

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee  
December 10, 2008**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Peter Bell called the December 10, 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 stated that the meeting will begin with item 3 from the agenda– reports from the BAC and CAC, while waiting for a quorum to be assembled.

**2. BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC) AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) REPORTS**

Karri Plowman reported from the BAC. Meetings have included discussions on upcoming public art committees, utility movements - District Energy is to hold a meeting with business owners next week. Plowman reported that new applications for membership in 2009 will go out to new businesses along the corridor that would like to participate in the committee.

Robin Cauffman reported from the CAC. The meetings have focused on traffic modeling on both University Avenue and Downtown St. Paul., Washington Avenue transit and pedestrian mall, West Bank reconfiguration of traffic lanes and ramps. Five open houses were held related to the FEIS. The CAC is in the process of forming station art committees, the committees should be in place toward the end of this month. Upcoming meeting topics are the West Bank reconfiguration, OMF facility discussion with Lowertown residents, and 4<sup>th</sup> street businesses utility relocation.

**3. APPROVAL OF 11/12/08 MINUTES**

A quorum now being present, a motion was made by K.O'Brien, seconded by J.Westerhaus to approve the minutes from the 11/12/08 meeting. The motion carried.

**4. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY - UPDATE**

Mark Fuhrmann introduced Gary Erickson from the CCPO. Erickson gave an update on the Operation and Maintenance Facility. The discussion included issues discovered during PE development including: historic resources, reductions that reduced functionality, soils, costs and design of building, etc. Erickson reported on Avoidance Alternatives to the PE plan. These are Alternative 1 – RCRRA Site via 4<sup>th</sup> & Prince Streets and Alternative 2 – Diamond Products. Erickson explained in detail the two alternative comparisons, their costs, environmental and engineering issues, and restoration of portions of the building design to increase functionality of the facility. The FTA has indicated their acceptance that the Avoidance Alternatives would not need to go back to the FTA for SDEIS approval, these alternatives avoid significant environmental issues. The Avoidance Alternative would be addressed in the FEIS stage.

**5. FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS) - UPDATE**

Mark Fuhrmann reported on the important FEIS components of noise and vibration along the route. Using FTA

required methodology, field testing was performed to establish baseline/ambient noise conditions, then LRT noises are applied to the existing noise levels to determine noise impacts (using the FTA noise chart). Fuhrmann answered a question from Bell regarding the noise level abatement requirements from FTA, and the relation to the land use category. He stated that the FTA requires mitigation for severe noise impact and requires attention given to moderate impact, not necessarily mitigation. Specific attention will be paid to noise levels that increase beyond the level that is identified by the FTA for the land use category.

Committee members questioned whether there may be other possible land use Category 1 locations. O'Brien named specific U of M buildings that might be considered Category 1, and other members questioned some locations along University Avenue. Kathryn O'Brien from CCPO will work with U of M - Kathleen O'Brien's staff to address issues aired by Kathleen O'Brien. CCPO staff is walking the corridor, again, to verify and identify noise sensitive sites on the inventory, and will double check other locations to verify the land use category and whether they are impacted.

Fuhrmann identified various noise mitigation measures, including the frequency and level of LRT horns, "skirts" on the LRT vehicles, soundproofing of buildings, types of crossover tracks that create less noise.

Fuhrmann also gave an update on the vibration testing. Two rounds of testing were performed; a number of additional sites were identified and tested in the second round. The final draft report including the additional data was submitted to the University of Minnesota today. Fuhrmann identified the methods used to mitigate vibration. O'Brien-U of M, stated the need to complete the vibration and electromagnetic fluctuation studies on the research laboratories. The impacts of construction are also a U of M concern, especially in the timelines given.

## **6. 2009 SCHEDULE**

Fuhrmann presented a project schedule for 2009. The first draft of the FEIS will be circulated to project partners in the next few days.

Fuhrmann also reported on two advanced construction activities – utility relocation and traffic routing improvements. These are necessary prior to the award of the construction contract for the LRT. Utility relocation must be limited to certain times of the year.

## **7. TRACTION POWER SUBSTATIONS/SIGNAL BUNGALOWS**

In the interest of time, it was decided to postpone this item to the January 14, 2009 CCMC meeting. Information about the Traction Power Substations has been shared with staffs of the partners and at open houses. The CAC and BAC will have a presentation on this topic next week.

## **8. NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2009 1:00 PM**

Westerhaus requested that the following items be planned for the January 14, 2009 CCMC meeting: economic assumptions that were made in the beginning of the project, and updated cost analysis. Fuhrmann responded that these items are being worked on and will be presented either January or February. Motion by McLaughlin, seconded by Wagenius to adjourn the 12/10/08 CCMC meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary