

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee
February 11, 2009**

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Peter Bell called the February 11, 2009 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.

2. APPROVAL OF 12/10/08 MINUTES

A motion was made by Carter, seconded by Bogut to approve the minutes from the 1/14/09 meeting. The motion carried.

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

Karri Plowman reported on BAC goals for 2009. Some of the projects that the BAC is working on are: 1) Continue the BAC meetings and listening sessions, modifying these into business discussion meetings. At present the BAC is setting up these meetings with the Rondo Community area and the Cedar Riverside area. 2) Continue to coordinate with CDC groups. 3) Discussions with the World Cultural Heritage District regarding a lunch bus program with employers to bring people to the area to access some lunch and retail locations. 4) Working with the City of St. Paul, St. Paul BOMA and District Energy concerning advanced utility relocation in downtown. 5) Looking at collaborative marketing programs with the Business Journal and other monthly/weekly magazines in the Twin Cities.

Coleman stated the need to present the specifics to business owners concerning construction timelines. Plowman stated that the parking report will be available at the end of this month; BAC looks to collaborate with the recommendations long-term. Specifics of the plan will be brought to a future meeting of the BAC. Plowman mentioned a checklist he is working to prepare in collaboration with District Energy to help businesses prepare for construction and utility relocation on 4th Street. This checklist will be shared with groups after, and perhaps the same type of document could be prepared to share with University Avenue business owners. He has also been working with the project office for a matrix showing business owner concerns and timelines.

Robin Caufman reported from the CAC. She stated that primary topics of discussion at the last meetings were the Operation and Maintenance Facility and the Streetscape. Regarding the O&M Facility, citizens were pleased that a fully enclosed existing building is being considered for retrofitting, concerns were voiced pertaining to impacts to redevelopment and access to the Farmer's Market. Streetscape discussions prompted accessibility issue concerns, concerns with safety and stormwater features. Project Office staff will meet with the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) in March.

Caufman reported that the Central Corridor Community Outreach staff will be receiving the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award from Women in Transportation for the Community Outreach Program.

4. NEW STARTS UPDATE

Mark Fuhrmann presented an update of the federal new starts projects status from a year ago and today, and where the projects stand in the process today - PE, FD or FFGA stages. He answered questions from committee members concerning the status and timing of a reauthorization or extension of authorization for a funding bill and its effect on project funding and timing.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

Fuhrmann gave an update on items in the Baseline Cost Estimate: materials pricing, scope refinements and reevaluating the contingency amount and availability of contingency funds. Monthly meetings are held with FTA including discussions about the amount of contingency recommended by the FTA. Fuhrmann compared proposed deductions/additions to the project total and the CEI.

6. STREETSCAPE

Fuhrmann presented examples of baseline design elements for the streetscape plan. Baseline elements are included in the project budget. Any other “betterments” or stakeholder desired-elements would need to be funded by others, and are considered outside the scope and funding of the project. Fuhrmann presented cost estimates of some of the betterments that are desired. Coleman expressed the need to try to drive the betterments costs into the base budget. McFarlin questioned whether local jurisdictions could front the money with the risk that they may or may not be able to recoup that investment through the release of contingency funds during construction. Wagenius questioned the number of bicycle racks proposed at the stations (Fuhrmann will report back) and noted the increased use of bicycles on the HLRT.

7. CONSTRUCTION PACKAGES

Fuhrmann presented a project schedule update. He stated that weekly meetings are held with the U of M staff to coordinate construction schedules timing and proximity between CCLRT and the U of M projects near the University.

8. NEXT MEETING – MARCH 11, 2009 1:00 PM

Bell asked committee members for suggested items of interest for future meetings.

Carter requested information on the efforts to be made, and how to be sure what goals have been set and how they are being met, with respect to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and employment. For example, how we plan to incorporate internships, etc. Fuhrmann responded that on 2/25 the CCPO and Met Council are sponsoring a DBE “mixer” to bring general contractors and sub-contractors to the Goodwill Easter Seals building to meet and receive an overview on the packages, the disciplines and trades embodied in each package. He will be able to report following that meeting, perhaps in March.

Westerhaus requested a report on the mitigation design efforts that the engineers are reviewing.

Motion by Coleman, seconded by Carter and passed, to adjourn the 2/11/09 CCMC meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary