

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee

July 9, 2008

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present Vice Chair Mary Hill Smith called the July 9, 2008 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 1:08 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul. Smith noted receipt of two letters regarding station design (from Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee and from Minnesota State Council on Disability). The letters are included in member packets and copies will be mailed to the members via USPS.

2. APPROVAL OF 07/09/08 AGENDA AND 06/11/08 MINUTES

Motion was made by Westerhaus, seconded by Aligada to adopt the agenda for the 07/09/08 meeting and to approve the minutes from the 06/11/08 meeting. The motion carried.

3. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Karri Plowmann reported on the Business Advisory Council meetings and discussion. Two meetings were held in June at which Chair Bell attended. One meeting focused on the businesses on University Avenue and the other meeting focused on the Downtown St. Paul businesses. There are ongoing discussions about how the Community development Corporations (CDC) will assist in business mitigation. The BAC was impressed with level of detail presented by the CDCs. The Municipal Consent was discussed and parking mitigation continues to be worked on, and is reaffirmed in the Municipal Consent.

4. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Robin Caufman reported that the June CAC meetings included discussions on streetscape design, accessibility of sidewalks. The Community Advisory Committee has expressed the following factors are important: environmentally friendly materials, secure lighting, signage, clear sightlines to businesses, art to reflect the community of the station location. The ten public art finalists will appear before the CAC on 7/31/08 to receive community member input and brainstorm the art portion of the station design.

5. MUNICIPAL CONSENT RECAP

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the municipal consent process. The following entities have unanimously approved: City of Minneapolis, Ramsey County and Hennepin County. The City of St. Paul is to act on the document today.

6. SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SDEIS) STATUS

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on this subject. The FTA has granted permission to publish the document. Public meetings are planned and CCMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The document will be available on-line at www.centralcorridor.org and at multiple locations including libraries and resource centers. The Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published; then the 45-day public comment period begins. The comment period ends on August 25, 2008. (as noted in the handout at the meeting)

7. TRAFFIC STUDY #5

Dan Soler presented to the committee. The CCMC asked that the project office look at traffic scenarios if University Avenue were to be reduced to one lane of traffic each way with LRT in the middle of the road, versus two lanes of traffic each way. Fuhrmann stated that the plans that have been submitted to the FTA include a four-lane roadway. Committee members expressed a desire to have flexibility of how the four-lanes are operated, and the possibility of traffic and parking management through striping and signing methods. Wagenius offered some suggestions, based on City of Minneapolis work on Marquette and 2nd, as to bike lanes and parking restricted during the day and open at night. The Project Office was instructed to show different configurations of how the four-lane road could be used with flexibility, such as road striping. Soler stated he would provide an example, showing about a 6 block area.

8. STATION DESIGN UPDATE

Fuhrmann stated that the Artists Selection Committee has been formed; member names provided in the handout, with committee progress and key dates.

Kyle Williams addressed the committee. He noted the features of the stations that will be consistent, and showed examples of what could be done with artwork to incorporate the identity of the community near the station. Committee members expressed concern with the lack of change in the design, and design of the station preceding the Artist Selection Committee formation and the selection of artists. This has been voiced by the artist community to CCMC members. Carter expressed concern for the need to act quickly to decide whether, or how, to incorporate the input from the artists, and to clarify how people can get information about the process of selecting artists. Coleman suggested that a representative from the arts community (possibly -Public Arts St. Paul) be present at a CCMC meeting to explain what their concerns or opportunities are. Ongoing discussions are being held, including the special CAC meeting on 7/31/08.

9. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING STATUS

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the Memo of Understanding on the Washington Avenue Transit Mall. The memo was approved by HCRRA on 6/24 and the Metro Council on 6/25. The U of M Board of Regents is to act on it today (7/09), and the City of Minneapolis on 7/11.

Fuhrmann stated a second MOU of a more technical nature will be required in the future to address design, construction, maintenance and operations.

10. WASHINGTON AVENUE TRANSIT/PEDESTRIAN MALL PROCESS

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the Washington Ave. Transit/Ped Mall process as noted in the handout.

As a recap, Vice Chair Smith requested a list of firm and absolute requirements for station design. Fuhrmann stated that the design criteria were developed by CCPO and is a quite lengthy and technical report. Members are welcome to look at the report. The project office will try to do a better job of conveying the components in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fuhrmann stated that the project document is due to the FTA on September 5, 2008. The FTA has revised the CEI "medium" threshold to \$24.49. The project office will continue to work on the project to attempt to reach this number.

11. NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 13, 2008

12 ADJOURN

Bell adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary