

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 11, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 27, 2016

Subject:	Resolution of Support for Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2040 Transportation Policy Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, 651-602-1754 Amy Vennewitz, MTS Deputy Director, 651-602-1058 Cole Hiniker, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1748
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update (IPU) dated December 2015.

Background

Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) is the lead agency for the Cedar Avenue Transitway project. The Cedar Avenue Transitway consists of the METRO Red Line - the first bus rapid transit line in the region – and complementary express bus service. Stage 1 of the transitway opened in June 2013 after many years of planning and implementation activities guided by the Cedar Avenue Transitway IPU adopted in 2010.

Stage 2 elements underway include the Cedar Grove Online Station, Mall of America Station Improvements and the Apple Valley Transit Station Expansion. DCRRA has updated the 2010 IPU to reflect the completed and ongoing efforts and to refine the short-term and long-term implementation needs for the transitway.

The 2015 Cedar Avenue Transitway IPU includes five implementation stages, stages 1 and 2 are completed or underway while stages 3 through 5 look toward future needs. The 2015 IPU includes ridership estimates, infrastructure, technology, station needs, updated service and fleet needs, an updated staging plan with tentative timelines, future study and analysis needs, and estimate project costs and a financial plan through 2040. The 2015 IPU establishes priorities based on when projects meet investment thresholds developed as part of the IPU process and included in the IPU.

The final Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update is available online at:

<http://www.cedartransitway.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Final-Cedar-Avenue-Transitway-IPU-December-2015.pdf>

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council is a project stakeholder and partner with DCRRA, providing both technical support to the planning process and leading implementation efforts for a number of project elements and the METRO Red Line operations. DCRRA has requested support for the Cedar Avenue Transitway IPU from implementation partners in the corridor, including all local communities.

Council staff recommends that the Council adopt a resolution of support for the Cedar Avenue Transitway IPU. The resolution of support addresses a number of elements that Council staff believe are important to highlight as the lead agency on METRO Red Line operations and to communicate to project partners.

This includes:

- Acknowledgement that the timelines in the IPU are preliminary, particularly stage 3, and should not be viewed as committed deadlines
- Council support for the use of transit development thresholds and indicators to evaluate future investments in the Cedar Avenue Transitway
- Council support for corridor-wide station area planning that will strengthen the potential of the Cedar Avenue Transitway and address policies in Thrive MSP 2040 and the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan

Funding

The Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update was funded by DCRRA with no direct impact to the Council's budget. Future investments in the transitway may require additional Council resources for some capital improvements and expanded operations. These resources have yet to be identified.

Known Support / Opposition

DCRRA coordinated with multiple partners and stakeholders on the project through a Management Team, Technical Advisory Committee, Steering Committee, and three policy maker workshops. The following have passed resolutions in support of DCRRA's adoption of the Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update:

- Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
- City of Rosemount
- City of Eagan
- City of Lakeville
- City of Apple Valley
- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
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RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CEDAR AVENUE TRANSITWAY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, which means it is required by the federal government to provide a continuing, coordinated, and comprehensive transportation planning process.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council has adopted the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*, which identifies the existing METRO Red Line and future phases of the Cedar Avenue transitway to be implemented by 2040.

Whereas, The Cedar Avenue transitway has advanced significantly since the last Implementation Plan Update was completed, including the opening of the initial stage of the METRO Red Line in June 2013 and the advancement of additional elements toward implementation.

Whereas, The Implementation Plan Update is an important component of ensuring a coordinated, timely, and cost-effective transit investment in the region.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Metropolitan Council supports the Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update adopted by the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) in December 2015 with the following highlighted comments:

1. The Council, as the lead agency for operating the METRO Red Line, emphasizes that the timelines for future Cedar Avenue Transitway stages in the IPU are preliminary, particularly stage 3, and should not be viewed as committed deadlines for specific elements of the Plan.
2. The Council supports the use of transit development thresholds and indicators for future investments in the Cedar Avenue Transitway to assess progress toward reaching the goals in the IPU and to evaluate when certain investments should be considered.
3. The Council supports the inclusion in the IPU of corridor-wide station area planning efforts that will strengthen the potential of the Cedar Avenue Transitway and address policies in the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*.

Adopted this _____ day of January, 2016

Adam Duininck, Chair

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary