

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: April 23, 2012
For the Council Meeting of May 9, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	April 12,2012
Subject:	Central Corridor Transit Service Study Authorization for Public Hearings
District(s), Member(s):	District 8-Adam Duinck, District 10-John Doan, District 13-Richard Kramer, District 14-Jon Commers
Policy/Legal Reference:	Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b; Transportation Service Changes and Restructuring 1-3a; 1-3b Public Involvement in the Transportation Planning Process
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510 John Levin, Director Service Development, 612-349-7789 Adam Harrington, Assistant Director Route & System Planning, 612-349-7779 Cyndi Harper, Manager Route Planning, 612-349-7723 Scott Thompson, Senior Transit Planner, 612-349-7774
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes public hearings on the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan.

Background

In coordination with implementation of the Central Corridor Green Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) project, Metro Transit is conducting a transit service restructuring study of bus and rail service in the area bounded by I-35E on the east, the Mississippi River on the south, downtown Minneapolis, Hiawatha Avenue and Lake Street on the west and Larpenteur Avenue / East Hennepin Avenue on the north.

The purpose of this study is to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of transit service in the study area, integrate the current bus service network with the new Green Line service, and ensure that overall transit service is maintained or improved for all neighborhoods within ½ mile of the new Green Line. This sector study approach has been successfully implemented across the region since 1998.

The Metro Transit sector study process is inherently designed around the needs of the local community, with several rounds of public outreach and discussion about transit needs and potential solutions. To date, staff has received significant public input to guide development of a concept service plan. This concept plan will now be presented to the community for formal public comment.

Rationale

Council policy requires authorization for public hearings 45 days before the hearings begin. State law requires public notice of the public hearings 30 days before the hearings begin.

In order to maximize access to the public hearings, staff recommends that two hearings be held within the Central Corridor, with both midday and early evening times. The proposed public hearings locations, dates and times are listed below.

Tuesday, June 26, 2012	Thursday, June 28, 2012
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	4 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Hennepin County Central Library	Rondo Community Outreach Library
Doty Board Room	Multipurpose Room
300 Nicollet Mall	461 Dale Street North
Minneapolis, 55401	Saint Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 612-543-8000	Phone: 651-266-7400

In addition to providing comments at the hearings, the public will be invited to submit comments via telephone, fax, mail, e-mail and the Council website. The comment period will extend 10 days after the last public hearing. Additional public meetings may be held in advance of the public hearings.

Staff will bring forward a separate business item to approve the details of the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan. Once approved, this Concept Plan will be published no less than 10 days before the first public hearing.

After the comment period closes, staff will consider changes to the Concept Plan to address the comments submitted by the public. A recommendation for final action will then be brought to the Council.

Funding

The outreach and public meetings will be funded through existing operating budgets. The service changes resulting from the Transit Service Study will be operated within existing Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council transit service resources. Additional service enhancements may also be identified in the Study. These additional enhancements will be considered if additional operating funding becomes available.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to scheduling public hearings for this study.