

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 8, 2016

Subject:

West End and Route 9 Transit Study Authorization to Reschedule Public Hearing

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the rescheduling of the public hearing to accept comments on proposed service changes outlined in the West End and Route 9 Transit Study concept plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Steve Mahowald, Senior Planner, presented the request to authorize the rescheduling of the public hearing for the West End and Route 9 Transit Study from June 28, 2016 to September 8, 2016. Implementation of service changes resulting from the project would occur in March 2017 rather than December 2016.

There were no questions from Committee members. The item was moved by Council Member Dorfman and was seconded by Council Member Rodriguez. It passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 23, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 8, 2016

Subject: West End and Route 9 Transit Study Authorization to Reschedule Public Hearing
District(s), Member(s): District 3-Jennifer Munt, District 6-Gail Dorfman, District 7-Gary Cunningham, District 8-Cara Letofsky

Policy/Legal Reference: Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b, Transportation Service Changes and Restructuring 1-3a, Public Involvement in the Transportation Planning Process 1-3b

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510; Adam Harrington, Director Service Development 612-349-7779; Cyndi Harper, Manager Route Planning 612-349-7723; Steve Mahowald, Senior Planner 612-349-7775

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Service Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the rescheduling of the public hearing to accept comments on proposed service changes outlined in the West End and Route 9 Transit Study concept plan.

Background

At the April 27, 2016 meeting, the Council authorized a public hearing on June 28 at the Harrison Education Center to accept comments on proposed service changes outlined in the West End and Route 9 Transit Study concept plan. Staff is requesting to reschedule the public hearing to September 8, 2016 to provide additional time preparing the concept plan and coordination of community outreach.

Metro Transit's West End and Route 9 Transit Study is evaluating existing transit service and opportunities for improvements and efficiencies along Routes 9 (west of downtown Minneapolis), 649, 675 and near the growing high-density job and residential opportunities in the West End area development near TH 100 and I-394. Goals of the study include simplifying the structure of Route 9, improving service reliability and providing better connectivity for communities between the West End and downtown Minneapolis.

Revised project timeline:

- Late June-early July: present concept plan to Council
- September 8-19: public comment period
- Late September-early October: Modify concept plan based on public comment
- Late October-early November: present final plan to Council
- March 2017: implementation of service changes

Rationale

Council policy requires authorization for public hearing 45 days before the hearing begins. State law requires public notice of the public hearing at least 30 days in advance. In order to improve public review and participation, staff is proposing a Saturday community meeting in addition to the official public hearing. The proposed hearing and open house locations, dates and times are listed below. Additional community meetings may be added as details of the concept plan are finalized.

Public Hearing

Thursday, September 8, 2016

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Presentation at 5:00 p.m.

Harrison Education Center

501 Irving Avenue North, Minneapolis

Community Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 2016

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Presentation at 1:30 p.m.

Showplace ICON Theatres Community Rm

1625 West End Blvd., St. Louis Park

In addition to providing comments at the public hearing and community meeting, the public will be invited to submit comments via telephone, fax, e-mail and the Council website.

Funding

The public hearing and community meeting will be funded through existing operating budgets. The service changes resulting from the project will be funded within existing Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council transit service resources.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to rescheduling the public hearing for this study.