

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee

August 12, 2009

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Peter Bell called the August 12, 2009 regular meeting of the Central Corridor Management Committee to order at 2:15 pm at the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 North Robert St., St. Paul. Bell stated that the record of decision will hopefully be issued from the FTA on August 19. Key issues are being worked on such as: mitigation and concerns at the U of M, and issues along University Avenue in St. Paul focusing on an additional station and parking mitigation.

2. APPROVAL OF 7/08/09 MINUTES

A motion was made by Ortega, seconded by Bogut to approve the minutes from the 7/08/09 meeting. The motion carried.

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

Kirsten Sersland Beach reported that the CAC did not meet in July. The CAC will be unveiling the preliminary station designs and public art at a public meeting on August 20 from 5-7:00 pm at the Goodwill Easter Seals building. The first approx. half hour will be CAC business and the rest of the meeting will be an open house. Members of CCMC and the public are invited to attend.

Karri Plowman reported that the BAC continues to work on a marketing plan with the business owners and also working on communication and business mitigation plans to be utilized during construction of the LRT.

4. PROJECT SCOPE AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Mark Fuhrmann presented the FTA New Starts Guidance rating/weighting. Some changes were made to the project justification ratings; the financial ratings have not changed. Fuhrmann pointed out that while the Cost Effectiveness Index (CEI) weight has decreased from 50% to 20%, the CEI remains pass/fail. The FTA revised CEI “medium” threshold is \$24.99. All projects must be at \$24.99 or less to achieve a medium rating, which is the prerequisite to securing a Federal Full Funding Grant. The current CEI of CCLRT is \$24.37. Adding the annual inflationary adjustment required by the FTA brings the escalated CEI to \$24.60. There is approximately a \$.39 CEI capacity available for the project, should any project scope additions or adjustments be determined by CCMC and staff. Fuhrmann then presented possible scope additions and adjustments, their estimated change to the CEI, and the estimated dollar cost for each.

Carter commented that it is clear that there are items yet to be resolved and reminded the committee of their

previous action to establish a priority for an infill station with the first available funds. She requested future discussion as to what forceful and deliberate steps are being taken to assure that the priority is not being obliterated in the process of identifying scope additions now, that are based on the new FTA CEI. Bell stated that the FTA has indicated that, if an infill station was planned now, then some additional environmental analyses would be required and at some point the FTA would want to calculate the ridership impact of an additional infill station. It is not yet clear what the environmental analyses would entail. The project would most likely be delayed by these requirements. The inclination would be to pursue an infill station later in the project with a release of contingency dollars, and less likely to use these CEI dollars for the infill station. Fuhrmann stated that the CCPO has only *estimated* what the potential delay might be, because the FTA has not specified what additional documentation would be required. Coleman added that the community needs a reiteration of the commitment and a confirmation as to when an infill station may be built. O'Brien stated that the estimates of the elements of the U of M mitigation needs were assembled about a week ago; the high-end of these estimates are not representative of the current discussions. Fuhrmann stated that the intent was to convey the low/high estimates, recognizing that discussions are on-going. Fuhrmann stated that today's presentation on scope and budget is intended to be informational. There are upcoming FTA deadlines to meet; Fuhrmann asked for a meeting in 2 weeks to discuss this and reflect any direction in the upcoming submittal to the FTA.

5. FEIS COMMENTS SUMMARY

Kathryn O'Brien presented a summary of the number and type of comments received during the 30-day comment period for the FEIS.

6. 4TH STREET ADVANCED UTILITY RELOCATION CONTRACT STATUS

Dan Soler reported that four bids were received for the utility relocation work. The bid totals that were received were within range of the engineers' estimate. However, because elements within the bids were unbalanced, the bids were rejected. Staff will now conduct a re-bid of the project with the District Energy chilled water work to be an "add alternative" in the bid. Using this method, the low bid will be awarded to the low bidder on the base bid, and the District Energy chilled water work will also be awarded to the low bidder if it is acceptable to District Energy. If not, then District Energy will award that portion of the work with their own construction documents, and coordinate with CCPO. Soler presented the schedule for award of bids. Soler also answered questions regarding the DBE goals and outreach.

7. SCHEDULE UPDATE

Mark Fuhrmann presented the updated project schedule (options 1 & 2), pointing out important items during the week of 8/17: the FTA Record of Decision (ROD), and the FTA Letter of No Prejudice (LONP).

8. NEXT MEETING –August 26, 2009 1:00 PM

Peter Bell announced that a CCMC meeting will be held in 2-weeks (August 26, 2009), and asked that committee members make an effort to be available for that meeting.

There were no new items from committee members.

Motion made seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary