequencing is being discussed. Bell has been in discussions with Mr. Kling from MPR.

8. STATION DESIGN CONCEPTS AND PUBLIC ART PROCESS

Mark Fuhrmann introduced Kyle Williams, Managing Architect. Williams reported on the design concepts for the stations. Fuhrmann stated that the project office has shared with the community what station design elements cannot be changed and what can be variable. He stated that the design for the Central Corridor stations will be more standardized than for HLRT. The HLRT stations, thought unique, will be expensive to maintain because of their uniqueness. Standard design for Central Corridor stations will be beneficial for the ADA community. Carter expressed concern with the timeline for artists, need for an advisory panel, and more time for the outcomes desired. Rybak stated that standard and “simple and transparent” may not be what is desired, as it does not recognize the uniqueness of the various neighborhoods that LRT will travel through. Bell stated that LRT across the country is going to more standardized models because of 1) capital costs 2) ADA standards, and 3) maintenance. Ryback also suggested contacting Barry Aldman, Minneapolis Art Coordinator, to inquire about public drinking fountains (with art incorporated). Other committee members expressed concern with the “bland” design, timeline to bring artists on board, level of responsibility for the artist and budget. Bell acknowledged the comments received.

9. MUNICIPAL CONSENT PROCESS UPDATE

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the municipal consent process – timeline provided in handouts.

10. INFORMATION SHARING BY ALL

There were no further comments from committee members.

11. NEXT MEETING: JULY 9, 2008, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

12. ADJOURN

Bell adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary